

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter consists of five sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter begins with the background of the study. The next sub-chapter presents the statement of the problem discussed in this research. It is followed by the objective; scope and limitation; and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the methods of communication. Language has its components that construct it, and there are many languages all over the world, whether local languages, national languages or international language. English is an important international language that can connect people with the world in various aspects. Almost every country in the world uses English as its second language. Some even can be accessed as the official or main language of a country. The status is reporting English on the position of the global lingua franca. English language in Indonesia is categorized as a foreign language (EFL) (Kartika & Emalina, 2016). English for several Indonesians became an important language in addition to the national language of Bahasa Indonesia and regional languages (Hidayati, 2016). The status of English as a foreign language in Indonesia, only a few people use it for their daily language. It can probably find that some people speaking English in their daily life such as English students in universities, English courses, or in international workplaces such as in a hotel, tourist attractions, and so on (Amrullah, 2015).

As an international language, English plays a very important role, for example, English as a language using for educational institutions, technology, and international communication. English is not the language with the most native speakers or the first language. It has become a lingua franca and can be defined as a widely adopted language for communication between two speakers whose mother tongue is different from each other and in which one or both speakers use it as a second language. In this era, everyone should study English in the best possible

way. English language plays an important role in civilization in this era of globalization.

English is the main international language that used to communicate worldwide. Mastering English becomes the need for all people who wants to access an update information and sciences development in all fields. Much of the world's scientific, commercial, economic and technological knowledge is written and published in English. The new era and current globalization require many people to master English as an international language. By mastering English well, they can absorb and expand their knowledge, technology and culture. They can also communicate with other people from other countries. The Indonesian government has chosen English as the first foreign language taught in schools in Indonesia.

There are two forms of language, namely written language and spoken language. The main detail of written language is writing which is the result of cultural development. In spoken language, sound is the main element. As a result, language can be represented in form, sound, and writing. Language freshman who want to get the best consequences in acquiring language knowledge need to look at the pronouncement and the part of speech. Newcomers will not have the best or major consequences without gaining knowledge of the sound in English language. This also happens to Indonesia people who need analyze English language.

Language learner means a person learning a language. English learners in many countries do not start learning English in elementary school as formal education but also use another education such as informal or non-formal education. Many countries have made English one of the subjects in formal education. This has been shown by the Indonesian government regulations that make English as a compulsory subject for students to study from elementary school to high school level. Even at the higher education level, all study programs must provide English courses for first semester or second semester even though the majors that they taken are not related to English. This shows how important it is to master a foreign language, especially English as an introduction to one's academic success and to support a career in the world of work. Even though English learners in Indonesia begin learning English at a young age and for a long period, they still do not

understand about English language. Learning English is not an easy thing to do. This can be seen from the fact that many Indonesian English learners are still unable to speak English even though they have studied the language for many years at various levels (Salim, 2015).

It means that in learning a language, they will face some difficulties because they do not use the language for their communication in daily life. The English language is very different from the Indonesian language but many English learners in Indonesia learn it even if it is difficult. It is not a secret that English is useful in this era of globalization. English learners in Indonesia increasing even though they know they will face many difficulties when learning English. There will be more developments happening in this country. Starting from free trade, more and more foreign companies were established in Indonesia. The use of international languages such as English is very widespread, of course for prospective entrepreneurs and job seekers it is a must to be able to master English so that they can master English well can keep up with the times in this era of globalization.

English learners are divided into two groups (Dewinoviyaniti, 2018). The first is young learners. They called young learners because they learning English at a young age. Young learners are elementary school students. In terms of age, young learners are between five and twelve years old. The most important characteristic of young learners is their tendency to be active, some of which are more active than others. The second group is adult learners because they learn English at an adult age. The main difference between adult learners and young learners is that adult learners may consider the importance of learning English but often become disinterested, embarrassed about having to learn the language, or even hostile because they do not want to appear inadequate in front of their friends. Usually, adult learners face many difficulties. Megawati (2016) found in her research that students often face difficulties when speaking English due to a lack of English vocabulary. Adult learners find it difficult to remember a lot of vocabulary because at their age they have a lot of activities and do not have time to practice.

The students in English Department at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura are included to adult learners. They also possible to face difficulties in learning English.

According to Dewinoviyantri (2018), it is generally believed that younger learners have certain advantages over older learners in language learning. The common notion is that young learners easily and quickly in comparison to adult learners. Even so, there is one advantage to learning English as an adult, they have higher levels problem solving and metalinguistic abilities than younger learners. Even though the students in the English Department students are facing difficulties but they can also find a solution that they can use dealing with the difficulties.

The learning process is not easy, especially in learning foreign languages that are difficult to say or pronounce using Indonesian. Although it is difficult, many English learners are interested in learning English as a challenge that must be faced. The difficulty can vary but it depends on the learners. Hasan (2000) states that the difficulty faced by many learners of English as a foreign language is in understanding. In English pronunciation is expressed at a normal speed through listening material. On reading skills, the problem faced in understanding reading texts lies in the lack of knowledge about reading materials and ignorance about how to connect ideas between sentences with each other. Writing skill is difficult because it requires a process. Complex and systematic thinking, however, needs to be mastered by English learners.

The results of the research by Afisa & Yolanda (2015) state that the causes of the difficulties in learning English are the frequency of practicing speaking English and psychological factors (in this case it can be said to be an effective factor). For speaking skills, Megawati (2016) in her research found that the difficulties that students often experience when speaking English lies in their lack of English vocabulary. In addition, there are three elements of language that play an important role in supporting these four skills, namely pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar (language structure), these are always obstacles in learning English.

Based on the concept presented in the introduction, it can be concluded there are many difficulties faced by English learners when learning the English language. The English language is a foreign language that is spoken in certain conditions and people are not use English in daily activities. In this research, the writer is interested

in delving deeper into the difficulties in learning the English language and how English department students solve the difficulties at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura.

1.2 Research questions

Based on the explanation above, the writer chose to take two research questions of the research as follow:

1. What are the difficulties faced by English Department students at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in learning English as a foreign language?
2. How do English Department students at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura solve the difficulties in learning English as a foreign language?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the writer intent to find out:

1. To explain the difficulties faced by English Department students at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in learning English as a foreign language.
2. To explain the way English Department students at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura to solve the difficulties in learning English as the foreign language.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to be able to give information for the writer and people in educational field dealing with the difficulties in learning English language and how to solve the difficulties.

2. Practical Significance

This study is very useful for high school graduates who will major in the English Department because this thesis discusses about the difficulties that Indonesian English learners faces in leaning English language and how to solve these difficulties.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is foreign language learning field. It is related to the difficulties that faced by English department students at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in learning English as their foreign language. The writer did a research on the learning process of the second-semester students of Class B from English Department at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura in academic year 2021/2022. The limitation of this study is the data of this the research from the students of the second-semester students of Class B from English Department at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura and focus on the difficulties faced by English Department students in learning English language and how they solve it.

