

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This research aims to investigate the motivation of learning additional languages by polyglots. This chapter consists of five parts. There is the background of the research, identification, limitation of the research, delimitation of the problems, research questions, objectives, and significance.

#### **Background of The Research**

Language is the process of utilizing symbols to transmit thoughts, feelings, or information to another. Schneider (2009) stated that the symbols can be words or sounds, referred to as a language used to convey meaning. Language is one means for human to communicate with others. The language supports us in communicating our thoughts and feelings and expressing the information to others. Language also allows us to grasp and record the meaning of what others say.

Each country has its language that is part of the culture and customs of the country's people. Along with cultural and technical advances, Goel, etc. (2016) added that languages can also adjust and adapt. However, language may also be an obstacle to communication between people who need help comprehending the same language. Therefore, we must study multiple languages to connect with individuals from varied backgrounds.

Anderson (2010) said there is no conclusive answer to how many languages there are because language evolves and changes continually. However, according to research undertaken by the Australian University of Nationality, there are around

7,000 distinct languages around the globe. These include languages that are still widely spoken, as well as those that are only spoken by a small number of people in each location. These languages have distributed all over the world and are part of the culture and customs of the people of each country. Most of the world's languages are derived from Indo-European languages scattered over Europe, Central Asia, and South Asia. However, there are also languages local to other places, such as the languages of Africa, Latin America, and Oceania.

Although there are numerous languages worldwide, Julian (2020) wrote that some languages have a greater variety of users than others. Some of the most spoken languages in the world include English, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, and German. These languages are typically used as official or international languages in different nations. Therefore, they have a wider variety of users than other languages.

Cenoz & Genesee (1998) mentioned that a person who can master multiple languages could understand and utilize the language fluently. They can talk, read, and write in multiple languages with varying skill levels. People who can master numerous languages can have good linguistic ability and can acquire a new language swiftly. They also generally grasp the structure of a language and how it is utilized in different circumstances. People who can learn numerous languages also frequently can transition quickly into diverse cultures and grasp the distinctions in different methods of speaking from different languages. Therefore, those who can master numerous languages are frequently dubbed polyglots.

Polyglot is a term used to describe persons who can speak or comprehend numerous languages. Quoted to Tsimpli & Smith (1991), usually, the person considered a polyglot has strong talents in the languages he learns, not only being able to grasp the language but also being able to utilize it fluently. The word "polyglot" derives from the Greek "*polys*," which means "many," and "*glossa*," which means "language." So, the word "polyglot" literally means a person who can speak numerous languages. People considered polyglots typically have exceptional linguistic ability and can swiftly acquire a new language. Polyglots can generally comprehend a language's structure and how it is utilized in different circumstances. They can also quickly integrate into diverse cultures and grasp the distinctions in different communication methods from different languages.

Polyglots can have a wide range of language skills, including languages that are not linguistically related. They can also have the capacity to utilize multiple languages well in unique settings, such as in official or casual interactions or commercial or academic environments. In general, polyglots may become advantageous in conditions requiring comprehensive language abilities, such as work in diplomacy or international trade, or as a pleasurable capacity to comprehend and converse with people from other nations.

Marian & Shook (2012) stated that being a polyglot who can speak or comprehend various languages offers various benefits, including broader communication abilities. By studying various languages, having a greater variety of communication proficiencies. Studying various is essential while traveling to other countries or communicating with individuals who speak different languages.

Ability to work in varied industries: broad language skills can offer wider professional prospects, especially in fields that need high language abilities, such as diplomacy, international trade, or tourism.

Therefore, a polyglot may understand multiple cultures: by mastering other languages, also comprehending diverse civilizations. Mastering other languages is essential when traveling to other nations or engaging with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Overall, being a polyglot may create significant personal and professional benefits in daily life. However, remember that being a polyglot requires complex and persistent effort and a determination to continue acquiring and strengthening language abilities.

Smith (2018) researched the function of multilingualism in improving social and cultural understanding. The research studies how broad language skills may assist in enhancing the capacity to understand diverse cultures and how broad language skills can aid in improving communication skills with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Hence, this research aims to disclose the motivation of foreign language learners in a multilingual community in Yogyakarta; besides, one research objective added to this study are the benefits of learning any foreign language. The researcher chose these objectives because many people still have pros and cons about acquiring and practicing many languages. Moreover, this point, quoting from many experts, learning many foreign languages could benefit every aspect of our life. Despite that, this study brought up to every reader the perspective of foreign

language learners that already gathered in a community that supports and facilitates them to do some activities and lived experienced the struggle to learn the foreign languages first hand, meaning the learners done the study themselves, or we called autodidact or visiting the country that speaks the languages that are learned.

Kanfer (2009) explains that motivation is a psychological mechanism that regulates the direction, intensity, and persistence of action not solely because of differences in individual abilities or excessive environmental demands that compel or compel action. In short, the concept of motivation is a part of our daily personal and professional lives, and few will overlook its importance in human affairs in general. Learning a foreign language must also involve motivation as a reason for someone to study hard to master any foreign language. Because to get maximum results, it will drain a lot of sacrifices, both labour and material.

The polyglot community itself is a community that has a mission mainly to facilitate, support, and develop language and cultural activities; through this community, they can gain the skill set development and get involved in cultural information exchange ([www.polyglotindonesia.org](http://www.polyglotindonesia.org), 2022). This community has two main weekly and monthly events, *Language Xchange*, and *MingLing (Minggu Lingo)*; from those events, the members gather in the community's base camp to do some activities related to the themes.

### **Identification of The Problems**

Based on the researcher's involvement after joining a polyglot community in Yogyakarta, the members have the advantage of speaking and mastering several

foreign languages and recognizing the increasing number of online courses initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The researcher hopes to be able to investigate a case related to the use of many languages in communication and specific activities carried out by polyglots to be able to master several languages according to the individual motivations that move them to the way the learners acquire foreign languages.

The researcher also expects some enlightenment regarding the benefits of being a polyglot by learning many foreign languages in the polyglot community. The benefits referred to by the researcher include the social impacts, whether there is an influence from using two or more languages in the users' social life, then the impact on aspects of life and education of the polyglots, which can be positive or positive even negative.

### **Delimitation of The Problems**

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to identify the motivations behind mastering many foreign languages by the members of the polyglot community in Yogyakarta. In addition, the researcher is also looking for the answers to the benefits gained by the language learners in the community. These benefits could be felt in their daily activities regarding implementing the foreign language used by the learners, so these polyglots must have some benefits through learning many foreign languages.

## **Research Questions**

Based on the background of the research above, the research question of this research frames as follows:

1. What motivates polyglots to learn new languages?
2. What are the benefits of being a polyglot?

## **Objectives of The Research**

Based on the research question above, the objectives of the research frame are as follows:

1. To investigate the motivation that motivates polyglots to learn new languages in a polyglot community in Yogyakarta.
2. To seek an answer on the benefits of being a polyglot in a polyglot community in Yogyakarta.

## **Significance of The Research**

The researcher hopes this study will give the readers new insights into how learning additional foreign languages give more benefits to learning something for students. It motivates language learners to continuously learn from scratch to acquire skills and the importance of implementing them in daily activities.

## **For teachers**

The researcher hopes that the teaching and learning environment would support fun, yet acquirable activities like the polyglot community do. Teachers should see language learning as another chance for the students to acknowledge its usefulness in the future. There are many ways to learn many foreign languages as

learners could. In the polyglot community, we could learn the language in such a fun way. We watch movies, we sing a song, and we do the online seminar as an experiences exchange. The teacher must build an environment where it is made for the learners to gain something significant while the teachers are filling it up with some motivations, such as giving more support and encouragement and elaborating on the benefits that are going to be achieved through ambitions and hobbies that no doubt could improve the learners' potential, and soft skills.

### **For the learners or students**

As the researcher suggests the teacher to make a variation in teaching and learning environment and strategies, and language learners themselves should be more encouraged and thrilled to learn many foreign languages that could offer them bigger things soon. Many supporting aids are made to support language learning, and one of them is the existence of the polyglot community that could facilitate language learners to find a pair to practice the language and share great learning experiences. A little step is needed to achieve something meaningful. The learners should be more motivated to obtain complete knowledge and information and grab the world without boundaries and gain self-satisfaction as well in the future.

### **For future researchers**

If other researchers were supposed to have the same discussion of the topic as this study, I encouraged other researchers to conduct the research with different institutions or departments. Hence, the other researchers could provide other findings which more elaborate and richer in detailed experiences with several

participants. The other researchers also could develop additional topics regarding this offered topic in this study.

### **Organization of The Chapter**

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter one consists of the background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research questions, research objectives, and the research's significance.

Chapter two concludes the literature review, which consists of motivation, the definition of motivation, the function of motivation, polyglots, polyglots' motivation to learn new languages, the review of related studies, and the conceptual framework.

Chapter three is the methodology. In this chapter, the researcher composes how the research conducts. The chapter addresses the research design, research setting, research participants, data collection method, data collection procedure, and data analysis.

Chapter four answered the research question, which was filled with all the findings and discussion by the experts. This chapter contains the findings of research question number one, which is hobby, interaction and communication, self-satisfaction, support and encouragement, ambitions and goals, and challenges. Also, the finding for research question number two is to understand something, get a plus score for career or job support, broaden the connection or networking, learn, and value the cultures, and communicate better.

The last chapter is the conclusion and recommendation. This chapter contains the summary to conclude all the chapters from one to four, also the recommendation offered by the research for some parties that related to the objective of the research.