

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher would like to describe the study that the researcher is about to explore. This chapter will cover the background of the study, statement of the problem, limitation of the problem, research questions, and the objectives of the study. This chapter explains the significance of the study.

Background of the study

English language, in the present days, appear as a primary tool for people to communicate. English, as a lingua franca has become a platform for us to communicate with everyone in any aspect of our life as English language has annihilated the boundaries between people to communicate. Differentiation in background, country, and language is not any longer considered as an obstacle to be able to communicate with others. As English language is an international language, it is for sure that English language has emerged as a uniting tool in terms of global communication. Referring to Morozova (2013), the existence of English language in the present days could replace any other language as means for worldwide communication. The researcher agrees with Morozova, as the researcher thinks that English language is used globally for any aspect and any kind of communication.

The researcher has realized the importance of the English language and its significant role in our life. As the researcher observed, the English language is used in every aspect in our life and most important is English language covers some

crucial area such as educational institution and most of the industrial companies. The aspect mentioned before are demanding a decent English language proficiency from each of their students and employees. Yuyun et al. (2018) stated that companies and institutions employ English proficiency test (EPT) as one of the requirements in the recruitment process. English proficiency test comes in many forms. TOEFL, TOEIC, and IELTS are forms of English proficiency tests (EPT). TOEFL and IELTS are kinds of EPT and well-known tests that commonly used in Indonesia to measure someone's competency in the English Language field. Halim and Ardiningtyas (2018), added that the English proficiency test in a country where English is treated as a foreign language is necessary as a valid test to measure someone's English capability. This means that the implementation of an English proficiency test in the forms of TOEFL and IELTS tests in Indonesia could be considered as a valid measurement tool. Means that the candidates are needed to have good competence in English language. Puspawati (2014), also added that taking the standardized EPT for non-English speakers could not be avoided, because the score achieved from the EPT play an important role in such life events as admission to school, gaining a scholarship, or getting a job. Hence, the researcher think that English language is crucially important for our career and the English proficiency test is considered as an essential instrumental tool to measure someone's capability in English language.

The awareness of the importance for the English language has arisen and made the most educational institution to prepare their students to have good competence in English language. According to Kyung-Suk (2010) most of universities accommodate English lesson to assist their students to be succeeding the educational environment and their future career such as graduating from a

college, applying for a scholarship, and getting a job. Can be concluded that most educational institution in Indonesia are providing their students the English preparation course and implemented the English proficiency test to measure their abilities.

The researcher have conclude that the English proficiency test is a valid tool to measure someone's capability in English language as it is implemented in most of the educational institution and approved by the most companies in Indonesia. Hence, to determine someone's English proficiency, the English proficiency test is a platform that we can use. Halim & Ardiningtyas (2018), argued that the English proficiency test in a country where English is a foreign language is necessary as a valid test to measure one's English capability. Thus, as English language in Indonesia is considered as a second language, the English proficiency test is necessary to be applied and considered as a valid measurement platform.

The English proficiency test that commonly used in Indonesia is TOEFL-like test. According to Halim and Ardiningtyas (2018), TOEFL (Test of English as ForeignLanguage) is the most popular test used in many countries all over the world. The actual condition in Indonesia seems to support that statement as most of the university in Indonesia used TOEFL to measure their students' English capability. Clarck (2014) stated that according to ETS (Educational Testing Service), the TOEFL test is used by more than 9.000 colleges, universities and agencies in more than 130 countries to help them make admissions decisions, making it the most widely accepted English-language test in the world. According to the data that presented by Clark and the actual condition in Indonesia, the researcher think that TOEFL test is considered as the most suitable kind of-English proficiency testwhich could represent one's English ability and help

educational institution and Industrial companies to make admission decisions such as graduating their students, accepting scholarship proposal, and selecting the employees.

Nowadays, TOEFL as a form of English proficiency test (ETP) has become a crucial factor in deciding someone's career. Mainly, in Indonesia where TOEFL test used for multiple purposes both in educational and workplace field. Hence, TOEFL has become an important test to aid and support someone's future and career development. To cope with the Educational institution's need, which demands the students to have an excellent competency in English, students need to be aware of the importance of the English proficiency test for their future. Halim and Hardiningtyas (2018) stated that most universities in Indonesia use TOEFL as a requirement to complete college. As a real proof, at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta, the TOEFL-like test is used as a requirement for students to get a degree or graduate. Moreover, this policy has been applied to all faculties, not only the faculties that are dealing with English in its daily basis. Thus, to graduate, all students are demanded to accomplish the TOEFL-like test.

Statement of the problem

The researcher has conducted initial interviews with some non-English students before starting the research. The researcher found that many non-English students are struggling with their TOEFL-like test in order to complete their study. That is the reason fulfilling or accomplishing the English proficiency test (EPT) which specified to TOEFL-like test could become an obstacle for students that comes from non-English faculty. As they are having less portion of the exposure to the English language. Hence, the English proficiency test could

become slightly harder for them and appear as an obstacle for their academics progress as the TOEFL has become a condition for them to graduate.

Prior to the statements above, the researcher would like to explore the difficulties students have faced and the strategies they have used in doing the English proficiency test to find out the essence of the phenomenon that appears within students. Then, the researcher also would like to focus on how the students prepare themselves to face the TOEFL-like test.

Delimitation of the problem

The researcher focuses the research on how non-English department students perceive the difficulties of facing the EPT and how they prepare themselves to face it (their strategies). In this case, the researcher focusing on the students from the Faculty of Medicine. The study will be conducted at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta as the EPT is used as a condition for students to graduate there.

In this research, the researcher will use a qualitative approach method to gather the data. The researcher will do an interview with the non-English department students regarding their experience of taking the EPT to get a full description relating to the phenomenon.

Research Questions

According to the statement of the problem, in attempting this research, the researcher has formulated two research questions. The research questions of this study are:

1. What are the difficulties of taking TOEFL-like test based on non-English department students' perception?

2. What are the strategies used by the non-English department students to face the TOEFL-like test?

Objectives of the study

There are two objectives in this research to be mentioned. The objectives of this research are:

1. To find out non-English department students' perception on the difficulties in taking the TOEFL-like test.
2. To identify non-English department students' strategies to face the TOEFL-like test.

Significance of the study

The results of this study are expected to be beneficial for:

Students. The results are aimed to reveal students' perception on the difficulties of taking the English proficiency test and find out their strategies to face the test. Hopefully, the findings are able to help students in accomplishing the TOEFL-like test by providing them a solution to overcome their difficulties

Institution. This research could give an important aspect or insight for them in the way they accelerating the TOEFL-like test preparation course.

Mentioning the difficulties students have encountered on taking the test could help institution to focus on the difficulties, then design a course that students need and suit the most.

Other researchers. The significance other researchers who has interest in TOEFL-like test is that hopefully this study could become one of the considerable references for them to conduct related/further studies.

