

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the discussion of some issue related to the topic being studied. They are background of the study, statement of study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limit of the study, and the definition of key items.

### A. Background of the Study

Reading is the most useful skill and has an important role in human being's life<sup>1</sup>. Through reading, everyone can get information about science, and technology that perhaps they do not know before. Everyone can also acquire information about many aspects in the life, since most of available information is delivered in printed media such as journals, newspapers, magazines and books. Therefore, having a good reading skill is needed to know the content of that information. In addition, reading is the most crucial determinants in developing an individual's vision that shapes his or her personality and that makes him or her become closer to other individuals. Reading makes individuals truly free and protects them from ignorance and false beliefs. In addition, skills in reading enable individuals to benefit from educational activities, and to participate fully in the social and economic activities in which they take part<sup>2</sup>. Because of the

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<sup>1</sup>Gokhan. *Reading attitude of Students: An analysis of different variable*. Kenya: Journal on new trends in education, 2012. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Gokhan. *Reading attitude of Students: An analysis of different variable...* .47.

important of reading in today's society, it is important the students to develop a positive attitude toward reading.

Reading attitude has been defined as a system of feeling related to reading which causes the learner to approach or avoid a reading situation.<sup>3</sup> Most of the researches show that the success in reading skill is closely correlated to the attitude toward reading and the positive attitudes toward reading is a central factor affecting reading performance. Some researchers also state that the positive attitudes toward reading make academic success increase<sup>4</sup>. Student attitudes toward reading are important for at least two reasons. First, attitude may influence reading proficiency by affecting the amount of reading students engage in. Students who read more typically read better. Second, attitude is important in understanding students who are proficient readers but choose not to read, sometimes known as a literacy<sup>5</sup>. Positive attitudes can compensate for relatively weak skills, and negative attitudes can prevent a student from applying existing knowledge or from acquiring new information<sup>6</sup>. Several researchers have studied the effect of "reading attitude" towards reading skills. One of which is from Annemarie, the study entitled "attitude toward reading" the study was conducted in one of the Catholic schools are located in urban areas. This study used a sample

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<sup>3</sup> Parker, Cintya. *An evaluation of student reading attitude: does ability effect attitude?*. University of North Carolina, 2004, 2.

<sup>4</sup>Gokhan. *Reading attitude of Students: An analysis of different variable*. Kenya: Journal on new trends in education. 2012, 47.

<sup>5</sup> Mcquillan, Jeff. *Urban Middle reading attitudes an believes: the large survey*. USA: global journal of human social since and education, 2013, 11.

<sup>6</sup>Mihandoos, Zainab. *A Meta analysis review: reading attitude with student's n learning disability*. Journal of basic and applied scientific research, 2011, 10.

of 7 classes of the school. And this study concluded that there was effect between students reading attitude and student achievement<sup>7</sup>. From this research we can know that reading attitudes have influence on the reading skill.

Because of the importance of reading attitude that must owned by the students, it is important to improve the students reading attitude towards academic journal article. Academic journal article is a publication which has scholarly information, usually written by professor, researchers, or experts in a subject area<sup>8</sup>. By reading academic journal article the students can get many advantages, especially for students of English Education Departments who are required to read a lot of journals as a source of conducting a research for their thesis. From academic journal article the students can get the reference or research that has been done. Academic journal article also becomes the reference to the students to get the material from the previous study which can be used to make paper, task, or examination research. In addition, in English Education Department in the state Islamic university of Sunan Ampel Surabaya, the teacher use Academic journal article to the main material for Reading class fourth semester. Therefore the student's fourth semester of English Teacher Education Department must read a lot of academic journal article.

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<sup>7</sup> Marie, Annie. *Attitude to Reading: An investigation Across the Primary Years*. USA: Australian Catholic University, 2006

<sup>8</sup>Jordan, C.E. *Understanding scientific journal articles: Tips for advocates and practitioners*. Lexington, Kentucky: Center for Research on Violence Against Women, University of Kentucky, 2004

In fact, from the preliminary research in reading class fourth semester of English Teacher Education Department in the state Islamic university of Sunan Ampel Surabaya, many students still got difficulty when reading academic journal article. The first, because academic journal article did not become an interesting material to read. The second, the materials of academic journal article was difficult to understand, and the last many unfamiliar words in academic journal article that cannot be understood for the students. That's way; many students felt lazy and bored when reading academic journal article. Therefore, because of the reasons, the students choose to avoid reading academic journal article. However we know that academic journal article is very important for them as a student's of English education departments. So in this research the researcher wants to know the students fourth semester of English education department perception about their attitude toward academic journal article. By looking at the students' perception so the researcher will get the information for the students how their attitudes towards reading academic journal are. Student's perception is the process by which we organize and interpret our sensory impressions in order to give meaning to the environment<sup>9</sup>. And some studies say that there is a relationship between perception and action. Michaels started by defining perception (ecologically) as "the detection of information". While Goodale and Milner comes with a (new) definition of action " a temporally bounded, observable, goal-directed movement (or non -movement) that entails

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<sup>9</sup> Stephen. P.R. *Perception and Individual Decision Making*. Parentice Hall.Inc, 2005

intention, the detection of information, and a lawful relation between that information and the movement ". This definition binds an action to perception, as it states that there can be no action without detection of information (which is perception) its core contention is that perceived events and planned actions share a common representational domain<sup>10</sup>. After knowing the students perceptions about their reading attitude toward academic journal article so the research wants to know the factors which influence student's reading attitude toward academic journal article.

As the explanation above, the researcher wanted to conduct the research under the title "*STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THEIR READING ATTITUDE TOWARD ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLE*". Furthermore, the researcher wanted to know the students perceptions about their reading attitude toward academic journal article and the factors which the students reading attitude toward academic journal article.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, here the researcher thought that it required analyzing the students' reading attitudes toward academic journal article. The research questions are states as follows:

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<sup>10</sup> Smeets, Jeroen. *Perception and action are inseparable*. Netherlands: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2001

1. What are the students' perceptions about their reading attitude toward Academic Journal Article fourth semester English Teacher Education Department UINSA?
2. What are the factors which influence students' reading attitude toward academic journal article?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the questions described previously, objectives of this study are:

1. To know the students perceptions about their reading attitude toward academic journal article.
2. To know the factors which influence students' reading attitude toward academic journal article.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

To know more about how the research gets significances, here the researcher states below:

#### **1. Theoretical benefit**

- a. The result of this research can be useful to the theory of learning of improving reading skill.
- b. The result of this research can be useful as the reference for next researcher who wants to conduct a research on the same or similar strategy as in this research.

## **2. Practical benefit**

- a. This research helps the teacher rise in reading, especially help the students to increase their reading attitude
- b. The result helps the students know their reading attitude and motivate the students about reading academic journal article.
- c. The result gives the teacher about measurement of the students in reading class.

## **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Based on the focus of this study, there were three parts of the scope of this research. Those were student's perceptions and reading attitude as an gokhan theories. In addition, this research only focuses on the academic journal article which has educational research.

This research only observed the students reading attitude fourth semester English Teacher Education Department UINSA. The study only focuses on what the student's perceptions about their reading attitude toward academic journal article, and the factors which influenced their reading attitude toward academic journal article.

## **F. Definition of the Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding in the way of understand the study, the writer need to give definition of terms that are often found in the study, such as:

### **1. Students Perception**

Students perception is the process of students in organize and interpret the acquisition of impression by the five sense (seeing, hearing, sense, and feeling) to give a meaning to the environment<sup>11</sup>. The student's perceptions in this research are the student's opinion, impression, and experience about their reading attitude toward academic journal article.

### **2. Reading attitude**

Reading attitude has been defined as a system of feeling related to reading which causes the learner to approach or avoid a reading situation<sup>12</sup>. In this research, reading attitude means how the students act about their feeling toward academic journal article.

### **3. Academic Journal Article**

Academic journal article is a publication which has scholarly information, usually written by professor, researchers, on experts in a subject area<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Stephen. P.R. (2005). *Perception and Individual Decision Making*. Parentice Hall.Inc

<sup>12</sup> Parker,Cintya. (2004). *An evaluation of student reading attitude: does ability effect attitude?*. University of North Carolina

<sup>13</sup>Jordan, C.E. (2004). *Understanding scientific journal articles: Tips for advocates and practitioners*. Lexington, Kentucky: Center for Research on Violence Against Women, University of Kentucky



Scientific journals are peer-reviewed; it means that articles are independently reviewed by other experts in the field prior to publication (reviewers or referees). In addition, this research only focuses on the academic journal article which has educational research that become the subject material in reading class of fourth semester English Teacher Education Department of UINSA 2014.