

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study and also definitions of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of The Study**

Reading is the ability to comprehend and interpret text or written information (Rivera, 1995: quoted from Hafizah:2002), it means that reading is about understanding written texts. It is a complex activity that involves both perception and thought. The ability to read is the most essential one to functioning in a literate society. Reading is such a complicated thing because reading needs an interaction between the reader and also the writer. In this case, the reader tries to reconstruct the writer's message in the passage.

Learning to read should be treated as an extension of process of learning spoken language. The reading of passage is too long and the reading in material is not to interest (Crabe, 2002: quoted from Hafizah:2002). Because of those reasons, the teacher of English has to able to give a suitable English reading material that contains suitable material based on students' level of reading comprehension.

In this case, usually the reading that given to the students is not a

suitable reading for them. The suitability of a reading for students can be known through measuring the readability of the reading itself. Readability is a judgment of how easy a text is to understand. The readability of a text must be measured because by measuring the readability, we can know whether the text is readable or not for the reader. Readability can help us to know that the reader has understood the message of the text, or have they learn and find out the information in it. Therefore, readability of a text is really important to be checked.

The readability of every text that exists in a book that the students have are sometimes readable and also can be oppositely. It is all because sometimes the reading that given to them is not suitable with their level and University of Muhammadiyah Gresik also has this kind of thing.

The different level of reading that given to the students are based on their needs, there are so many needs of English to be implied in so many fields of study that exist in university, the students of university are emphasized on what they need in their own department. Economic, machinery and even psychology department have their own different needs. This purpose is called English for Academic Purposes or usually being namely EAP.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is a multilevel language program designed to provide an immersion experience for students interested in improving their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills in English ([www.brandonu.ca/eap/](http://www.brandonu.ca/eap/)). EAP is also

designed for those people who want to improve their use of English as a second language for professional or personal purposes.

EAP sometimes intended to raise students' English levels so that they can reach what they really need in order to get a better knowledge about English. Sarah Benesch (2001) said that EAP is about form, cognitive processes and institutional practices.

The EAP course introduces learners to English for their each major, i.e. the kind of language they will face in their future profession. Learners have to master terms used in their major, to be able to understand formal professional texts and authentic recordings of lectures and produce formal pieces in writing as well as to be able to make professional presentations and participate in discussions on contemporary issues.

The focus of this research is about the readability of the reading texts that had given to the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) learners, who are the D1 English program students at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. This is a documentation research, while the document in this research is the reading texts in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) book 2007-2008 of D1 English program at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. In this analysis, the researcher uses Flesch Reading Ease formula as a formula to measure the readability of the reading texts.

Through this analysis, the researcher hopes it can be a reference for teacher in deciding the reading text that will be given to their students later, so the students can easily understand and get the information in it.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher intended to investigate the problem, “What is the readability level of the reading texts in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) book 2007-2008 of D1 English program at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik?”

## **1.3 Purpose of The Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher decides that the purpose of this study is to investigate the readability level of reading texts in English for Academic Purposes book 2007-2008 of D1 English program at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik.

## **1.4 Significance of The Study**

From this study the researcher hopes there will provide several informations for the teachers, students, the book author and also the next researchers. This study gives a clear description about the readability of the reading texts that the students of English for Academic Purposes class of D1 English program at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik have.

From the result of this study, the students can be provided to read the texts easily and understandable because they found the texts are suitable for their level. Further the student, the teachers also can improve the suitable texts for their students so it can fulfill what actually the students' needs based on their level.

For the book author, this study would improve the way to develop and compose a good book that contains of readable reading texts inside. Last but not least, for the next researchers, this study hopefully can provide information for them about result of readability of a reading text. So that it can help them in holding another research with different topic in the area of the goal of teaching and learning process.

### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

Readability was designed to assess the suitability of books for students at particular grade levels or ages (Beverly L. Zakaluk and S. Jay Samuels, 1988)

Reading text refers to reading material in the form of sentences or paragraphs. Shorter pieces of reading, such as text appearing as words or phrases, are included under document use.

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