CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTIONS

A. Background of The Research

It is said that reading is the path to success in school and life. One who is not able to read will not be able to succeed (U. S. Department of Education, 2005). This is supported by Safiah (1990) who mentioned that those who are good readers are able to expand their views, experiences and thoughts. Hence, reading is viewed as a highly valued skill in our technology-driven world today. The US Department of Education (2005) also stated that reading is one of the means to gain access to all the knowledge in this world. Living in a largely literate society, we are surrounded by written materials covering almost all aspects of our lives. Examples of written materials are newspapers, books, journals, magazines and other electronic sources which are utilized to acquire knowledge as today's technology-literate societies operate on the foundation that the members of the society are literate (Wallace, 1992). Wallace (1992) also mentioned that reading has become a big part of the public's daily life especially now that literacy is given emphasis. This is also maintained by Imran (2010) who stated that today's technology-oriented world puts emphasis on knowledge and hence the importance of reading. He also added that knowledge gained will attract people to read and to increase their knowledge. Accordingly, if people do not succumb to the demand for higher literacy, it may create grievous consequences to them. However, According to United Nations Educational Survey that was carried out in 2012, the Scientific and

Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Indonesia's rank is 69th out of 127 countries in reading competence, and only 1 out of 1000 people in Indonesia loves reading (in Hutabarat, 2020).

Moreover, the existence of Covid-19 has a huge impact to every sector in human life, including education. Classroom learning activity shifted to distance learning (online learning). Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, prepared the scenario of online learning for students during Covid-19. They also developed distance learning applications based on android: "Portal Rumah Belajar" (Kemendikbud, 2020). Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Culture has joined forces with online learning platforms, for instance Google Indonesia, Sekolahmu, Quipper, School, Ruang Guru, Zenius, Kelas Pintar and Microsoft. The Indonesian Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim, declared that several associates reveal be able to participate the implementation of online learning system. Each platform will give facilities that are publicly accessible and free for all Indonesian Students (Putsanra, 2020).

The learning process used to be done face-to-face, can only be done through internet technology without having to face-to-face between the instructor and learner that is called as an online learning (e-learning) nowadays. Students can learn anytime and anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet. They are able to discuss several topics with their teachers from home through their smartphones. The students do not have to travel anywhere to study, they can simply take their smartphones which is connected to internet

and learn from the comfort of their own home. Abidah *et al.* (2020) stated the strength of online learning is not limited by space and time.

However, this condition led the students to suffer boredom due to only staying at home or dormitory. They could not see their friend and do the activities they could do during the offline class (Abdalla, *et al* 2021). It was reported in several studies that studying the boredom effect because of pandemic era were severely affecting the people and students (Chao, Chen, Liu, Yang, & Hall 2020). Likewise, more than 70% of participants investigated showed signs of significant psychological distress, the unpleasant feeling of low arousal during the pandemic era (Sundstr̈om, Hjelm-Lidholm, & Radon, 2019). In Indonesia itself, the implementation of this policy of limiting learning activities in schools certainly has a significant impact on the mental health of students, although to varying degrees. Data obtained from a rapid assessment survey conducted by the COVID-19 task force (Putnsara, 2020) shows that 47 percent of Indonesian students feel bored at home, 35 percent are worried about missing lessons, 15 percent feel insecure, 20 percent miss friends and 10 percent of the children are worried about the economic condition of the family. Thus, this led the students to seek a resolution to encounter their boredom.

One of the activities that could be chosen by the students to encounter their boredom is reading. However, most of the studied showed that the reading interest among the students were considered to be poor. Indonesian National Library released the data that shows only 10% of Indonesian above 10 years old are interested in reading (Wibowo, 2015). For learners particularly, reading

might be primary need to achieve the academic success. It is generally assumed that reading will take place meaningfully if it is preceded by interest to read. According to United Nations Educational Survey that was carried out in 2012, the Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Indonesia's rank is 69th out of 127 countries in reading competence, and only 1 out of 1000 people in Indonesia loves reading (in Hutabarat, 2020).

Based on the data above, several Indonesian researchers conducted several studies to find out the reading interest of Indonesian students during the pandemic era. Hanah, Lisniyati, & Yulianto (2020) in their study find out that 42.9% students of 98 students from 9 high schools in Subang being studied showed to have willingness and motivation in reading. Another study conducted by Utami & Nur (2021) to English Department students of the University of Kutai Kertanegara in Tengarong find out that 68.4% of 79 students were showing their interest in reading. However, the students only loved to read anything in English except the lecture material provided by the lecture.

Thus, based on the data above, there was an improvement in reading interest among the students either who learn in college and school in the pandemic era. However, there are still no study conducted to find out the reading interest of the students either in the university level and high school level after the pandemic ended. Therefore, based on the current situation where the pandemic has reached its end. The researcher intended to find out how the reading interest of the students after the pandemic era (post − pandemic era)

and how it happened. In this present study, the researcher will employ the eleven grade students of SMA Hidayatul Muhsinin Pontianak in the Academic Year of 2021/2022 as the subject of this research.

B. Research Problems

According to Notoatmodjo (2002) research problems interpreted in general as a gap between what should be and what is happening about something between the reality that exists or occurs with what should exist or occur and between expectations and reality. This study aims to answer following questions:

1. How is the eleventh-grade students' reading interest in the post pandemic era at SMA Hidayatul Muhsinin in the academic year of 2021/2022?

2. How did the phenomena of the students' reading interest in the post pandemic era at SMA Hidayatul Muhsinin in the academic year of 2021/2022 happened?

C. Research Purposes

The purposes of this research:

1. To find out about students' reading interest in the post – pandemic era at SMA Hidayatul Muhsinin in the academic year of 2021/2022.

2. To find out how did the eleven grade students' reading interest in the post pandemic era occurred at SMA Hidayatul Muhsinin in the academic year of 2021/2022.

D. Significance of Study

Significance of study is an effort to find, develop and test the truth of science and research. This significance of study must provide important benefits and impacts on the subject under the study, information, environment and also for the future research.In this study, two definition were obtained from the point of view in theory and practice.Researcher can limit required scope in this study. Literature reviewhelp researcher determining whether the topic is worth researching or not. Researcher believe this study can be useful for educators and participants to be more aware to improve their ability.

Therefore, with preparation of this study, researcher hopes that it can contribute for being a useful knowledge to students, teachers, other researcher, writer and the English Education Study Program of IKIP PGRI Pontianak.

1. To students

   This research is very important to measure students' ability, how good they are in reading process, understandings, and motivation for students reading.

2. To teachers

   This research is important for teachers in identifying what strategies are suitable in students' reading activities, knowing what criteria can please students in reading, so that it is useful in implementing and maintaining reading effectiveness.

3. To other researchers

   Researcher really hopes that this research can be useful for other researchers to develop variables and help present more of their ideas for further studies.

4. To writers

   This research is very important to increase understanding of strategies to generate enthusiasm for learning for students, as well as in facing challenges and obstacles in order to become better writers in the future.

5. To English Education Study Program of IKIP PGRI Pontianak

   This research will be a place for the latest information to find out the strategies that can be used in improving the quality of learning for students, both in urban and rural areas to find more effective approaches to learning.

6. Further Research

   This research is expected to increase knowledge and experience regarding the factors that influence students' reading interest and can practice what other researchers will get in future research.

E. Scope of Research

   In this research requires the formulation of research boundaries. The scope of the research here is the research variables and terminology.

1. Research Variable

     A variable is a characteristic or attribute of an individual or an organization that (a) researcher can measure or observe and (b) varies among individuals or organizations studied. Measurement means that the researcher records information from individuals by asking them to answer questions and interview. When variables vary, it means that scores will assume different values depending on the type of variable being measured (Creswell, 2014 : 112). Variable in this research using a single variable, because this research focused on finding out "students 'reading interest during post-pandemic era".

2. Research Terminology

   a. Students' reading interest

        Reading interest is a strong and deep concern accompanied by feelings of enjoyment in reading activities that might motivate someone to read on their own. Reading interest can also be defined as a good attitude and sense of attachment to reading activities, as well as a desire to read books. A person with high reading abilities will be able to absorb a wide range of information. This ability is necessary to improve one's chances of enhancing one's quality of life. The library is a gathering place for scientific information, entertainment, relaxation, and worship, all of which are important human needs. Reading and literacy culture must be recognized as activities that cannot be isolated from daily living.

   b. Post-pandemic era

The post-pandemic time is a period where the event of the Covid-19 pandemic ended, during which there was a progress of exercises based on what was initially all work from home or online to the new ordinary time frame, where this period started to applying movements of every kind back to how they were before the pandemic time frame however with a few conditions, for example, conforming to wellbeing conventions and immunizing vaccine.