

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

The world of education is a place where students explore abilities in various fields such as academic and non-academic. One of the fields in academics that must be mastered by students is English. Moreover, English is now an International language which is the language of liaison between one country and another. Learning English is not as easy as you think. Many students who study English have difficulty in understanding the language.

English is an international language used in various fields (Rao, 2019; Turan, Z., & Akdag-Cimen, 2020). English is complex for everyone to learn. In English, there are four skills that can be mastered by students. The four Skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, English has three components, namely: grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Therefore, many students think English is a difficult thing to master. Thus, most of them only master a few abilities that match their own abilities.

There are so many students who only listen to the teacher who teaches in front of the class without giving any response at all because they do not understand what the teacher says. They are those who only know a few words without understanding the real meaning. Therefore, it proves that students are less interested in learning English because they already think that English is a very complicated subject and difficult to understand. According to Rintaningrum (2016), the process

of learning English in a country that uses the language as a first language and a second language has different difficulties. Moreover, In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language, so it takes a longer time and process compared to countries that use English to communicate daily. Meanwhile, English is quite unfamiliar to people living in Papua. This is because English is a foreign language. Learning English can help friends better understand this language so they can build networks with many people.

The students who are learning English and those who receive scholarships from *Yayasan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Amungme dan Kamoro* (YPMAC). This foundation is under the auspices of PT. Freeport Indonesia. This scholarship is given to the local people with the aim of being a bridge to support them to live healthy lives, compete in the modern economic system, natural resources and also indigenous Papuans. In this way, local people can be well maintained and the community can live with full justice and prosperity. Therefore, YPMAC sends students not only throughout Indonesia but also overseas to get a proper education with the hope of finishing the education to become an educated people who are able to contribute in developing the land of Papua, especially Timika. One of the most important subjects in Education is English. English is a means of communication with almost everyone in foreign countries. Therefore, it is hoped that students who receive YPMAC scholarships can learn well, even though it is not easy.

In fact, many students still have difficulties in understanding English lessons from elementary to college level. However, there are several students studying at Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya who also receive English lessons.

Therefore, the researcher wants to find out the learning strategies of these Papuan students in studying English in their respective faculties.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

In line with the discussion above, the research problem would be as follows:

- 1.2.1 What strategies do Papuan students use in learning English?
- 1.2.2 What are the challenges Papuan students face while learning English?

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

This study aims as the objectives

- 1.3.1 To find out the English learning strategies used by Papuan students at Widya Mandala Catholic University.
- 1.3.2 To know the obstacles faced by Papuan students while studying English.

## **1.4 Theoretical Framework**

Learning is an activity that occurs in a class between teachers and students. During the learning and teaching process, students not only get the material provided by the teacher but also how to behave well in life. As stated by Weinstein & Mayer (1983), students can gain new knowledge, not only material but also the value of human life. Hence, teachers can implement good behavior through strategies that can involve students in the teaching and learning process.

To apply the value of life in the learning and teaching process requires the right strategy. Therefore, there are several strategies that can help students' learning process to increase their knowledge according to Ehrman & Oxford, (1990) namely learning strategies. It is divided into two main parts including direct strategies and indirect strategies.

These strategies can help students to understand foreign languages well. As stated by (Marlina & Padang, 2017), English is a foreign language in Indonesia because there are two languages that are already known by students, namely the mother tongue and the national language. That way, English is not easily mastered by students. Besides that, English is an International language that makes everyone aware of the importance of learning English well (Aini & Nohantiya, 2020)

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

Based on the research topic entitled Papuan Students' Strategies and Challenges in Learning English, the researcher will conduct the research with all students from Papua who receive the YPMAK scholarship and study at Widya Mandala Catholic University.

This study is made to find out the learning strategies used by Papuan students in learning English. The study periods of students are from batch 2018/2019 to 2020/2021. The respondents who become the target of this study are the Papuan students in all faculties and departments at Widya Mandala Catholic University. Therefore, the researcher collects data by distributing questionnaires to ninety one respondents and eight of them are selected for interviews to get detailed answers.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

The results of this study are expected to inspire the readers to find out learning strategies that can be realized by readers. In that way, readers can further hone their skills in learning English well.

## **1.7 Definition of key terms**

To avoid misunderstanding, some key terms are defined below:

### **a. English as a foreign language**

According to Marlina & Padang, (2017), English is used in Indonesia as a foreign language because students can master their mother tongue first as a means of communication with people around their homes.

### **b. Learning**

Learning strategies are thoughts in which students are involved in the learning process. The goal of each strategy in which students choose to regulate new knowledge (Weinstein & Mayer, 1983).

### **c. Challenges**

Collins' dictionary defines a challenge as something new and difficult which requires great effort and determination. While learning English is not completely a new thing for Papuan students as they start learning that from junior high school, they still find it a very difficult task that need to have great effort to be successful.

### **d. Papuan Students**

Papuan students are students who come from Papua and are currently studying at Widya Mandala Catholic University. These Papuan students are those who receive YPMAK (*Yayasan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Amungme dan Kamoro*) scholarships. This scholarship is awarded to seven tribes living in the city of Timika. YPMAK aims to develop the potential of regional sons and daughters in the field of education. Papuan students studying at Widya Mandala are selected

students because they have passed several written and oral tests. That way, Papuan students can choose the major they want to choose at Widya Mandala University according to their interests and abilities.

#### **1.4 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis contains the organized in five chapters:

- a. Chapter 1 is the Introduction. This part discusses about the background study, research question, objective, significance of study, the definition of keys terms, and organization of thesis
- b. Chapter 2 is the Literature Review. This part presents and discusses the related literature and previous studies from this research.
- c. Chapter 3 is the Research Methodology. It includes the description about the research design, research instrument, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.
- d. Chapter 4 is the Findings and Discussions.
- e. Chapter 5 discusses about conclusion and recommendation