

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter is to introduce proposed research entitled EFL Students' Attitudes Toward Group Work in Language Classroom. The researcher discusses the background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research question, the purpose of the study, and the significance of the study. The researcher also explains the significance of this research for the English language Education Department of Islamic University in Yogyakarta.

Background of the Study

Cooperative learning or CL is a form of activity in learning. Alhebaishi (2019) states that in cooperative learning, students will work together with other students and they will receive good grades by doing cooperative learning. The form of cooperative learning itself has several ways of group work and group work, where students will be formed in one group and they will work together.

Group work is one of the activities in the classroom that students will be grouped in a group of several members in each group. Group work is one of the teaching activities that prioritize cooperative learning. There are two types of groups implemented in the university, namely small groups, and large groups. Harmer (2007) mentions that there is small group work usually consists of three to four or even five people. Therefore, Large group work usually consists of many people or more than five people. Harmer also adds some statements that group members may multiply according to the task or level of difficulty that exists in doing a job.

Group work is not only used to solve problems or problems given by lecturers. However, group work can also be used as a medium of communication for students. According to Subroto (2002) as cited in Septaviana (2016) by conducting group work in the classroom students will be better trained to speak, express opinions, and cooperate with other group members. In addition to learning, group work can also make students familiar with their classmates.

Besides, group work can also be used to improve students' critical thinking and activeness of students Hamann (2011). In group work conducted by students, students are asked to be active in the group. That way the lecturer asks students to be in a group because the lecturer wants to see the activeness of their students in the group. Group work is also used as a way for students to improve their knowledge in learning a topic, they improve their abilities. Then, the abilities that each student has can be shared with their friends in a group.

However, among the several advantages gained by students in discussing besides that the group work also has flaws. Among them, Septaviana (2016) discussed that students do not fully work in their groups. Students also do not want to share their opinion with the group members and many more.

Group work can improve students learning, students can help one another in groups, care for group members, and share knowledge with their group members (Gaudet et al., 2010). Attiyah (2018) mentioned that work in a group makes the student not only study for themselves but they also help other students in that group to learn. A study by Taqi and Al-Nouh (2014) said that group work

can improve student attitudes by expressing whatever ideas and opinions students have in.

The role of the environment can affect the increasing attitude of students. The attitude of students cannot form themselves from birth (Djali, 2012). So, Jacobs, Power, and Loh (2016) mentioned that group work also can enhance student attitude by joining a group work. They will get used to being more concerned with the group and better at carrying out all their tasks. Therefore, group work can also influence student attitudes in the form of activities in the group and the environment in the group.

From the explanation above, the researcher in this study focuses on the students' attitudes through group work by students of the English Education Department.

Identification of the Problem

Based on the experiences of the authors of this study, the English Education Department carries out many activities that use group work. Group work is not only in offline groups but also in online group work. In using group work as a learning method in English Language Education Department, students usually face various problems. Among these problems are problems with oneself which refer to a lack of concern with fellow group members. In the group, each member is obliged to participate in providing opinions and suggestions as well as working in completing assignments given to students by the lecturer. When a student does not have concern for others, he will be ignorant of his group so that he does not participate in doing the assignments given in his group. So, in this

research, the researcher wants to know students' attitudes in group work and to know the advantages and disadvantages of group work on students' perception.

Delimitation of the Problem

Researchers limit the problem to the positive and negative sides of students' only attitude towards language learning group work at a private university in Yogyakarta named Muhammadiyah University Yogyakarta. Researchers used 2018 students from the English Language Education Department as respondents and chose the Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta as the place of data collection because it was easier for researchers to reach. Also, this research will be focused on students' attitudes towards group work seen from the advantages and disadvantages of group work.

Research Question

Based on the explanation that the researcher explains above, the problem that can be concluded in this research is:

1. What is the English Language Education Department students' attitude towards group work in language learning?
2. What are the advantages of group work in language learning on student perception?
3. What are the disadvantages of group work in language learning on student perception?

Purposes of the Study

Besides, the problem that was explained above in this study has purposed. The purpose of this study is to know the English Education Department students'

attitudes toward group work in language learning. Also, to know the advantages and disadvantages of group work based on students' perception.

Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes this research can be useful for:

Teacher.

Researchers hope that the results of this study can help teachers in designing their lessons in the classroom. Teachers can also adjust activities in the classroom to their students. Besides, the teacher can also find out the attitude of students when working in groups, whether the student has a good attitude or not.

Students.

The researcher hopes that the results of this study can increase students' knowledge of what they should do in group work. In addition, students are expected to care more about their group members and can be kind to other students.

Other researchers.

The researcher wants that this research can help other researchers in adding information to research that other researchers will do. The results of this study can also be used as a reference for other researchers who want to research group work.