

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

English is one of the International languages widely used around the world; many countries have used English as their second language; however, it is a foreign language in Indonesia. Many students in Indonesia start to learn English from the kindergarten level. English subject is also determined as one of the compulsory subjects that students have to learn in secondary school.

English is not a new subject for students at junior high school because they have learned the basic of English from elementary school. The early experience of encountering English makes them very familiar with English, unlike other foreign languages they get first in high school or maybe senior high school. That makes English a familiar subject to the students in Indonesia.

The purpose of giving English as a compulsory subject in high school is so that the students can compete with people from other countries in the era of globalization and MEA too. In 2016, the policy of MEA has been applied and agreed by all of the ASEAN governments including Indonesia.

To compete with other countries, the Indonesian government realize that English language is important to learn. English lesson is considered to be very important and it is one of the subjects for the national examination in junior high and senior high school. It is very vital to build a strong level of English

proficiency in the Indonesian education. Many jobs nowadays in Indonesia require English as one of the requirements.

Somehow, based on the researcher's experience when she did her teaching practice in a Junior high school in Surabaya, many students were not enthusiastic to study English. When the teacher entered the class, these students seemed too lazy to sit nicely and they felt sleepy in the classroom. When they did not understand the material, they just did not care about it. They would take the subject seriously only when having a test. Furthermore, 99% of the students failed from the mid-term test. The students seemed not to have any motivation in learning English

According to Prayitno (1989: 94), there are some aspects on teaching which can influence students' learning motivation. They are teacher, student, material, media, method, and evaluation.

Seeing the fact, the researcher wants to find out about the students' perception towards English subject in their school, what makes them feel unenthusiastic in the classroom. Learning their perception about the English subject will reveal what the students have struggled with and their reasons of being unenthusiastic.

The findings can be helpful for the teacher to improve their teaching in the future. They will try to adjust to the current level of the students' English proficiency. They may also be able to come up with interesting idea for a better and attractive teaching environment. Teacher's improvement in teaching will

bring good impact to students' development of their English proficiency. They will improve their English, they will get better scores, and they will feel enthusiastic when attending English classes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The major question:

- a. What are the students' perceptions toward the English subject in school?

This major question is broken down into some minor questions:

- a. What are the English materials like according to the students?
- b. How are the teaching and learning activities conducted during the English lesson?
- c. Which motivation encourages students to learn English?

1.3 Objective

This research is to find out the students' perceptions toward the English subject, which covers their opinions about:

- a. The English materials.
- b. The teaching and learning activities conducted during the English lesson.
- c. The motivation that encourages students to learn English.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

The research uses the Greany's perception (2002). According to many theorists perception is the awareness of the world using the five senses. But in this research there are no something to be analyze using the human sight. Instead the perception

used in the research is the opinion. According to Deci, E. (1975), perception is how people perceive things or other people. This area of psychology are also influenced by various factor. People's perception also differ with one another. Greany (2002) used perception (opinion) in their research to find out the students' perception about the technological environment.

The last theory the researcher uses to better understand the findings is motivation. According to Graham, S & Weiner, B. (1996:63) motivation is like a people's behavior or thought as they do certain activity. He also stated that the motivation can be as simple as studying for an examination or any achievement behavior.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Through this study, the findings will greatly help the teachers and the students. The findings may prove helpful to the English teachers to improve their teaching. Furthermore, the improvement can make a better teaching and learning environment for the students. They will improve in their grades and English proficiency.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on giving a questionnaire to 8th grade students in two Junior High Schools in Surabaya. This research aims at finding out the students' perception of the English subject at school.

The researcher limits the scope only to students' perception of the English materials in school, the students' perception of the teaching and learning activities during the English lesson, and the students' motivation in learning English.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The following term needs to be defined to avoid some misunderstandings:

Perception:

Perception is how people perceive things or other people. This area of psychology are also influenced by various factor. People's perception also differ with one another. (Deci, 1975).

English Subject:

According to the Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia, number 2, on National Education System (1989), English subject is an obligatory subject in high school, part of the main curriculum.

Junior High School:

According to the Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia, number 28, on National Education System (1990), junior high school is a form of primary education that lasts for three years.