

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This initial chapter is prologue of further chapters that explains about Background of the Study, Reasons for Choosing the Topic, Research Question, Objective of the Study, Limitations of the Study, Significance of the Study, Definition of the Key Terms and Outline of the Study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a very important tool that is needed by the people in interaction. According to Pringgawidagda (2002), language is the main tool for communicating in human life, both individually and socially. By using language, people can do the social interactions by expressing their desires, feelings, and hopes.

Language is very helpful for young learners in growing up, especially when they are in primary school. According to Zubaidah (2003), through language, young learners can connect, share experiences, and improve intellectuals, in order to their development of knowledge and language skills. Moreover, as a communication tool, language also helps primary school students to understand the material provided by teachers and even assists them in interacting in their environment.

In facing of the development of the times, the mastery of foreign languages is an effort made by various countries in improving the quality of human resources. Nowadays, English becomes most commonly used language in the

world. The statement is reinforced by Held et al., in Condruz-Băcescu (2013) that English has also become the central language of communication in several aspects such as politics, administration, science and business. It has also become dominant language for advertising in global and famed culture.

According to Harmer (2007), English is applied as a compulsory subject in school and included in the curriculum. In Indonesia, English is taught from primary school to high school. In state primary school, English subject is taught from grade 4. Meanwhile for private primary school, it starts from grade 1.

In primary schools, students should at least study three languages, such as *Bahasa Indonesia* as the national language, vernacular (adjusting their respective regions), and English as a foreign language. This can be a consideration for English teachers in order to make the English teaching as enjoyable as possible in order to attract students' learning interests and make them not easily bored.

As a foreign language, learning English is not an easy thing especially for students (young learners) in primary school. It is because after learning English, the students do not apply it into their daily communication (Setiyadi, 2006). Therefore, students will find it difficult to be learned. In facing the difficulties in learning English, students will give different responses or reactions. This shows that the teaching of English in primary school affects the behavior that will be shown by students in the classroom.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher would like to have a descriptive research entitled “Young Learners’ Behaviors toward the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language”. The researcher would like to give an effort to

investigate the young learners' behaviors toward the teaching of English as a foreign language.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

This study considered the following reasons:

1. In primary school, young learners must study at least three languages at school such as *Bahasa Indonesia*, vernacular, and foreign language.
2. As a foreign language, English is one of the compulsory subjects in primary school.
3. Some young learners have difficulties in learning English at school.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the explanation above, this research tried to answer the following question: What were the behaviors of young learners toward the teaching of English as a foreign language for the fifth and sixth grade students of SD Islam Sultan Agung 4 Semarang in the academic year of 2017/2018?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study was to investigate the young learners' behaviors toward the teaching of English as a foreign language for the fifth and sixth grade students of SD Islam Sultan Agung 4 Semarang in the academic year of 2017/2018.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The limitations of this study as follows:

1. The researcher focused on investigating the young learners' behaviors toward the teaching of English as a foreign language.
2. The sample in this study was 32 students of fifth grade and 38 students of sixth grade at SD Islam Sultan Agung 4 Semarang.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that the result of this study may give contributions to:

a. Pedagogical Significance

The result of this research is expected to show about young learners' behaviors toward the teaching of English as a foreign language. By knowing how the students behave in the teaching and learning process, the teachers will have considerations in improving the quality in teaching of English.

b. Practical Significance

1. Teachers

The teacher will know the young learners' behaviors toward the teaching of English as a foreign language. Also, it can inspire the teachers how to use a good method in teaching English to young learners at primary school.

2. Students

The students can know about their behaviors in teaching and learning process of English.

3. Readers

The researcher hopes that after reading this study, the readers can get new knowledge and may use this study as a reference to conduct a further study.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

a. Teaching English as Foreign Language (TEFL)

English said as a foreign language when it is taught, learned and used by people with different first languages. Harmer (2007) states that English as a Foreign Language (EFL) is learned by students who are expected to use the language with any other English speakers in the world when the students might be tourists or business people. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) can take place in state school or private school and be taught by the teacher or even tutor. TEFL teachers/tutors can be native or non-native speaker of English.

b. Young learners

‘Young learners’ refers to children from the first year of formal schooling (five of six year old) to eleven or twelve years old (Phillips, 2003). It means that the students in primary school can be categorized as young learners.

c. Behavior

According to Lewin in Sarwono (2013), behavior is locomotion which means change or movement on the field of life. Another opinion comes from Skinner in Notoatmodjo (2003), behavior is a response or reaction of a person to stimuli from the outside. It can be concluded that behavior is a reaction or

change of movement that occurs caused by external stimuli; it deals with anything that a person says or does.

1.8 Outline of the Study

This study is divided to five chapters that are going to facilitate the readers in understanding the topic.

Chapter I presents the introduction that consists of Background of the Study, Reasons for Choosing the Topic, Research Question, Objective of the Study, Limitations of the Study, Significance of the Study, Definition of the Key Terms, and Outline of the Study.

Chapter II presents review of related literature that explains about the Importance of English, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Young Learners, Behavior and Review of Previous Study.

Chapter III presents research method that comprises Research Design, Object of the Study, Instruments of the Study, Validity and Reliability, Data Collection Techniques, Procedures of the Study, and Data analysis.

Chapter IV presents of the findings and discussion. It includes The Object of the Study, Validity and Reliability, Research Findings and Discussion.

Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestions.