CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents: (1) background, (2) research problems, (3) research objective, (4) significance of the study

1.1 Background

English is one of the international languages in the world. People use language as a media to communicate with other people from different countries. According to Richard (2007), English is the language of globalization, international communication, commerce and trade media, pop culture, different motivation for learning, it comes in to play language. People need to learn English because English is used in every aspect of social life (as cited in Herlina and Holandyah, 2016, p. 107-108). Therefore, it can be seen that English is an international language that uses as a communication tool in several aspects of social life.

In Indonesia, English is very important for learners. According to Saputra and Marzulina (2016), English is one of the subjects that is tested in the national exam in form of national standards and used as one of the requirements for graduating students both at junior and senior high school level. In addition, Sari and Saun (2013) state that English has become an important subject from junior high school. For this reason, English plays an important position because it is very crucial for the students to learn English to graduate from school with a good score in the national examination.

Four language skills must be mastered by the learners. Those skills are reading, writing, speaking and listening. Khameis (2006) states that these four

language skills appear together in English class naturally (as cited in Herlina and Holandyah, 2016, p. 108). Reading is the way people learn language by seeing the words on the paper and begin to learn how the way the word, the pattern, and the sentence make a sense. Writing is the way people to create sentences after learning about the pattern of language. Meanwhile, speaking is how the way people learn a language in oral. The last, Walker (2012) states that listening is how the people learn by interpreting what the speaker says. In other words, English covers four basic skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Reading skill is very crucial for the learners in education. Pang (2003) states that learning to read is an important educational goal. For both children and adults, the ability to read opens up new worlds and opportunities (as cited in Putra and Marzulina, 2016, p. 186). To sum up, reading is one of the skills in English that is important for the learner to get the knowledge and gain new information in English from so many sources in the written text.

To comprehend the reading competence, it is necessary to have the media that can lead the learner to get the meaning of the language. The media that every learners need when she/he studies English is dictionary and most of the dictionaries are used in reading class. According to Labrousse (1977), the dictionary is a book containing a collection of words of language arranged in alphabetical order followed by definitions or translations in other languages (as cited in Kurniasih, 2014, p. 11). Based on Summers (1988), learners are found to be more successful in using dictionaries for reading tasks compared to production tasks, because production requires more conceptual information, include the understanding of idioms, grammar, collocation, synonyms, and

lexical phrases (as cited in Jian, Sandness, Law and Huang, 2009, p. 504). However, it can be concluded that the dictionary is very important especially in reading class.

Dictionaries can be helpful but they are difficult to be used properly. The skills needed to use a dictionary well will depend on the purpose (Nation, 2001, P. 284-288). According to Nation (2001), if the learner wants to use the dictionary for understanding oral (listening) or written (reading) texts, the user will mainly be interested in looking up the meanings of words. It is important to remember, though, that the dictionary can never know the exact context in which the word is being used, so the learner will have to use their knowledge of the language as well. There are several skills that needed in understanding listening and reading text; 1) use knowledge of the language to get information about the grammar of the word that the learner wants to look up, 2)guess the general meaning of the word in the context, 3) decide if it is necessary to look up the word, 4) find the word in the dictionary, 5) choose the correct entry in the dictionary, and 6) check the meaning given by the dictionary to see if it fits in the context.

There are several skills including all the skills that a university-level language student might need to use dictionaries effectively. According to Nesi (1999), the skills vary in difficulty and degree of abstraction but are grouped chronologically rather than according to level, the first five groups representing stages in the process of dictionary use, starting with the choice of which dictionary to have available for consultation, and ending with the application and

recording of dictionary information. Skills that are independent of the consultation process are listed in stage six.

Some factors are proven giving influence to the learners in using several of the dictionaries. Lecturer's and learner's preferences are the kind of factors that affect the students in using the dictionary. Based on Koca, Pojani, and Cicko (2014), the learner uses the dictionary based on the learner and the lecturer's recommendations. In line with it, Hamouda (2013) also found that lecturer and learner are the kind of factors that influence the students to used various types of the dictionary. From this statement, it can be concluded that the learner uses the dictionary based on the learner's choices or lecturers' influence.

Dictionaries have several functions when the learner consults the dictionary. This is indicated in Albulushy (2014), there are a lot of purposes of a dictionary than word meanings that are considered as practical sources of information that learners and teachers can depend on. Albulushy (2014) states that, the following points are some information found in dictionaries including definitions/word meanings, spelling synonyms/antonym, collocation, parts of speech, pronunciation of word, plurals of nouns, origin of words, capitalization, grammatical information, prepositional rules, English spelling, and word usage (e.g. slang). Because of this function, the dictionary will help the students when they learn English.

In this modern era, there are several issues about the dictionaries that can be a problem for the learner to study English. These views are concerned with the problems in the dictionaries. The first problem is indicated by Sarigul (2016) who stated that some students may not be aware of the efficient ways of using a

dictionary. In general, they only take the entry as the final option and do not explore other possibilities of meaning or they do not usually think of looking up a familiar word like "bring", "call " or "get". But the meanings of these words may change depending on the usage of them in different contexts and may create difficulty for language learners. However, the lack of knowledge of learners while using dictionaries for their specific lexical needs may sometimes bring about deficient or erroneous interpretations and make the learners are inclined to adopt the first meaning they happen to come across without bothering themselves for the rest.

The other problem found in using the dictionary is in an online dictionary. Unfocused, cheating, lack of battery, internet connection, noisy and distracting are the kind of problems that usually occur in an online dictionary (Zheng & Whang, 2016, p. 146). Similarly, Stirling (2005) also indicated that several teachers complain about electronic dictionaries as inaccurate, noisy, cheating and distracting (as cited in Razei & Davoudi, 2016, p. 142). These issues are the phenomenon that showed by the learners when they used the dictionaries.

The last problem in the dictionary is found in printed dictionaries. Jian, Sandness, Law, and Huang (2009) and Albulushy (2014), mentioned that heaviness, inefficient, wasting time, bothering, and can not be updated are the general problems of the printed dictionary. The printed dictionary is not sufficient to use rather than an online dictionary (Jian, Sandness, Law & Huang, 2009, p. 503). Yonally and Gilfert (1995) claims that students taking longer and requiring more effort to consult paper dictionary, while online dictionary allows

students to quickly find the desired dictionary entries, motivation to use online dictionary also increasing than paper-based dictionary because of ease of use, speed, small size, and lightweight, and ability to hear pronunciation (as cited in Jian, Sandness, Law & Huang, 2009, p. 505). Moreover, the heaviness of the paper dictionary is the main reason for students not bringing it to the class (Albulushy, 2014, p. 5). In conclusion, several factors in the printed dictionary make the students are not use the dictionary.

As a result, these phenomena made me interested in research using the dictionary in the reading classroom by focusing on how the students used the dictionary and what were the problems faced by the students of the English Education Study Program when using the dictionary in the process of learning. This study focused on the types of dictionary that the students mostly use in the process of learning, the frequency when they use the dictionary, types of information the gathered from the dictionary, the student's training in use the dictionary, and problems in the dictionary.

Based on the description above, I conducted a case study of how did the students of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang use dictionary in the process of learning and what were the problems faced by the students in using dictionary, entitle : *" Using Dictionary in EFL Class : A Case Study at English Department of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang."*

1.1 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study are as follow:

1. How the students of the English Education Study Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang used the dictionary in their process of learning?

2. What were the problems faced by the students of the English Education Study Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang when they used the dictionary in their process of learning?

1.2   Objective of this Study

Based on research statement, this particular study aims at finding out:

1. To find out how the students of English Education Study Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang used a dictionary in their process of learning

2. To find out the problems faced by the students of the English Education Study Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang when the student used the dictionary in their process of learning.

1.3   Significance of the Study

This study expected to give some contributions to English language learning and teaching.

For my self, the result of this study is expected to give the benefits for myself, so I could increase my knowledge and expand my experience by doing this research.

For learners, the findings could inform the learners about how they use the dictionary in the form of types, preferences, dictionaries function, frequencies and the problems in using online and printed dictionary that faced by the students of English Education Study Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in the process of learning.

For English lecturers, it is important to know how the students used the dictionary and the student's problems when they used the dictionary in the process of learning. Therefore, the result of this study could give the information and recommendations for the lecturers to informs specifically about the use of a dictionary for students to increase the use of the dictionary as the valuable language learning source. The lecturer must explain the use of the dictionary and its benefits so that students could improve their learning independently.

For further researchers, who are interested in analysis research, they can get the basic information from this research. So, they can do their research deeper and better than this research.