

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. There are several important points mentioned in this chapter. In this chapter, it provides the background of the research, statement of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research question, research objective, and significances of the research. In the last part of this chapter, the researcher mentions organization of the chapter.

Background of the Study

Mastering foreign languages can be achieved by many ways, and one of the activities which can be taken part by students is by joining student mobility program. The students who have the willingness to join overseas program of student mobility need to meet the requirements and one of them is the foreign language mastery. Vebrik and Hobsons (2007) explained that the international student mobility comes when the individuals leave their country, region or origin to travel to other countries for the study purpose. Regarding the statement mentioned, the students who join overseas student mobility program will live in another country for predetermined time by university to study.

In addition, the student mobility program is one of the programs provided by university, government or private community. All students can join this program, and they need to have the qualification related to the program of overseas study. In joining this program, the students should apply and fill out all the documents such as curriculum vitae, motivation letter, English proficiency test, and academic transcript. Following this, the program will be funded by university, government or private community. As the fact, not all mobility

program will be fully funded. However, some programs will only provide partial payment for the provided program, or the students will cover all the cost to join the mobility program.

Furthermore, the student mobility program requires the students to learn and study in the overseas universities. By studying abroad, students can get positive impact in mastering foreign language. From the statement mentioned, it is in line with Kinginger (2011) who stated that studying abroad can give good impact on each domain of language competence. Besides, the students who join the student exchange program can master foreign language effectively. Collentine as cited in Ayuza (2018) argued that learning foreign language in a country where the foreign language is used comes as an effective way to master its language especially for the improvement of oral skill.

Based on the researcher's experiences in joining the student mobility program, the mobility program can gain various advantages especially in foreign language mastery. Firstly, the students can develop their skills in foreign language such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Secondly, the students who join the student exchange program can practice directly their foreign language which they have learnt in their social life context. Magnan and Back as cited in Kinginger (2011) stated that for the Americans who learn French language, their proficiency gets increased during their stay in the country where the language is used in the daily life context.

Regarding the advantages gained by the researcher in joining the student mobility program, also some challenges will be faced by students while joining the program. The challenges may distract the students in mastering foreign

languages successfully. Likewise, the challenge of joining student mobility program comes when the students join student mobility program, do not prepare well or have not learnt yet about the language used in the destination country. Following this, the students will struggle with the language used in the destination country and may face the difficulties to communicate with the local people. According to Quezada (2004), the students may feel frustrated when staying in country where they do not have the capability to speak its language, and their fluency is not qualified enough to imitate its language well.

Accordingly, students cannot master foreign language by joining mobility program if they do not have strong motivation to learn its language which may turn to be the problem for them. According to Tanaka and Ellis (2003) stated that student's beliefs, language aptitude and motivation are considered as the key to the students in second language learning. Wu, Graza and Guzman (2015) explained that many international students face challenges when they study overseas, they may face challenges such as unfamiliar environment, learning styles, and any difficulties related to language, culture and personal barriers. From the case mentioned, it encourages the researcher to find out what students have gained upon their participation on students mobility program and the strategies that they applied to help them in mastering foreign language while joining the program. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting a research to investigate the research topic about "Reflecting Students' Foreign Language Mastery upon their Participation on Overseas Student Mobility Program" regarding the phenomena mentioned above.

In addition, students mobility program is provided by University. The students who want to join this program need to fulfill the provided requirements. For the students who join this program, they will get scholarship provided by the university. Besides, the students will also get free tuition and dormitory abroad. However, this scholarship will not cover students' living cost. Each country has different budget in living cost, and the students need to cover their own living cost. Therefore, many students of an Islamic private university in Yogyakarta have joined the student mobility program

Statement of the Problem

The student mobility program provides various advantages for the students to master foreign language. Studying abroad has been considered as the best environment to master or acquire the foreign language and obtain its culture (Lafford & Collentine, 2006). Based on the researcher's experience in joining the student mobility in China, it includes the contributions of students exchange in foreign language mastery. That way, learning foreign language can be more effective to achieve the objectives of the student exchange program.

However, not all students feel easy to live abroad. Based on the researcher's experience, staying abroad in China with different culture and language is not easy to adapt and master the language. Besides, the students who have joined the student exchange program may face some challenges during the program. Based on Ayuza (2018) stated that joining students exchange program may face some challenges, such as do not understand the local language, struggling in communication with local people outside of campus, and also experiencing culture shock. Wu, Graza and Guzman (2015) explained that when

students entering new culture, they need to deal with different value systems, communication patterns, sign and symbols of social contact and interpersonal relationship patterns. Therefore, the challenges of learning something new may be problem for the students which can distract them to master foreign language well.

Regarding the statements mentioned, those lead to be the reasons to conduct this topic. Besides, the researcher has the curiosity in investigating this topic deeply. Hence, the researcher feels curious to find out the students' reflection about their foreign language mastery after joining student mobility program.

Delimitation of the Problem

This research tries to investigate the strategies applied by the students in mastering foreign language in joining student mobility program. Besides, the researcher tries to explore what students have gained upon their participation on overseas student mobility program in term of foreign language mastery. The researcher just wants to conduct this research in Islamic private university in Yogyakarta. The students who have joined student mobility program for one semester will be the participants of this research. As the reason, the students will have more experience than those who only join the program for few weeks. According to Ayuza (2018), the students who stay longer in abroad will have deep experiences than those who stay only for a few weeks. Therefore, the researcher will choose the students who stay longer in abroad because the researcher can dig more information from them.

Research Questions

This research is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What do the students gain upon their participation on overseas student mobility program in term of foreign language mastery?
2. What strategies do the students apply in mastering foreign language when joining the student mobility program?

Research Objectives

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

1. To find out what students gained after their participation on overseas student mobility program in terms of foreign language mastery
2. To investigate the strategies applied by the students in mastering foreign language in joining student mobility program

Significances of the Research

This research is aimed at giving benefits for some parties such as students, policy makes and future researchers.

For the students. The research can give benefits for students to get information about students exchange program in mastering foreign language. Besides, the students can get information about what will they get by joining the student exchange program. From this research, students also can get to know what strategies that they can apply to help them in mastering foreign language.

For the policy makers. The results of this research can give the information for the policy makers about the student exchange problems. By knowing the information of this research, the policy makers can evaluate the student exchange program towards the problems faced by the students who join

the program. Therefore, the policy makers can make the improvement with the program or provide more exchange program to other countries.

For the future researchers. Conducting this research, the future researchers can know the use of the students' reflections on the foreign language mastery towards their participation on the overseas student mobility program. Besides, the findings of this study can be used by other researcher research as the theoretical overview of further research on the same topic and might become reference of further research. Therefore, by conducting this research, it can also encourage the researchers to conduct the researches towards the strengths and weaknesses of joining student exchange program towards the foreign language mastery related to the same area of this research.

Organization of the Chapters

In this study there are five chapters which explain an overview of each chapter. The first chapter shows the introduction of the study. There are seven parts in Introduction, namely background of the research, statement of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research question, research objective, and significances of the research. The researcher mentions organization of the chapter in the last part of this chapter.

The second chapter of the study is a literature review. All the information and basic theory which cover a topic discussion the reflecting students' foreign language mastery upon their participation on overseas student mobility program are showed in this chapter. In the literature review, some theories related to this research are highlighted. Besides, this chapter two shows student mobility, study abroad, student exchange program, strategies in foreign language mastery, the

advantages of joining student mobility, and review of related studies. The conceptual framework of this study is included in the following of the chapter two.

The research methodology of this study is discussed in the chapter three. This chapter gives explanation of how this research is conducted and how the researcher collected the data for this study. Besides, this chapter three consists six parts of methodology namely research design, research setting, research participants, data collection method, data collection procedure, and data analysis.

In chapter four, it examines the research finding and discussion. All information's about the data gathering of the study and analysis of the data are showed in this chapter. To discuss the research, the researcher refers the findings of this research to the relevant literature reviews or theories.

Conclusion and suggestion are included in the chapter five of this research. The researcher presents the conclusion of the research finding related to the research problems in this chapter. In addition, the suggestion for some parties related to this research are provided in this chapter.