

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses some aspects that deal with the topic of the research. They are background, problem, focus, purpose, significance, assumption, scope of the research, and definition of term.

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Reading is considered the most important skill for people especially students. It is also one of the effective learning activities to attain knowledge. The main purpose in reading is to get information. Readers will get information and more knowledge for everyday life, and inspiration. (United States Department of Education, 2005) also stated that reading is one of the means to gain access to all the knowledge in this world. In the era of information and knowledge, everyone seeks to develop his expertise by obtaining information and knowledge as much as and as quickly as possible. One of the ways get information and knowledge is by reading.

In addition, reading is one of the language skills in learning English. The reading text contains letters, words, sentences, and encodes meaning. It is because reading has significant contribution to the development of student's knowledge. By reading, it is possible for them to get information, entertainment, and for their career and their study as well. Reading is also the most emphasized skill among other language skills in EFL setting. According to (Anderson, 2003) reading is viewed as an essential skill for learners of English and it is the most important skill to master in

order to guarantee success in learning. Similarly, (Khamkhong, 2018) states that to be effective and successful in class, students are demanded to read extensively and effectively for knowledge and information from textbooks, research articles, and other valuable sources.

Reading activities in Indonesia have not yet become a trend and according to statistical data there are still Indonesian people who are illiterate. This phenomenon can be seen in data published by UNESCO (2011) which states that 497,497 Indonesians are illiterate. While reading trends in Indonesia, according to statistical data published by (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2012) BPS in 2003-2012, was defeated by television viewing trends. So, the people of Indonesia prefer watching television over reading every year.

BPS (2006) published a report stating that for Indonesian people, reading is not making activities to obtain information. People prefer watching television (85.9%) and listening to the radio (40.3%) than reading (23.5%). It means, reading to get new information is only done by 23.5% of the total of Indonesian population. Based on the experience of researchers during teaching practice (PLP) in a high school, the researcher faced student's low participation in classroom. They were reluctant to ask about the material provided by the teacher. Yet, when the teacher reviewed the material some students seemed to not understand the material because they had not read. It was further known that most of them preferred playing games or social media to reading because they easily got bored when reading.

The pleasure of reading becomes an important foundation for students to learn. So, making reading as an enjoyable activity is very important. To enjoy it students have to be interested (Hidayat & Aisah, 2013) explain that without interest someone is impossible to do anything. It is also supported by (Hidi, 2001) who argues that interest has an important role in reading a text.

According to (Hornby, 2010) interest can be defined as the quality that something has when it attracts somebody's attention or makes them want to know more about it. In reading, having a high interest is crucial to make someone want to read. Interest in reading contains elements of attention, willingness, encouragement, and pleasure that arise from within and from the influence of others (Rahim, 2008)

According to the UNESCO report in 2012 shows that reading interest index of Indonesia was 0.001 (Yusuf, 2013). It indicates that among 1000 people, only one is interested in reading, meaning that reading interest of Indonesian people still low. Moreover, judging from the number of books read by high school students in several countries Center for Social Marketing (CSM) said that Indonesia occupies the lowest place, while high school students in the United States, read is 32 titles of books, Brunei 7 books, and Singapore 6 book, Indonesian students read 0 books.

It can be assumed that students' interest in reading is low whereas reading interest is very crucial to students because by reading students get more information. Reading should be the main activity of the academic community and the students with high interest usually read more and find it useful and enjoyable (Beale, 2004). From the explanation above, the researcher decided to conduct a research entitled

“An Analysis of students’ of Reading Interest at the Eleventh Grade of SMK Zainul Hasan Balung.” The objective from this research was intended to find out students interest in reading.

## **1.2 Problem of the Research**

Based on research background, the problem of the research could be identified as follows.

How is the reading interest of EFL high school students of SMK Zainul Hasan Balung at the eleventh grade in reading English text?

## **1.3 Focus of the Research**

This research focuses on the students’ interest in reading English text.

## **1.4 The purpose of Research**

To analyze how is the reading interest of EFL high school students of SMK Zainul Hasan Balung at the eleventh grade in reading English Text.

## **1.5 The Significance of The Research**

The result of this research is expected to be useful for the English teacher, and the students.

### **1.5.1 Teachers**

The result of this research is hopefully used for new information and makes students improve their reading interest in English text.

### **1.5.2 Future Researchers**

This research can be used as references in conducting further research related to this research.

### **1.6 The assumption of the Research**

The assumption of this research is the students' interest in reading. (Crow & Crow, 1992) mention five main indicators of reading interest (as cited in Fadliyatis, 2014, p.7). They are attention, time use, motivation, emotion, and effort to read. The students with high interest usually read more and find it useful and enjoyable. According (Sutarno, 2006) quoted by (Ridwan, 2008) that the factors affecting the level of interest in reading are two, as follows: Direct Factors It involves parents (family), teacher, librarian, and environment. Indirect Factors It involves source of material, government, and private company concerns to education.

### **1.7 Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research is about “an analysis of students’ of reading interest in English text”. The subject of the research is students’ high school reading in foreign language.

### **1.8 Operational Definition of the Research**

#### **1.8.1 Students interest**

Interest is defined as liking and willful engagement in a cognitive activity. It plays an important part in learning process since it promotes active engagement and focusing one’s attention. Interest is commonly categorised as individual/personal and

situational interest (Eidswick, 2010). In this research, the interest means the students interest in reading. The interest is the student's personal interest in reading. According to (McKool, 2007), reading interest is defined as readings done when students are outside the school compound.

### **1.8.2 Reading**

Reading skill plays an important role in learning English as a foreign language. Reading is how people discover new things. Therefore, it is considered as an important skill needed for both academic purposes and lifetime learning (Asgari & Ifanti, 2012). Due to English as a foreign language, reading is the process of not only acquiring information but also improving the ability of learning as stated by (Essberger in Kurniawati, 2010)

Reading is development, interactive, and global process involving learned skills. Reading is a complex process of communication activities. Reading aims to see, understand the content or meaning and get the message intended by the author through the medium of words or written. In other words, the primary purpose of reading is to seek and obtain information, cover the content and understand the significance of reading.