

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter is the introduction part of the research. There are several things presented in this chapter such as background, statement of the problems, the purposes of the study, and significances of the study. First, the background of the study discusses the context, problem, and responses related to the research title. Second, statement of the problem shows the summary of the problem in the background followed by the research question so, the discussion will be more focused. Third, the purposes of the study explain about why this study needs to be conducted. Last, the significance of the study that talks about the advantages of conducting this study for the researcher, the lecturer, and the students.

Background of the Research

In higher education institutions, the students' decision to withdraw in their sophomore year have been essential topic that has rarely been discussed. This problem is faced by many university in every world and every year. In Indonesia, according to Kemenristekdikti which stand for Kementrian Riset Teknologi dan Pendidikan Tinggi (2017), Indonesia got percentage amount 2,3% students withdraw for public and private university. Not only the students that withdrew and expel from the university, but the students that transferred to another department is also part of this issue. This topic is important to discuss because the number of students withdrawing from private universities continues to rise every year. Therefore, this withdrawal issue occurs more in private universities than in

public universities. Then if the university has known ways to reduce the number, this problem can give an positive impacts both for university and the students.

Students' withdrawal can have an impact on the disadvantage faced by institutions, departments, and students themselves. Berard, Spielmans and Julka argued that the high number in the reduction of students in a university can cause the reduction such as income, tuition fees and alumni cooperation (as cited in Yu, Gangi, Pennell & Kaprolet, 2010). In accordance with the previous statement, it can be interpreted that the small number of student's reduction in every department will potentially give a negative impact to the university. Not only that, this issue has a big impact for all the university policy makers towards their image in education environment. Other than that, not only the university and department that get negative impact, the students may experience several consequences. Such as, the probably gap year that makes their experiences learning in university reduce and they waste time and money. Therefore, students' decision to leave university can be detrimental to many things.

The case of students withdrew from the department which one of them happened in the one of major at one private university in Yogyakarta. The private university has a major of English Language Education Department which has only been established for ten years. Based on the department administration office, this department accepted the average approximately 193 students in four years. But the students reduced reach 15.3% for the past three years, the percentage of student decline obtained from the average number of students leave the university

divided by the number of students over three years multiplied by one hundred percent. That is the number of what is known from the students who withdraw, the number of students moved and dropped out from department might be higher. Based on the department administration office in that department, the data is from the students who did the administration for resign or moved from department. Many students did withdraw or moved to another department without doing the administration procedure so, number in the data might not be exact/fixed. So, this case happened in the one department in one private university in Yogyakarta for the past few years.

Many universities prevent this trend used a contemporary and an effective way to their students. One way to overcome the problem of increasing numbers of students withdrawing from majors is by implementing an approach that is done by the institutions and teachers. Based on Hovdhaugen and Aamodt (2009) stated that in order to decrease the number of this trend the university needs to know more student's withdraw reasons and improve quality of the university. Several universities implement policies especially for first and second semester students such as in university level, they provide courses only in the morning and afternoon, not evening classes. In teachers' level, the most likely approach is through the teacher teaching in the classroom. Through that effort, it is expected that the students can adjust the new environment, so they can adjust to college life. Therefore, knowing how to reduce the number of students are better for increasing the credibility of majors and universities. Although there are many ways to overcome the problems of students leaving the department, but this case

is a fundamental attention among the teachers. Especially to the freshman students who just enter the new environment. The problems that the teachers and institution might face are when some of their students did not continue their sophomore year. The first year for students is a vulnerable year. As what was experienced by the researcher in a university, students leaving the department mostly done in the first or second semester during college. According to Hovdhaugen and Aamot (2009), in their study focused on the students who are in higher education institutions leave before their degree completion, and one of the result shows students retention is form the first year students who are not satisfied with the learning environment. Also, Hovdhaugen and Aamot (2009) stated that one way to reduce student withdrew rates is by monitoring student activities through the teacher in the classroom. So, one of the way to tackle this case is to approach students through the teacher.

As is known, teachers who deal directly with students during the teaching-learning process in the classroom and the longest to have an interaction with students in the school environment. Because of that, one of the ways for teachers to approach the students is by their attempts to the students in classroom. Teacher's attempts are the way for teachers to communicate or have an interaction to the students. In education, teacher's attempts can be a big effect for the students to keep studying in the department. Yorke (1999) explained things that underlie students to leave university are dissatisfaction with the learning environment, through the lecturer's one of the policies that universities can do to prevent their decision to leave the university directly. This can be interpreted that internal

factors can influence student withdrawal decisions, universities can prevent it by facilitating adequate lecturers, instructors, information providers, experts. Some of the way that teachers can take to prevent these issues are such as more motivating and assisting students in learning or the teachers can more communicative to the students especially in the first semester. Therefore, the teacher plays an important role in keeping students learning in the department

In the professional development, teachers have a fundamental role to give a first attempts during teaching and learning process that can be accepted by the students in their first year. Therefore, the students need a companion to adapt, one way is assisted by the teacher through teacher's attempts in classroom. Following the research on the teachers attempts in maintaining students to keep learning in the university, this study will exploring on teachers attempts in maintaining freshman student's interests in studying at English Language Education Department. Hence, this study is need to be conducted.

Statement of the Problems

In general, higher education has been a wise choice to students who wants to get a good prospect for their future. This issue allows them to be observant in choosing a university to continue their studies. Usually, it is rare for students to choose private universities as their first choice. Therefore, student's withdrew from private university is often occur in several majors. Then, private universities revealed some problems why they decided more to leave the university, most problems are when the students entered a private university and it turned out that

the department or university was not suitable for them. Other problems are when they want to go to public university, they have financial problem, or they have their own goal that does not match with the department or university. So, the problem that institutions face is when students no longer want to continue their study at the university.

The student's reduction issues, one of which happened at a private university in the English education department. In English Education Department in a private university, student's withdrawal the department reach 15.3% in a year for the past three years based on the data from English Education Department administration office. That is high number for department which has not been ten years established. If the number keeps increasing every year, it will affect to the credibility or value of the department also the university. Therefore, the university has done several attempts to reduce freshman student withdrew rates. As the researcher mentioned in the background, the attempts for example can be in university and teachers. Although all of the attempts in each level are important, the one who holds full control of students in the class is the teachers. The teachers have greater responsibility for doing attempts to their students. The teacher's approach to new students in the classroom has a greater impact on students' comfort in learning. Although there are many factors that influence students to withdraw from English language department, the teacher's approach is one of the efforts of the department to reduce the number. If the effort is successful, it is possible that it can increase freshman interest to keep learning in the English language department.

Delimitation of the Problem

In private university total students reduce are much higher than public university. Because of the greater student's withdrew in private universities, this study will focus on one private university in Yogyakarta. Therefore, knowing how to overcome this problem, can prevent the number of students leaving university. There are various kinds of attempts are done by university to increase students interest in learning. The attempts for example can be in university and teachers' levels. This research will only explore in teachers' level, the researcher will find out about what kind of attempts are done by the teachers in maintaining freshman student's interest in studying at English Language Education Department.

Research Questions

There is a research question used to lead this research. The following of the research question is:

What attempts are done by the teachers in maintaining freshman students' interest in studying at English Education Department in a Private University in Yogyakarta?

Objective of the Study

Based on the research question above, this research has a purpose to find out what kind of attempts that teachers used to teach freshman class to maintaining their interest in studying at English Language Education Department in Private Islamic University of Yogyakarta.

The Significance of the Research

The study has a number of advantages and striking contributions toward education field, especially in Indonesia. These advantages are divided into three, those are:

For the institutions. This research will be an addition to institutions' data and references in English Education Department especially in the teaching and learning process. If the institution looks the students' interest in learning English, so this research will give the benefit for them. The important thing is, this study have an essential topic for the institutions to keep their students study in their university.

For the teachers. This research could be the reference for the teacher to implement the result of this research in the classroom. The teachers also can reflect on their attempts that they used in the classroom. Then, they can find a new way to handle with increase student's interest that have low motivation in learning. So, this research can contribute their professional development and can keep their freshman students to continue study in the department.

For other researchers. The topic in this research can be the references for other researchers who will do the study that related about increase student's interest and handle with students that have low motivation in learning. Be expected, this study will contribute to other researcher for improve the quality of research in the education and learning field.