

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains five elements of chapter : background of the study, statements of a research problem, objectives of the study, significance of doing research, then the scope of limitation of the study as theories that will be helpful and useful for the author while doing this thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

Children are unique creature that God gives to complete human life. Children come to life with joyful, like they are gift for parents. Keeping and letting them grow up is a responsibility. The unique point is, children also can be a guide for some reason. For example, they will give random questions like, “why do we should eat?” and there will be a complicated answer to make them understand, also there will be another random question for adult like, “why the sky is blue?”. Children unexpectedly make parents learn something new in life, and also make parents think deeply indirectly. Even though it is not something academic, but it is something important too. It is like there is a class for life lessons where the teacher is the children and the students are parents. We need life lessons to survive in this cruel world. Random question is one of thing that unique from children and make parent learn something. When children come to parent life they will complete human life.

Choosing education for children will be very difficult. Normally, parents will try to filter anything that will be better for children’s education. Giving a good

quality for children education is necessity. The hardest thing is letting them to pick the education that they want to learn. It will take time but at the same time it will be useful if they enjoy the thing that they learn about. Short in length, parents can not force children to learn something that they do not like. Figuring out something that can make them interesting and knowing their passion before we choosing a good education for them is quiet challenging. Maybe the best way to avoid about forcing children in learning something we have to see a psychologist for knowing what their interest first. Or another way is to see what things make them excited about their daily activity. In conclusion, choosing education for children is quiet challenging and takes time but it is better rather than spending a lot of money and time.

Age is something important for children when they want to learn something new. It will be the measurement for children to see whether they are ready or not to learn something. Mostly some parents do not know the golden age of learning a second language. At what age and when their children can actually following every knowledge when learning a second language. Usually called as ‘children with critical period’. They will be easier when catching some new lessons, especially language. That is a golden age for our children. It will be a good education for them. The result of learning a second language will be meaningless for the children if we do not know what age will be good for our children to learn a second language. To avoid that, knowing about the golden age first and the critical period will be very helpful for children.

One of quality education is second language acquisition for their abilities to communicate. That will be more easily when children who master second language meeting someone new in one of the regions of the world. If only when they grow up and they go all around the world and they have to speak using a second language. In conclusion, second language is affect children's communication when they grow up and, it will be very useful for them later.

The other interesting part of learning a second language is making people around proud of having this kind of child. Especially for children who can be mastering a second language. It will be an amazing part of parents' life when knowing their children can do what some adults do. Moreover, it will be useful for parents who have a child that can speak a second language like English. They are like open a great show and the star is their children who can speak a second language fluently. And that will make some other parents feel jealous and make their children join some course for making their children speak fluently too.

Another reason for children learning a second language and mastering more than one language is their brains still have the elasticity to learn something new. Therefore, learning something new will make them more understanding rather than an adult. Especially in language, it is not a secret anymore that language is communication tools. The younger, the easier to learn a language.

Children are considered natural language learners; according to second language acquisition theory, they can learn faster and with much less difficulty than adults, but they should be exposed to natural learning environments, to real communication

situations and to special teaching practices that make learning a meaningful, enjoyable and lifelong process. (Gonzales, 2010, p.96-97)

Therefore, elasticity of children's brain can be useful for learning second language. Because, they can memorize thing easier than adult. Also, practicing a second language in a daily conversation will make them easier to master second language.

Learning a second language also have some benefit for children. They can get any information from every source without worrying about the language. They can probably search for any information from television and the internet. For example, if children get new knowledge from television by watching the discovery channel we will not be worrying about the language that the discovery channel use will not be a barricade for them when watching the television. Children will not strange if they hear and read a text in English. They will be accustomed because learning a second language in their golden age has to be their general activity.

The other benefit for children who learn a second language is, they can learn another language easier than the children who do not learn a second language. They are naturally easier to learn third, fourth, and other languages. Maybe they have already familiar with the strategies of learning another language, so they will not be strange anymore. Children who learn a second language will not be thinking about how good strategies that fit them when learning the other language. And that will be very helpful for them.

Children usually like to play rather than learning something new. They will be easily feeling bored. To make children want to join in this analysis the writer

should have something interesting. The interesting thing for making the children join in this analysis is the *Duolingo* application. Some of the children will be interested in someone when they lend a gadget to them. They will focus and can not be interrupted by the others. *Duolingo* is an application that will educate the user. It is a kind of application that applies to learn through playing strategy. For those who want something different when learning something new especially in language, *Duolingo* will be the answer. There is no need to give theory in a traditional way like in a school or university where the learners or the students should listen carefully to what the teacher or the lecturer explained. But use the modern way to give a learner a new style.

It is a new interesting case that will be analyzed. To the best of my knowledge, similar research has not been found in the English department, UTM. And it makes this analysis be a kind of fresh idea by combining *Duolingo's* application as the media of learning the language. Also, it will be helpful for someone who needs references for second language acquisition in children with a critical age period.

1.2 Statement of The Research Problem

From the background of the study presented above, the research problems can be formulated as:

1. In what stage of language acquisition children in critical period can accomplish English as a second language using *Duolingo* application?

2. What are the psychological factors affecting children when learning English as second language learning?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

1. To identify in what stage of language acquisition that the children in critical period can pass when learning English using *Duolingo* application.
2. To know what psychological factors that affect children when learning second language .

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study will apply theoretically and practically contributions. Theoretically, this study is hoped to introduce and make people more knowledgeable about second language acquisition in children with a critical age period. Considering the second language will be learned by children with a critical age period, there will be some new vocabulary that the children could memorize. Not only the vocabularies but also the grammar and the pronunciation that the children could master. Therefore, people could see in what ways children with critical age more mastering. Furthermore, there will be some material to be analyzed. And there are some lessons for us, to not repeat the same mistakes while doing the analysis later. This study also will be the guideline for others who want to remake or make this analysis as the previous studies. Practically, this study will let people know more about second language acquisition in children with a critical age period. And for that, people already knew what the important things that they should learn are. They might give their children a direction to more mastering grammar or pronunciation or the vocabularies.

1. 5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

Knowing the purpose of this study is to find out in what ways second language acquisition can affect children's language abilities in children with critical period using *Duolingo* application, then the author use theory about second language acquisition from Stephen Krashen and Terrell, 1983. The reason why children in critical age can acquire a second language which is English using *Duolingo* application also explain in this study by seeing how the children catch every knowledge in application. The duration of this study will take 3-4 months to see how Duolingo can affect children's language abilities.