

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

#### **Background of study**

Indonesian education qualities today have been developing. Many schools are improving their approach of teaching to obtain the objectives of education. In education, approach can be defined as the teachers' way to deliver the material to obtain the objective of education (Jacobsen, 2009). Teaching approach is the most important thing in teaching and learning process, because good teaching approach can create good students' understanding.

There are many kinds of approach applied in the schools. One of those approaches is problem solving based learning approach. Problem solving based learning is a mental and intellectual process in finding and solving the problem based on the data and accurate information, so that students can conclude appropriately (Amir, 2009). In other definition, according to Arends (2013) problem solving based learning is the approach that helps the students develop thinking skill and solve the problem. They learn the authentic role from adult, and learn to be an independent learner. Thus, the problem solving based learning approach emphasizes the students' thinking.

Nowadays, there are many teachers in school use problem solving based learning as their approach in teaching and learning process because of its advantages. Comparing to other approaches, this approach has much strengths inside. Smith (2005) as cited in Amir (2009) mentions that the positive side of using problem solving

based learning approach in teaching and learning process is that the students have better understanding. It is because the students can do in-depth learning. In in-depth learning students will have several questions when they apply the investigations. From this situation students will get more understanding about the material.

In fact, as a teaching approach, problem solving based learning approach is not a perfect approach. Not every student can follow this approach cooperatively. For several students especially for low level students, they will have difficulty to follow this approach. According to Jacobsen (2009) the problems of problem solving based learning approach are that students will find difficulties in doing the process. Not all of students will do the process cooperatively. Some students usually will give the conclusion without doing the process required by problem solving based learning approach. Another problem is that there is possibility that the students will solve the problem individually, while they are actually required to work in team. The problems mentioned by Jacobsen above are appropriate with the reality that happens at SMP IT Alam Nurul Islam Yogyakarta.

SMP IT Alam Nurul Islam Yogyakarta is a school that has been applying problem solving based learning in the teaching and learning process since 2009. This school intensively supports their students to become a problem solver. It can be seen from the first vision of SMP IT Nurul Islam that is “to build a character of problem solver”.

Although SMP IT Nurul Islam Yogyakarta has implemented problem solving based learning approach since 2009, there is no research about this approach in SMP

IT Nurul Islam Yogyakarta. Therefore, the researcher was interested in carrying out a research on the implementation of problem solving based learning approach in SMP IT Alam Nurul Islam Yogyakarta especially in English teaching and learning process. The researcher was interested in finding out the teachers' perception toward the implementation of problem solving based learning approach.

### **Statement of the problem**

SMP IT Alam Nurul Islam Yogyakarta is a school which has applied problem solving based learning as a approach in the teaching and learning process since 2009. As a teaching approach, problem solving based learning approach is not a perfect approach. Not every student can do this approach cooperatively. For several students especially low students, they will have difficulties to follow this approach. This study will focus on exploring issues on the teachers' perception toward the implementation of problem solving based learning approach in their English language learning.

### **Research question**

This paper will focus on the problem solving based learning approach. The research questions of this study are:

1. What are the teachers' perceptions toward the implementation of problem solving based learning approach in English teaching and learning process?
2. What are the advantages of problem solving based learning approach?
3. What are the problems in implementation of problem solving based learning approach?

### **The objective of the study**

Based on the focus of the research, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the teachers' perception toward the implementation of problem solving based learning approach.
2. To explore the teachers' perception on the advantages of the implementation of problem solving based learning approach.
3. To explore the teachers' perception on the problems in implementing problem solving based learning approach.

### **Significance of the research**

The result of this research will be expected to give benefits:

**For the researcher.** This study is valuable to give understanding for problem solving based learning approach.

**For head master, education authorities in local and national setting.** The study is valuable especially to decision makers. This study is valuable to give assessment and evaluation about teaching approach especially problem solving based learning approach.

**For teachers.** The study is valuable for teachers as a facilitator in teaching and learning process in the class room. The result of this study will give better understanding on teaching approach since the teachers knows about the strength and weakness of problem solving based learning approach in English teaching and learning process.

**For students.** The study is valuable to students. As the center of learning, students are the most important subject in education. Even the teacher has developed the teaching approach so the students will get better education.

**For the next researchers.** The study is valuable to the researchers who wants to deal with problem solving based learning approach and to the next researchers this study can be used as a reference.

### **Outline of the research**

The first chapter will explain about the introduction of the study. The introduction of the study discusses: first, background of the study, second, statement of the problem, third, the objective of the study, fourth, research questions, fifth, significance of the research, and last, the outline of the research.

The second chapter will explain the literature review. The literature review presents the discussion of related theories of problem solving based learning approach, related study and theoretical framework.

The third chapter will discuss the methodology. The methodology of the research includes: research design, research setting and participant, data collection method, and data analysis.

The fourth chapter will discuss the research finding and discussion. The research finding and discussion includes: first, the research findings comprises three parts: first, the teachers' perception toward the implementation of problem solving based learning approach. Second, the advantages of problem solving based learning

approach and third is the problems in the implementation of problem solving based learning approach.

The fifth chapter will explain the research conclusion and suggestions. The first part discusses about research conclusions and the second part discusses about research suggestion