

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading novels in English is essential for developing a language. It can be an enjoyable and rewarding way to improve skills of English and develop a deeper understanding of literature. As Tarihoran & Dewi (2020) say, reading novels is a fun and effective way to improve English skills. However, reading English novel also presents challenges, especially for non-native English speakers. Students may struggle with unfamiliar words, making it difficult to comprehend the text and follow the storyline. Research has shown how struggling their participants are dealing with reading an English novel in the extensive reading course. Alfian et al., (2022) say, students struggle to understand unfamiliar phrases while reading the text. As a result, they have their own strategy for understanding it.

As a foreign language student, reading English novel has always become an issue. Based on classroom requirements of the extensive reading course at a university in Tasikmalaya, students should read an English novel to explore the elements that exist in the novels they read. After that, the results of their reading, such as titles, characters, plots, conflict, and the resolution, should be made into the form of a poster, and presented. Based on the pre-interview, the typical participant had similar difficulties when reading an English novel. If they came across unfamiliar sentences, the participants found it difficult to read. They stated that they had difficulty understanding the meaning of foreign words or sentences, because of their limited vocabulary. To overcome these challenges, it is very important to employ effective reading strategies to enhance the reading experience of reading English novel in the extensive reading course.

The previous research carried out by Fitriana (2018) used a descriptive case study on the specific strategies taken by students with different levels of English proficiency to understand academic reading. The findings showed that students with low and high proficiency levels used different strategies. Another previous study is an experimental research conducted by Banditvilai (2020) in Thailand. The results

of the study showed that reading strategies have a positive effect on students' reading comprehension. The way that students viewed scanning, skimming, making predictions, and asking questions was favorable, and they were able to use these techniques to enhance their reading comprehension. A further investigation conducted by Alfian et al., (2022). This research is a narrative inquiry study research that focuses on students' learning strategies during the intensive reading course. The findings show that the majority of their participants used the same strategy of looking up the definition of a new word online with a dictionary.

Previous studies above have paid attention to the students' reading strategies in the extensive reading course. However, there has not been sufficient research on investigating students' strategies toward an English novel using a descriptive case study, particularly in the Indonesian context. Therefore, the researcher was inspired to conduct a descriptive case study in knowing EFL students' strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course. This study may have theoretical implications for learners, teachers, and other researchers who are interested in learning, teaching, and researching reading strategies.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

What are EFL students' strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course?

1.3 Operational Definitions

An English Novel

An English novel is a fictional narrative written in the English language. English novels cover a wide variety of genres such as science fiction, historical fiction, romance, fantasy, comedy, and mystery, among other genres.

Extensive Reading Course

The extensive reading course is a structured program or curriculum designed to promote extensive reading practices among language learners. It is typically implemented in language learning institutions such as schools, language centers, or universities.

Reading Strategies

Reading strategies are methods that readers consciously and purposefully

employ to understand, evaluate, and interpret an English novel.

1.4 Aim of the Study

The present research aims to determine EFL students' strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course.

1.5 Significances of the Study

Theoretical Significance

The outcomes of this research will broaden the theories about information and enrich the literature regarding EFL students' strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course.

Practical Significance

This research contributes for EFL students getting effective strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course.

Empirical Significance

This research will explain empirically about EFL students' reading strategies for reading English novel in the extensive reading course.