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## A Study of Students' Reading Interest of English Diploma III Study Program at University of Bengkulu

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### Abstract

This study aimed to find out and identify students' reading interest of English Diploma III study program at university of Bengkulu. The populations of this research were all students of English Diploma III University of Bengkulu, in which there were four classes, first semester consist of one class, third semester consist of two classes, and fifth semester consist of one class. The total numbers of the population are 115 students. The researcher took all the population as the sample in this research. The instruments of this research were questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire consists of two sections. There are section A and section B. The data were analyzed by using percentage formula. The result of this research showed students' reading interest of English Diploma III Study Program was low. The favorite type of English reading material was website (32%). Most of students choose education (26%) as their favorite genre of English reading material. Online (37%) was the favorite sources of reading material. Then, more than half of students tend to choose bedroom (74%) as their favorite reading spot. On the other hand, look for an interesting title (24%) as the favorite method when students want to get English reading material.

Keywords: English diploma III; reading interest

### Introduction

Reading skill is one of the factors for students to be successful in acquiring English language. In reading, students can enlarge knowledge, information and vocabulary (Martina, et al. 2020; Martina, et al. 2020; Dhillon, et al. 2020; Wibowo, et al. 2020; Handayani, et al. 2020; Febriani, et al. 2020). Reading English material is difficult to get, however students who love reading can facilitate learning and improve academic achievement. UNESCO declared *Literacy Day* on September 8, it has purpose to raise people's awareness in reading. According to UNESCO survey 2011, Indonesian interest in reading is 0.001 percent. It means that in a thousand people there is only one people that has interest in reading. UNESCO also revealed that Indonesia was ranked 60th out of 61 countries in reading interest. Those facts inform us, that Indonesia's reading interest is still far from the expectation.



Afriazi (2015: 32) stated that American students are required to read 32 literature books and write 108 essays in three years. Then, America's student has two ways in reading. First, teacher read a book with enjoying, while students listen to the teacher in comfortable position. Second, students take a book that they want in the classroom library and they read the book continuously. After the reading session, the teacher will ask students to convey their opinion about what they have been read. Related to the above fact, Permendikbud No.23 2015 years launched program for students to read 15 minutes before the learning process begins in order to raise students' interest in reading.

In English S1 study program and English Diploma III study program in University of Bengkulu, reading subject has been settled in curriculum 2015. Because reading is the key to master English well, therefore English Department divided reading into reading 1, reading 2, reading 3 and extensive reading. Based on the informal talk with one of the lecturers of English Diploma III Study Program, she said that students' reading ability was still below the expectation. It can be seen on students' ability in making their assignment which are still lacking of reference due to the lacking of their reading. As reading interest is important to enhance students' achievement, it is interesting to know the level of English Diploma III students' interest in reading English material.

Interest is one of the learner's internal factors. It may have a significant influence on the student's reading ability. According to Sardiman (2001: 93), interest arises not spontaneously, interest arises as a result of participation, experience, and practice at the time of study or work. Students who are in good reading interest will have good reading ability. Students can be said have a good reading habit if they are enjoying a book, being excited about an author, or being delighted by new information.

There were two previous studies that related to this research. The first is thesis written by Wulandari (2004: 1) entitled "An Analysis of Students Interest in Reading English Novel". She found that student interest in reading English novel of the fifth English students of FKIP UNIB was moderate. The second, researcher found thesis written by Khairuddin (2013) entitled "A Study of Students' Reading Interest in a Second Language". From his study, it is found that students have relatively low interests in reading English materials and that there is a significant difference between male and female students.

In conclusion, the differences between this research and two studies done by Wulandari (2004: 1) and Khairuddin (2013: 1) are the first study was focused on student interest in reading novel, while the second study was focused on reading interests in reading second language materials. In this research the researcher would identify students' reading interest of English Diploma III study program at University of Bengkulu. There are two research questions. 1) How is students' interest in reading English material? and 2) What are students' favorite? a. Types of English reading material, b. Genres of English reading material, c. Reading spot, d. Sources of English Reading material and e.



Methods to choose English reading material. While, the objectives of the research are: to find out the students' interest in reading English material as a foreign language and to identify students' favorite types and genres English material, favorite reading spot, Sources of English Reading material and method choose English material

### Research Methodology

According to Aggarwal in Salaria (2012: 19) descriptive research is devoted to the gathering of information about prevailing conditions or situations for the purpose of description and interpretation. This research would be conducted by using descriptive quantitative. The purpose is to find out the interest of students in reading English Material. The populations of this research were all students of English Diploma III University of Bengkulu. There are four classes. First semester is one class. Third semester are two classes. Fifth semester is one class. The total numbers of the population are 115 students. In this research, the researcher would like to take all the population as the sample. The methods consist of test, questionnaire, check-list, or interview. In this research, researcher used two items as the instruments that consist of questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire consists of twenty questions. The first section is statements number 1-15. The scale of first section are always (4), often (3), sometimes (2), and never (1). These statements are to find out more about their reading interests. The second section is number 16-20 for asking participants to rate their top three about favorite genres and types of reading materials, favorite reading spot, sources reading material and the way to get reading English material.

**Table 1.** The Indicators of Reading Interest Questionnaire for First Section

No	Indicator	Items number	Total number of item
1.	Spending the free time to read	1,10	2
2.	Having a lot of English reading materials	2	1
3.	Always seek new English reading material	4,11,14,15	4
4.	Reading in outside the classroom	3,6	2
5.	Reading for various purpose	5,8	2
6.	Enjoy in reading	12	1
7.	Like the various of English reading material	13	1
8.	Having favorite author	9	1
9.	Read for fun	7	1
<b>Total</b>			15

In order to know validity the items of questionnaire is valid or not. For the validity the questionnaire has consulted with two reading experts at University of Bengkulu who are able to judges the questionnaire and to know the reliability items in questionnaire, the researcher tried out them to 20 students' of third semester of English S1 Study Program at University of Bengkulu. To

measure reliability in this research, the researcher used technique of Alpha Cronbach in SPSS (Statistical Product for Service Solution).

The researcher tried to find out the data more valid and detail, not only use the questionnaire but also by interviewing the students. The researcher interviewed 20 students from four classes of English Diploma III Study Program who are chosen by using random sampling.

The researcher collects the data on 2016/2017 academic year. This research was conducted for all students of English students Diploma III University of Bengkulu. The researcher informs lecturers and students about this research and its reason. The questionnaire distributes to all the participants by the researcher herself. The questionnaire use English language. The researcher presents to the class in order to explain or answer any question from the students to avoid confusion or misunderstanding. After collecting the questionnaire, the researcher interviewed five students from every class who are chosen by using random sampling.

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the data. The researcher used quantitative analysis. The first step, the researcher input all students' answers into the data tabulating by using Microsoft Excel. By data tabulating it will know clearly the students' reading interest of English students Diploma III University of Bengkulu. Then, the researcher count every students answer. In order to know the average of every student, the researcher used formula. Finally, the average value of students' score will include into interest categories.

**Table 2.** Classification of Students' Reading Interest

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Average score</b>
Very High	3.28 – 4.03
High	2.52 – 3.27
Low	1.76 – 2.51
Very Low	1 – 1.75

## **Finding and Discussion**

### **Finding**

Based on the analysis the data, 287.59 is the total 115 students' average score. By using that formula the researcher got the average of students' score is 2.5. If it consulted to the interval in four scales the classification was low. It means the students' reading interest of English Diploma III study program at University of Bengkulu was low. In order to know the detail, the researcher counted every student who categorized into four classifications (high, moderate, low & very low) based on their average score.

When the students were asked to rank their top three favorite types of English reading material that they read most often, website was commonly rate first with percentage 32%. It means that 32% students like to read in website. There are some students like to read story book with the



percentage of 29% as the second favorite. Academic book got the higher level in third favorite with the percentage of 22%. In addition, the number of students who put newspaper as the first favorite 3%, second favorite 2%, and third favorite 2%. It means only some students who like to read newspaper.

Education genre had the highest rank genre in percentage 26%. Furthermore, there were some students who like to read fantasy as the second favorite genre in the percentage 17%. In addition, romance is the highest third favorite genre with the percentage of 19%. Besides, economics got only 1% & 3% who put it as the favorite genre of English reading material. Finally, only some students like to read grammar book, mystery and sport as their favorite genre.

The question is about favorite kind of sources of English reading material. From 115 students, there were 37% student who put online as the first favorite for sources of English reading material. Then, 24% of the students choose teacher for second favorite as the sources for them to get English reading material. Finally, friend as third favorite of sources English reading material with the total number students were 20%. They rarely ask the family when they want English reading material. Bedroom is the highest reading spot as the first favorite with number of students was 74%. Meanwhile, 32% students prefer to read in living room as the second favorite reading spot. In addition, for the third favorite reading spot, there was 20% students choose library. Apart from that, there were some students who chose friend house and bathroom as their reading spot.

When asked to rate how they usually choose English reading material to read, most students seemed to prefer looking for an interesting title as first favorite with 24%. Seeing movie or TV shows based on the book is the commonly second favorite from 21% students. Furthermore, 22% students prefer to ask a friend as their third favorite method. There were only some students who use internet as method to choose English reading material.

### **Discussion**

Based on the result of the questionnaire, the average of all students' score is 2.5. It means that students' reading interest of English Diploma III study program at University of Bengkulu was low. However, from the table 4.1 it showed that the total number of students who categorized in low is a little different from high category. It cannot be said that English Diploma III students were extremely low interest in reading. Because, it is only 0,4 below the high category. Then, the result of the questionnaire is also supported by the result of interview. It showed that some students rarely spend their free time to read English material. It can be seen on students' activities that frequently visit library or bookstore. It is added by the fact that the students prefer to search information and knowledge through website.

From the result, this study was not similar to the one conducted by Wulandari (2004: 1) which found out that students' reading interest toward English novel at fifth semester FKIP UNIB was



moderate. Meanwhile, the study conducted by Gultom et.al (2012: 1) found that there is significant correlation between students' reading interest and reading comprehension. It means that students' reading interest should be improved because it influences students reading comprehension.

On the other hand, Prensky (2001: 1) stated that the terms digital natives, referring to students born in the environment full of technology, and digital immigrants referring to those who learned how to use technology later in their lives. Related to the fact, because of English Diploma III student is digital native whom was born in technology era, therefore they tend to choose website as the first favorite type of English reading material.

Due to students of English Diploma III study who are studying English as foreign language, therefore they have the number collection of academic book. Because they have to read for their learning activities almost every day, then it became their favorite genre. As students who learn foreign language, it is better to read any others genre not only academic book such as novel, news, advertisement, commix short story and etc, because it is important to enlarge their knowledge.

According to Prensky (2001: 2), new technologies have been such a defining feature in the lives of younger generations that they predict a fundamental change in the way young people communicate, socialize, create and learn. They argue that this shift has profound implications for education. In this era, online is the best choice for students when they want to get English reading material. It provides students to get any reading material based on their needs and also it is easy to access.

Interestingly, more than half of students out to 115 students choose bedroom as the first favorite reading spot. It can be said students more likely to read at home especially bedroom than another reading spot that available on the table 4.6. Meanwhile, as students who learn foreign language, they should read anywhere and anytime such as at station, at the class, in the bus and etc. Reading in outside is more useful than in bedroom, because we need to discuss and interact with others people what we have been read.

Because of the title is appeal to readers, therefore when students want to get English reading material, they will see the title first. If the title is interesting for them, they will choose that material. In summary, look for interesting title is the favorite method for students when they want to get English reading material.

### **Conclusion and Suggestion**

Based on the result and discussion of the research, it can be concluded that students' reading interest of English Diploma III Study Program was low. However, it only 0,4 below high category. On the other hand, the favorite type of English reading material was from the website. Then, most of



students choose education as their favorite genre of English reading material. In addition, students prefer to choose online as their favorite sources of reading material. While, more than half of student tend to chose bedroom as their favorite reading spot Furthermore, look for an interesting title as the favorite method when student want to get English reading material.

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