

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses student's perception on a standardized English proficiency test to determine English level at a Private University in Yogyakarta. In this chapter, the researcher presents several points to discuss the main problem of the research. They are, background of the study, statement of the problem, limitation of the problem, research question, and the purpose of the research, signification of the research and the outline of the research.

Background of the Research

Now English is one of international languages learned by students from almost all levels in formal schools and learning centers in Indonesia beside Chinese, German, French, Korean and Japanese. The existence of English in Indonesia is viewed and felt important by some parents in Indonesia because English is one of subjects that the students study at schools. Subasini and Kokilavani (2013) states that English is the most common language used in higher administration, superior judiciary, advanced education and diplomacy. This theory is also supported by Crystal (2000) that says English is a global language.

In Indonesia, English has a special status among the foreign languages. It was chosen as the language of wider communication in the immediate post-independence period and is presently the only foreign language which is a

compulsory subject in schools (Allan, 2008). English is taught in Indonesia schools as a compulsory subject in grade 7 of secondary school to University levels and considered very important compared to other subjects in Indonesia education system (Rahmat, 2013). Although it has been studied in a period of time it's been a while but many students have problems learning the language English. They have difficulty speaking, listening, reading and writing deeply English. This is due to lack of confidence in speaking English and worries about making mistakes in applying grammar, mentioning vocabulary, pronunciation and others.

Viewed from the side of linguistics or linguistics, the difficulties of students Indonesian in learning English also because it is caused by differences in structure between English and Indonesian both at the level of Syntax, Morphology, Phonology, Semantics and other (Heriansyah, 2012). English Language Proficiency for the university students is defined as the ability of a student to make use of the language to communicate in spoken and written contexts while completing their university studies (Australian Universities Quality Agency, 2009).

English language proficiency has become an important issue in Malaysian higher education; due in part to a heightened awareness of the role of English language ability in employment outcomes (Musa et al., 2012). There is also an increased recognition within universities of the fundamental nature of language in learning and academic achievement for all students (Musa et al., 2012). Language proficiency is defined as a person's achievement in the class. A proficiency test

aims to produce a single score result which usually covers a wide range of aspects of the language (Musa et al, 2012). While proficiency test are general in nature and cannot be related to the goals and objectives of any particular language program, achievement tests must be designed with very specific reference to a particular course (Brown, 1996).

To respond global challenge, universities prepare their graduates with English Proficiency Test. Particularly, in Indonesian educational institutions, a lot of educational institutions have been implementing TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) to measure the English-language ability of people who do not speak English as their first language and who plan to study at colleges and universities, either as undergraduate or graduate students (Phillips, 2003: xiii).

To conserve the student abilities in English language, Research site where the research was conducted has education institution namely Language Training Center or English Training Center. Each semester has English language classes that are compulsory to attend for every student of University from all majors to attend. The English language class has seven levels. Each level consists of 10 to 35 students. One course in one level will take for one semester. Almost students in Private University of Yogyakarta take an English class. Some students take an English class start from the first semester until six semesters. Language Training Center at a Private University in Yogyakarta also has a special way to put the student in many classes.

The classification of the class is determined by doing the EPT test. English Proficiency Tests refer to tests that are designed to measure people's ability in a language (Yuyun, 2018). English institutions provide some tests that can examine the student's English ability. Before putting a student in a class, some students' will do the TOEFL test to measure their TOEFL score. One of the significant tests that can examine the student's English ability is TOEFL (Test of English Foreign Language) test (Ratrisari, 2018). Then, the students will put in their class in accordance with their English level. The differences of the level class will help the student to learn about English language in accordance with their capacity. From the initial interviews conducted with staff, there are some students do not pay attention with the test because they do not understand with the importance of English Proficiency Test which use to determine their English level at a Private University in Yogyakarta.

The researcher also conducted initial interview with some students that joining English classes and discover some complaints about the tests they should take. Some students said that what they did in the test was not settle with what they got in the classroom. Some students also said that there is no transparency of their score test. They do not understand about the system that use to determining their English level. Based on the background, the reseacher was intersted in conducting the research about the student perception on standardized of English Proficiency Test to determining English level in Language Training Center at a Private University in Yogyakarta.

Statement of The Problem

This research explore about student's perceptions toward the standardized on English Proficiency test to determining their English level at a Private University in Yogyakarta. In the research study, the researcher tries to find the students' perception when the students of International Relation of a Private University in Yogyakarta did the TOEFL test as a placement test in LTC. Based on the researcher experience, there have been several complaint received from students. One of the things that the researcher accommodated was that students feel incapability toward the English Proficiency Test that use as a placement test in LTC at a Private University of Yogyakarta. So, the researcher will explore more information about the International Relation students' perception on the use of English Proficiency Test as a placement test at LTC at a Private University of Yogyakarta.

Limitation of The Problem

Referring to the problem identification on the previous section, this research focuses on the students' perception toward standarized of English Proficiency Test to determine their English level at LTC at a Private University in Yogyakarta was only limited in the students' perception. In this research, the researcher make a limitation on students perception based on their experience in take an English proficiency test as a placement test at LTC at a Private University in Yogyakarta. This research also focuses on qualitative study only and uses individual interviews as the data collection. The reseracher took the participants

from International Relation that join the English Class who already take six semester in LTC at a Private University in Yogyakarta. For the accommodations, the researcher took a place at Language Training Center at a Private University in Yogyakarta.

Research Question

This research will focus on the problem solving based on student's perception.

The research question of this study are:

1. What are students' perceptions toward the use of standardized EPT as a placement test in LTC?
2. How should a placement test for English classes be properly conducted as perceive by students?

Objective of The Research

The objective of this reserach is to explore the student's perception on the use of standarized of English proficiency to determine students' English level in a Language Training Center a Private University in Yogyakarta. Moreover, to know how a placement test for English classes should be properly conducted as perceive by students.

Significance of The Research

The findings of this research are hoped to deliver the valuable contribution to the researher, the students, the english teachers, and future reseacher:

Students. Students can get benefits from this research because this research provides the problems that might be faced and strategies in solving problems in doing TOEFL test. By knowing these point students can be better in preparing the next TOEFL test.

English Teachers. This research might help the English teacher on how to know about the students feeling on doing English proficiency test as a placement test in LTC. The English teacher will realize and understand their students' needs in learning English and in joining the EPT test as a placement test.

Future Researcher. This research may give information about the standardized of English Proficiency Test that can be used as a placement test that to determine of students English level in their own language learning center. Besides, the researcher really hope that other future researcher do more research about the use of EPT test as a placement test to determine students English level, because when this research is established, it will be great value to the others.

Outline of the Research

This undergraduate thesis consist of five chapters, namely introduction, literature review, methodology, finding and discussion, and the last is conclusion and recomendation.

1. Chapter one explain about the introduction of the study. In this chapter, the researcher presents several points to discuss the main problem of the research. They are, background of the study, statement of the problem,

limitation of the problem, research question, the purpose of the research, signification of the research and the outline of the research.

2. Chapter two presents a review of related literature. This chapter consist of five chapters; first, it presents some definition of the terminology that used in this paper. The literature review presents the discussion of related theories of problem solving based on student's perception, related study and theatrical framework.
3. Chapter Three discusses about research methodology. This study employed qualitative method. The participant of the study was the students of This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative to collect the data.
4. Chapter Four reports the finding and present the discussion. Firstly, the findings reports the importand of standarized english proficiency test in a Private University in Yogyakarta from students perception. Secondly, the findings reports the student perception about the determining level at using the TOEFL test. And the last, the findings reports about the students perception on the diffiqlties they faced in using TOEFL test to determining english level at .
5. Chapter Five present conclusion and recomendation of this research. This chapter summarizes the research findings and proposes some recomendations developed from the findings. The reseacher also proposed some recomendations for hearing impaired students, the teacher, other researcher and the educational institution, and for future researcher.