

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Introduction part of this study entitled An Analysis Reading Comprehension Questions on The Longman TOEFL Book's Preparation by Deborah Phillips consists of the Background of The Study, Statement of The Problem, Objective of The Study, Significances of the Study, Scope and Limitation, and Operational Definition.

1.1. Background of The Study

English is one of the skills that everyone must have in the current era of society 5.0 because English is central to communication in establishing relations within the country and abroad. Iswati (2021) said that mastery and readiness in facing the TOEFL test are very important because this test is used for various purposes such as requirements for completing studies, applying for jobs, promotions, and continuing education. Ahdiat (2022) said that in 2022 in tests and surveys conducted by PISA to samples of 15 year old students from dozens of countries, Indonesian students obtained a reading ability score of 359 points, lower than the average score of OECD member countries which is around between 472-480 points. Therefore, this research examines and analyzes TOEFL reading comprehension questions in Longman's book to find out what skills exist and what skills appear most often in TOEFL to prepare someone for the TOEFL test to achieve maximum scores.

According to Brown (2021), the English Language Proficiency Test is a comprehensive test to measure all aspects of English language proficiency, especially for academic purposes.

There are many types of EPT according to each individual's rules and needs. Each type of EPT also has different rules. Some examples of these tests are the TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, PTE, and

EPT tests. Currently, there are many English proficiency tests that students and prospective workers can take. Many companies also use TOEFL as requirement, as noted by Smith (2020). TOEFL is an English proficiency test (American accent) required to apply for admission to universities in the United States or other countries. According to Richards and Schmidt (2021), TOEFL is widely used for various opportunities, including applications for scholarships to study in English-speaking countries.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a widely recognized and respected standardized test used to assess English language proficiency for non-native English speakers. Several universities have made TOEFL a test requirement for students' final graduation exams. Without a TOEFL certificate that reaches the target, students cannot proceed to the next stage. Therefore, many students prepare for the TOEFL test well in advance in order to get the expected results. Language skills tested include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language components tested include vocabulary, grammar (structure), pronunciation, including intonation and emphasis.

As mentioned above, there are 4 skills in the TOEFL test, one of which is reading. Reading is the cognitive process of interpreting written or printed symbols to comprehend their meaning. It involves the ability to recognize and understand written language, including letters, words, and sentences, in order to gain information, knowledge, or enjoyment from written texts. On the other hand, Smith (2022) said that reading is not just looking at a collection of letters that have formed words, groups of words, sentences, paragraphs, and discourse only, but more than that, reading is an activity to understand symbols/signs/meaningful writing so that the message correctly delivered by the author can be accepted by readers.

Reading can encompass a wide range of materials, from books and newspapers to digital content, and it is a fundamental skill for communication, education, and personal development.

Understanding a reading is very important to know the content of the reading. It is possible that the problems between one student and another are different. One of the core parts of the TOEFL exam is the Reading Comprehension section, which evaluates the test taker's ability to understand and interpret written texts in English. This research contain an analysis of Reading Comprehension questions on the TOEFL and analyze the type, format, and importance of these questions in assessing language ability. Smith (2021) said that reading comprehension is the power to obtain ideas or meaning from written text, understand it based on background experience or previous knowledge, and interpret it with readers' needs and goals.

Based on researchers' observations, students in the 5th-semester class of 2020C at UNIPDA Sidoarjo in the English Language Proficiency course experienced difficulties in understanding reading texts, such as difficulty in concluding, determining main ideas, and finding references. According to Brown et al. (2021), the poor performance of Indonesian students in the PISA Reading Literacy test, which was conducted in Indonesian, has been investigated by Jones, Smith, and Taylor (2020).

They found that several difficulties were experienced by students in completing this PISA Reading Literacy Test, and two of them were the correct translation of the meaning from English to Indonesian and the question forms. Some of the reasons are that they do not understand how to use reading comprehension strategies and lose concentration in reading comprehension. Most of the others have difficulty because the vocabulary is too foreign for some students. According to

Ruminar et.al (2023) the average student has never taken a TOEFL simulation skill not used to that type of question tested on TOEFL. Because of this situation, researchers are interested in

analyzing the types of TOEFL reading questions in Longman's book for students to study in solving reading problems on the TOEFL test.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher feels it is very important to conduct research with the title "An Analysis of Reading Comprehension Questions on the TOEFL" in the book entitled Longman Compete for the TOEFL test by Deborah Phillips.

1.2. Statement of The Problem

Based on the background above, the authors have problems and the research problem is:

- 1.2.1. What are the types of reading skills in the reading comprehension questions of the TOEFL test?
- 1.2.2. Which are the types of the highest frequency of reading skills used in the TOEFL test.

1.3. Objective of The Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the objective of the study is:

- 1.3.1. To describe the types of reading skills in the reading comprehension question on a TOEFL test
- 1.3.2. To elaborate on the types of the highest frequency of reading skills used in the TOEFL test.

1.4. Significance of The Study

The significance of the study is important because it speaks about the input and effects that research has on a field of study. Additionally, significance reveals who and how research results benefit

- 1.4.1. For English Education Study Program

Results of this study are also expected to be used as consideration in the development of the quality of the learning process, learning evaluation, and the development of education management. With the continuous improvement in these aspects, teaching and learning process at

English Education are hopefully efficient, effective, and productive to enhance the competitiveness of its students.

1.4.2. For Students

This research can help students sort out what reading skills they need to prepare for their TOEFL test. In this regard, they can develop ideas on how to study effectively so that they can influence their TOEFL test score results.

1.4.3. For The Other Researchers

Providing an overview for future researchers who want to research the same case, hopefully, this research can become a source of information and reference.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the TOEFL book name entitled Longman TOEFL Book's Preparation by Deborah Phillips. ISBN 0-13-140883-6, Copyright & 2024 by Pearson Education, Inc.

The limitation of the study is focused to describe the reading comprehension question on TOEFL tes, find out the types of reading skills of the reading comprehension question in a TOEFL test, and elaborate the theme in the thematical structure.

1.6. Operational Definition

1.6.1. TOEFL

TOEFL stands for Test of English as a Foreign Language. It is a standardized test designed to assess the English language proficiency of non-native English speakers who are planning to study or work in English-reading environments.

1.6.2. Reading Comprehension Question

Reading comprehension is an effort to understand, evaluate, and also recognize the author's ideas in the reading text. A reader needs understanding to capture the content of the message or information from the text. Reading comprehension is a process of interpreting written ideas through interpreting meaning and interacting with language. Reading comprehension is seen as the most important multi-aspect process which is influenced by several thinking abilities and language skills. So, this will force readers to read the text in depth so they can find out the complete information.

