

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents an introduction related to the research conducted by the researcher. In the first part, the background of the research is presented. The identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research question, and research objective. This chapter is concluded by having the significance of the research on the organization of the research and the organization of the chapter.

Background of the Research

Learning English as a foreign language in Indonesia has become one of the important subjects studied from elementary school to university. Thus, every Indonesian student is expected to be able to pass this learning. Wijaya, Yuliana, Arwin, Weny and Sutarno (2021) found that not all high school students can be interested in learning foreign languages because they think foreign languages are less important, so students often have indifferent behavior in learning in the classroom. The study shows that not all students can be interested in learning English as a foreign language in their country. Nevertheless, Indonesian students need to make some efforts to pass from learning English as one of the compulsory subjects in Indonesia.

Interest in learning a foreign language is an impulse to do something that can make the student interested and happy in learning a foreign language. Hafsa (2016) stated that students with a high interest in learning foreign languages would devote greater attention to learning in the classroom to enrich their understanding, in contrast to students with a low interest in learning. In addition, Setiawan (2016) states that interest in learning a foreign language can arise from the student's interest when the teacher explains a learning material that can make the student pay great attention to learning.

Every student in the Indonesian context has their own reasons for learning English as a foreign language. As explained in Arkham and Ghani (2013), students have several reasons to learn English. Among other things, the first is based on the education situation in Indonesia which requires students to learn English at school and at university. Second, learning English can make it easier for students to understand literature in foreign languages. Third, learning English can make it easier for students to get scholarships to study abroad based on their desire to study. Fourth, learning English can make it easier for students to get a better job in the future that suits them. These different reasons can make students very interested in learning English.

Furthermore, students' interest in gender can play a role in students' learning abilities and effectiveness in the classroom. Male and female students each have different interests in learning. Based on the results of a research by Oksara and Nirwana (2019), female students have a more intrinsic interest or motivation and male students have extrinsic interests. The results of this study also state that most female students in Indonesia prefer to be in a structured learning room compared to male students. According to Zaccone and Pedrini (2019), students who have an intrinsic interest in learning will have a higher enthusiasm for learning than students who have high extrinsic interest because intrinsic interest encourages students' interest to be consistent in following the learning process. This can indicate that male and female students seem to have some differences in learning aspects.

In this study, the researcher is interested in conducting research on the interest of high school students in Indonesia in learning English as a foreign language. This study aims to analyze how the students' interest is in learning English, and to find out whether there is a significant difference between male and female students' interest in English. Arkham and Ghani (2013) stated that one of the gender group which consist of male and female students who have high interest can be dominant in the class because they give positive responses in

learning such as asking a lot of questions, scrambling to answer English questions in front of the class, and make the class active. In addition, the researcher conducted a casual interview with one of the English teachers to check the initial conditions of the students in the class before conducting the research. There are several phenomena that students do in class during learning such as being less interested in actively participating in learning, embarrassed to ask questions in English, most of them do not want to try to speak English during English lessons, and some of them still lack participation in discussions group. To find out the background of students' willingness to participate in learning, the researcher wants to know how much interest these students have in learning English.

Identification of the Problem

There are several aspects that contribute significantly to the success of the English teaching and learning process. They are aspects of learners, teachers, and the environment. At the Islamic Senior High School Ternate, North Maluku, the students' English proficiency is not satisfying based on teacher and student complaints. This can be caused by aspects of students such as interest in learning, attitudes in learning, intelligence, or learning strategies of students. This problem may also be caused by teacher aspects such as teaching methods, materials, or the way the teacher explains using English which is difficult to understand. Environmental aspects also contribute to students' unsatisfactory English skills. This school lacks supporting facilities for learning English such as not having a projector, no sound system for learning listening, and teachers rarely even use this media for their learning methods. Problems related to students, teachers and the environment affect the quality of the teaching and learning process. Based on the results of observations made by the researcher before conducting research, most students said that learning English was quite difficult. The second is the English teacher's teaching strategy which is less fun so that it makes students

feel bored to learn English. The last is the different interest of each student in learning English.

Delimitation of Problem

The first, this research delimits the research focus. The first focus was students' level of interest, and the second focus was a significant difference between male and female students' interest in learning English as their foreign language. The research has used the categorization of students' learning interest in Azwar's 2012 study which consisted of low, moderate, and high interest. Second, the researcher conducted this research only at an Islamic public school in Ternate. Third, this research used the students in the class X and XI as participants. The last, quantitative approach was employed in this research.

Research Question

Based on the background above, the research questions have been formulated as follows:

1. How is the Islamic public senior high school students' interest in learning English as their foreign language?
2. How is the interest in learning English for male and female students?
3. Is there any significant difference between male and female in Islamic public senior high school students' interest in learning English?

Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out how is the Islamic public senior high school students' interest in learning English as their foreign language.
2. To find out how is the interest in learning English for male students and female students.
3. To find out any significant difference between male and female in Islamic public senior high school students' interest in learning English.

Significance of Research

This research is expected to provide some benefits for students, teachers, and the other researchers.

Students

From this research, students can find out the level of interest they have, especially learning English as a foreign language. Whether they already have sufficient interest in learning or not. Therefore, students can increase their respective interest when students know that their interest in learning is still low. In addition, students can also find out the comparison of interest between male and female students in learning

Teacher

The results of this study provide information about what makes Indonesian students interested in learning English as their foreign language. From the results of this study, it can be useful for English teachers who will make interesting learning activities and can support things that make students interested in learning foreign language.

Other Researchers

The results of this study are expected to be a reference for future research which consists of some information about students' interest in English. Future research on the interest of Indonesian students in learning English as a foreign language.

Organization of the Chapter

This research was consisted of five chapters. Chapter one explained the things that are meant in the research background, identification of problems in research, and delimitation in research. Chapter one also explained the research questions and the research objectives. In this chapter the researcher also determines the research focus and research reasons. The researcher used high school students in this study to measure their level of interest in learning English as their foreign language. The next section also explained the importance of studies from research.

Chapter two is a literature review. Chapter two describe general reviews of students' interest in learning English as a foreign language from various journals, articles, and books as review of pervious research. Based on the explanation of the pervious journal in this chapter, student interest can be classified into two parts, there were personal interest and situational interest. The last section in this chapter was explained about indicator of students' interest and students' interest based on gender.

Chapter three is methodology. Chapter three explained how the researcher conducted the research. This chapter provides information about research methods consisting of research design, research setting, population and sampling, validity and reliability, and data analysis. The next section of this chapter deals with data collection methods, instruments in research, and data collection procedures. This chapter also explained the data collection technique. The last part of this chapter explained how to analyze the data in the data analysis section.

Chapter four is findings and discussion. Chapter four explained the result of data analyze. There are two main points outlined in this chapter, there were findings and discussion. The findings related to information on the level of students' interest in learning English and also significant differences in students' learning have also been explained in this chapter.

Chapter five is conclusion and recommendation. Chapter five consists of conclusions and suggestions. This chapter is the conclusion of the research that has been done by the research which consists of a summary of the research and suggestions from the researcher. Suggestions are given to teachers, students, and other researchers.