CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In the introduction, the researcher will explain about the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study and benefit of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Language is one of the human needs in their life and human can not separate from language. Language makes people able to communicate with other people, because with language we can find out what other people mean. In this world English is an International language. Many people in this world use English while they are going to another country and to communicate with people in that country using English. It is because every country has a different national language so that English should be understood by everyone. Learning English as early as possible can add more benefits for us so that we will not feel afraid when we are facing English, especially for the students who live in countries that do not use English as a mother tongue. The example is in our country, Indonesia, many students feeling afraid while facing English subject, they feel that English is very difficult to learn, but on the other side while they are learning English well, they will get more knowledge.

In Indonesia, English is very important in education aspect. We will learn four skills in English, there are speaking, reading, listening, writing and grammar in the same time. When we want to be fluent in English we have to master the four skills and in this paper we will discuss more about critical reading. From these skills we also need to grow and improve our critical reading skills. Reading ability is important in language learning, all knowledge can be obtained by reading. Reading is a linguistic, sociological, and psychological aspect (Charaka, 2013). Including critical reading, through critical reading students can find out the meaning or content of the reading as

a whole and in-depth. It is also expected that by reading critically students can practice to think critically in their daily life.

Critical reading is one of the subjects in Department of English Education (DEE) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, this subject is taught in the third semester. Besides learning critical reading, the students learn about Intensive Reading in the first semester, Extensive Reading in the second semesters, Critical Reading in the third semesters, and the last is Standardized Tests of Reading in the fourth semester. All of skills are taught in the first four semesters, in this research my concentration is on Critical Reading and I will take the data from the student perceptions after getting this subject while they are in the third semesters.

In this research, the researcher will focus in the student perceptions to Critical Reading subject. In this case, the researcher wants to know how students feel about Critical Reading Subject. Perception is the process of attaining awareness or understanding of sensory information. Andrej Demuth (2013) explain that perceptions is not only as object which from the content and diversity of the world, but also the starting point and the source of any sensual or intellectual cognition will therefore be the subject of our thoughts.

In this research, the researcher conducted the research in students of fourth semester Department of English Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have done learning critical reading. The researcher chooses this topic because based on the researcher's experience many students around the researcher's environment had difficulty in learning Critical Reading, so the researcher wanted to find out whether students who differed in level from the researcher also have same experienced.

Based on explanation above, the researcher will do the research with entitled **"STUDENT PERCEPTIONS TO CRITICAL READING SUBJECT IN THE THIRD SEMESTER DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA"**.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements of the study were as follows:

1. Do the students understand about Critical Reading subject in Department of English Education UMS?

2. What are the advantages of Critical Reading subject from student perceptions?

3. What are the difficulties in learning Critical Reading subject?

4. What make students interested in learning Critical Reading subject?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the research problems, the objective of this research as follow:

1. To find out the students understanding of Critical Reading subject in Department of English Education UMS.

2. To find out the advantages of Critical Reading subject based on student perceptions.

3. To find out the difficulties of Critical Reading subject from the student perceptions.

4. To find out how to make students interested in Critical Reading subject.

D. Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the researcher limits the research as follow:

1. Subject Limitation

   The subject limitation of this research is the students who have already received critical reading subject of Department of English Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

2. Object Limitation

   The object limitation of this research is student perceptions in critical reading subject.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research will be useful for all the readers, this research divided into two kinds of benefit:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   The result of this study can be made as reference about learning strategies to other researcher who want to analyze and conduct the student perceptions in critical reading, especially in critical reading subject.

2. Practical Benefit

   a. For the students

      This study will motivate the students to improve the way when they learn critical reading and they can know what is critical reading subject, the benefit that can they take from this subject and how to learn critical reading well.

   b. For the teacher

      This study will give some information, knowledge about student perceptions in critical reading subject, so the teacher may be able to make the learning process better.

   c. For the research

      The results of this research can develop their experience related to their knowledge.