

# **THE CORRELATION BETWEEN READING INTEREST AND READING COMPREHENSION OF UNDERGRADUATE EFL STUDENTS OF TRIDINANTI UNIVERSITY PALEMBANG**

**A Thesis by**

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM**

**FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF TRIDINANTI PALEMBANG**

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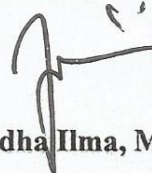
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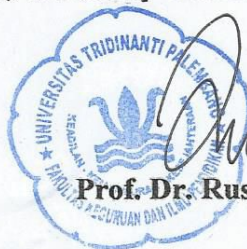
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## PERNYATAAN

Saya menyatakan dengan sebenar-benarnya bahwa seluruh data informasi, interpretasi serta pernyataan dalam pembahasan dan kesimpulan yang disajikan dalam karya ilmiah ini, kecuali yang disebutkan sumbernya merupakan hasil pengamatan, penelitian pengelolaan serta pemikiran saya dengan pengarahannya dari pembimbing yang telah ditetapkan.

Apabila ternyata di dalam naskah skripsi ini dapat dibuktikan terdapat unsur-unsur jiplakan. Saya bersedia skripsi ini digugurkan dan gelar akademik yang saya peroleh (S-1) dibatalkan, serta diproses sesuai dengan peraturan perundang-undangan yang berlaku (UU) No. 20 Tahun 2003, pasal 25 ayat 2 dan pasal 70.

Palembang, 16 March 2020

Yang menyatakan



Wilda

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## ABSTRACT

English is one of the foreign languages that is considered important to be mastered by the Indonesian Nation because English has a very strategic position, namely as a communication tool as well as a language of association between nations. The aim of this study was to find out whether there was significant correlation and contribution or not between reading interest and reading comprehension. The population were third, fifth, seventh and ninth semester students with the total fifty four students of Undergraduate EFL student's Palembang. To select the sample of this study, total random sampling technique was implemented. There were 54 students as the sample. The data was gained from students' reading interest questionnaire and their reading comprehension test. In analyzing the data, correlation analysis and regression analysis were used. The result showed that the correlation coefficient level between reading interest and reading comprehension was 0.477 with the sig. value 0.000. it means that there was a significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension of undergraduate EFL students Tridianti University Palembang. Then, reading interest gave contribution to reading comprehension as much as 18.6%.

**Keywords:** *reading interest, reading comprehension.*

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents: (1) background, (2) problems of the study, (3) objectives of the study, (4) significances of the study.

### **1.1 Background**

English is one of the foreign languages that is considered important to be mastered by the Indonesian Nation because English has a very strategic position, namely as a communication tool as well as a language of association between nations. In addition, English is also the first foreign language that is considered important for the purpose of accessing information, absorption and development of science, technology, and art and culture. English is an international language all over the world, in some countries English is used as a native language, as a second language or as a foreign language. There are four skills in learning English; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of them are related to each other and cannot be separated. In order to make the communication process can run smoothly, language learners should be provided with the knowledge of the language as well as language skills. Good language learners know that language is used to communicate. Good language learners pay attention to meaning and have good techniques to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One of important skills that should be learned by students is reading.

Sismiati (2012) assumed that reading is an important activity and becomes more important in this modern world, when the development in every life aspect occurs very quickly. In addition, Subyantoro (2011, p. 9) stated that reading is a skill in reading comprehension that will gradually become the everyday behavior of a person. Reading

has to be just right so that the messages contained on the readings carried on the reader. Reading is actually a cognitive process where a reader engages in the mental process of knowing and understanding things Sutarsyah ( 2013, p. 13). In the same way, Vygotsky cited in Sutarsyah (2013, p. 14) defined that reading as the process of thinking and acquiring knowledge involved automatic unconscious acquisition, followed by gradual increase in active conscious control over that knowledge. In other words, reading is the process how the reader to interpret and understand the message conveyed.

Haq (2014) states that “reading comprehension is one of the standard skills in English that must be achieved at all levels of education, including at the elementary school level”. Through reading skills, students are expected to be able to read and understand the contents of reading text. In learning English, readings for beginner students are difficult. These difficulties are caused by the mastery of vocabulary and grammar, and the length of the text that makes reading interest decrease. Reading comprehension text is not just on how well students read, it includes the accuracy of pronunciation and students intonation. However, reading comprehension itself is an activity builds understanding of the meaning of a text which could then translate and through its own language. Further such understanding can be beneficial to others.

Reading interest is an activity conducted with full awareness of self and the appropriate continues aims to build the communication pattern with yourself so that the reader can obtain information from the writing as the process of changing the pattern of thinking for develop quality themselves (Swartawan, 2016). Keller (2006) states that interest have a connection with motivation. He also asserted that interest was a positive response to stimuli based on existing cognitive structures (background knowledge) in such a way that the learner’s curiosity is aroused

and sustained. Reading interest means something that makes students more confident in communication, so that the knowledge got from reading makes student's mindset to be of good quality as a listener or speaker.

Based on the observation done by Septiani (2018) in Tridinanti University Palembang, she did a research about reading. The result showed that the condition of reading comprehension of the most students of English Study Program in Tridinanti University Palembang were; firstly, their reading level was still low. Secondly, they less used to reading articles, and thirdly, they was lack of knowledge about reading comprehension, and last, their reading interest was less. So, they were still confused about reading interest and reading comprehension.

Therefore, the writer chose English study program of Tridinanti University as a setting to conduct the research, because it had a program of English Department in the curriculum, the students should take reading course from first semester to four semester. It was found that the students were lack of knowledge about reading interest and their reading comprehension. They also still low in vocabulary and low in reading motivation. They did not read academic reading materials outside the academic area because the students were more active in dominating the teaching & learning process.

Therefore, based on the above background the writer was interested in conducting the research entitled "The Correlation between Reading Interest and Reading Comprehension of Undergraduate EFL Students of Tridinanti University Palembang".

## **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

### **1.2.1 Limitation of the Problem**

The limitation of this study was specified in reading comprehension and reading interest of undergraduate EFL students of Tridianti University Palembang.

### **1.2.2 Formulation of the Problem**

There were two problems which can be drawn from the study, they are:

1. Was there any significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension of undergraduate EFL students Tridianti University Palembang?
2. How much did reading interest contribute to reading comprehension of undergraduate EFL students Tridianti University Palembang?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of study are:

1. To find out whether or not there was a significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension of undergraduate EFL students Tridianti University Palembang
2. To find out in what extent the reading interest contributed toward students' reading comprehension of undergraduate EFL students of Tridianti University Palembang.

### **1.4 Significances of the Study**

The significances of the study would hopefully give contribution and benefits to the students, the teachers, the other researchers, and the writer herself.

#### **1. The Students**

The students were expected to know about their reading interest and then they want to improve their reading interest and their reading comprehension.

## 2. The Teachers

It was hoped this study could help teachers to know about their students' reading interest and their students' reading comprehension. Hopefully, by knowing the students' reading interest, the teacher can provide the effective strategies or techniques to improve the students' reading comprehension.

## 3. The Writer and Other Researchers

This study helped the writer to develop her knowledge and experience in conducting correlational research. For other researchers, this thesis helped to get information in conducting the further study.

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