

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In the beginning, the researcher elaborates on the statements about the study. This chapter consists of the background of the research, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, the research question, objectives, significance of the research, and organization of the chapter.

#### **Background of the Research**

The first year on the college can be interesting for the freshmen who longing for a long time to enter university life after their graduation from senior high school. Freshmen, the call for the first year of students in the university. When the first time they feel the atmosphere of college life, the freshmen are required to take an orientation about what are the things that the university has or provide to them. The orientation usually is to know the building, environment, the curriculum used on each faculty, and the college facilities that they can use when they study at the college.

Many students have to face a difficult transition when they adjust their life from high school to college. Gusti (2016) stated that students make the decision to go to college because of some reasons, such as earning a degree, increasing knowledge or personal growth, build a new circle of friends, and needs to be recognized in the new environment. Gusti (2016) also added the students have a chance to learn new things, meet new people, and deal with new challenges and experiences that help them in their personal development.

According to Clinciu (2013), attending university is supposed to be a very challenging experience that could change life-course for students. Before students going to university, they need to choose the specific major of their study. There are various majors in the university and they need to choose a major that they want or interested in. Because for some students it is the first time of their life attending college. Freshmen also faced the new experience that they never had before when they were in high school. For example, new friends, new environment, new learning material, and learning method.

Muharomi (2012) stated that the first-year student will be facing a different learning process because the teaching and learning process in high school is different from the college. For example, the high school students in Indonesia usually have an exact schedule from the school such as the students attend the school from Monday until Friday from 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM. While on college students are likely faced by the dynamic schedule such as on Monday, they should attend the class at 7:00 AM, then on Tuesday, they attend the class at 1:00 PM. Even some college students have a class in the evening.

The English Language Education Department learning environment was different from the other major or faculty at college in Indonesia. Usually, the lecturer gives instruction using *Bahasa Indonesia* while in English Language Education Department most of the lecturers gives instruction using the English language. Also, the books and the supporting literature for the teaching and learning processes are

mostly using the English language. This certain condition can be a struggle for some students to acquire the new learning instruction because students need to adapt to the English language instruction instead of *Bahasa Indonesia* that they know as language instruction in the classroom.

Based on the researcher's experience as the freshmen, the freshmen tend to have a struggle in adapting the new schedule from the high school schedule to the college schedule. Also, some of the students facing the new learning process which is not familiar before so they need to adapt to the new environment. Based on the above background, the researcher interested to have research on challenges that freshmen faced in college.

### **Identification of the Problem**

The problem of the freshmen is mostly in adaptation with their old habit or behavior with the new environment. Some freshmen might be struggling with finding what they want and need at the university. Also, some of them could not resist the process of adaptation, and eventually, they did not want to attend college.

Learning on the English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta for the researcher itself is rather challenging in the first semester. For once, the freshmen might be confused with the teaching and learning process because the lecturer uses the English language as the main language in the teaching and learning process. Maybe for some students is very exciting, but, some of them also do not get any idea what the lecturer is talking about.

Freshmen struggle in their first semester can be in many aspects. First, their confusion about the lecturer teaching method also can make the students demotivated in the study because they did not understand the language and they did not get any meaning of the study. The second reason is the students find the difficulties of finding a friend. A friend in the university is needed to build a new relationship with them and friends can also help the students to finish the assignment. A friend can be difficult to find because, for some reason, people might have their own criteria when choosing friends and they did not yet find friends with the exact criteria.

### **The Delimitation of the Problem**

From the problem mentioned above, the researcher interested to know what the strategies of the freshmen are to adapt with their new environment. The university environment is the new thing for the freshmen because they find a lot of new thing in terms of education, facilities, and how they socialize with the new people. In this research, the researcher will take focus on how the freshmen adapt with the learning environment on the English Language Education Department. The researcher only focused on students adaptation inside the college or university environment. The students activities outside the college will not be the main focus on this research although it can be mentioned in this research.

### **Research Questions**

The research question regarding the title above is constructed below:

1. What are the factors that influence the freshmen adaptation in college?

2. What are the challenges faced by freshmen in their adaptation in college?

### **Objectives**

The objective of this study is to investigate:

1. To identify the factors that influence the freshmen adaptation in the college environment.
2. To identify the challenges faced by the freshmen when they are adapting to the college environment.

### **Significance of the Research**

This research is expected can give a positive result about knowing the factors and challenges that can influence students' adaptation in college in their first year. Also, this research can be beneficial for the students, lecturer, and other researchers.

**For students**, especially for freshmen, they will know about the adaptation that they should implemented in terms of college life and also the learning process in English Language Education Department. By knowing the challenges from the other students, they can evaluate themselves and minimize the problems that they will face in the future.

**For the lecturer**, the lecturer can understand the struggle or challenges faced by the students in learning English when they learning in the college. The lecturer also can think of the way to help or support the students if the students having difficulties in learning English in the classroom.

**For other researchers,** this research can be the reference of other researchers in terms of finding the topic or title for their future research. This research can help others to know about the challenges of first-year students in college. Also, this research can be used to fill in the gap in the research about the adaptation.

### **Organization of the Chapter**

The organization of the chapter consists of the content of chapter one, chapter two, and chapter three. The purpose of the organization of the chapter is to organize the research to make the readers easier to read and understand the content of this research. There will be present chapter one, chapter two, and chapter three.

Chapter one talks about the background of the research, some of the theories related to the research, identification of the problem, the delimitation of the problem, the research question, the main objectives of this research, the significance of the study, and the organization of the chapter.

Chapter two discussed the theories from the expert related to the challenges that influence students' adaptation in college. There is some definition of adaptation in general, the definition of adaptation from the sociology point of view, the challenges that students faced with their environment of college, and the few factors of the new environment for the freshmen. Chapter two also consists of the review related to the adaptation from the previous study and the conceptual framework.

Chapter three discussed the methodology used by the researcher. There are six sections in this chapter, research design, research setting, research participant, data collection technique, data collection procedure, and data analysis.

Chapter four discussed the finding and discussion about the research. The first talked about the factors that influence the ELED freshmen adaptation in college. The second finding was the challenges faced by the ELED freshmen adaptation in college.

Chapter five discussed the conclusion and recommendation of this research. This chapter concludes the research findings and proposes some recommendations that emerged from the findings. The researcher also gives a recommendation to the students, lecturer, and future researchers.