

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter divided into eight sections. They are: the Background of the Study, the Reason for choosing the topic, the Research Question, the Objective of the Study, the Significances of the Study, the Limitation of the Study, the Definition of Key-Terms, and the Outline of the Study.

### **1.1 Background of Study**

Johann Friedrich Herbart the famous psychologist in 18s stated that perception is the basic knowledge of people mindset, it comes from human soul through the sense of awareness towards something. It is also a psychological power which help and balance the human life in taking some decision from human sense's interpretation (Purwanto, 2011). In a study conducted by Entwistle, Kozeki and Tait (1989) in Mayya and Roff (2004), they found that student's perception towards their school and teachers have shown significance results in the matter of motivation and approaches to their learning process, the results also have shown that perception is needed to understand student's point of view of their school and teachers. Thus, in the terminology of education, perception plays an important role towards the establishment of a mindset that will lead students in their behavior and attitude towards what happens in the process of teaching and learning.

The term of learning environment refers to social, psychological and pedagogical context in which learning occurs and which affect student's achievement and attitudes

(Kember & Leung , 2009). It means that learning environment is a condition that includes social, psychological, and pedagogical aspect, all of them should be in good quality to help the students in achieve the goal of study, beside it affects to their perception in the learning process.

According to Whittle, Whelan, & Murdoch-Eaton (2007) in Sajid, Rehman, and Fatima (2013), learning environment is one of the most important aspect to determine an effective curriculum, while Mayya and Roff (2004) states that the role of institution (on this case is a teacher) nowadays not only by giving the students their needs of knowledge but also providing and creating a good learning environment for them. Thus the institution is obliged to create a better learning environment that fits their students.

From the previous statements, it is concluded that student's perception towards quality of learning environment is also worth to be investigated, so the institution and the teachers or lecturers could find the best way to provide the environment that fits the students need in their learning activities.

## **1.2 Reason in Choosing this Topic**

There is only a reason why the researcher chose this topic in this research, investigating the student's perception towards quality of learning environment is needed, to better understand what the students perceive towards their learning atmosphere (psychological and pedagogical aspects) and also teacher and students relationship (social aspect) as the core items of learning environment.

### **1.3 Research Question**

Based on the background, the research question for this study formulated as follow.

- What do the English department students perceive towards the quality of learning environment in their faculty?”

### **1.4 Objective of Study**

The aim of this study is to reveal what the students perceive towards the quality of learning environment in their faculty.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

From this study it was expected to give the following benefit:

1. To the lecturers

The result of this study hopefully could provide them with the information about the quality of learning environment in their institution based on student's perception.

2. To the Students

Through this research it may give them awareness towards the development of learning environment by giving the feedback (positive opinion and constructive critics) to their institution.

3. To the Institution

Through this research it may give some suggestion towards the improvement of learning environment by developing campus facilities to help the students achieving the goals of their study.

4. For further research and development

The finding of the research can be useful resource to get information for the next study about the other aspect may include in student's learning environment.

## **1.6 Limitation of the Study**

This study was only limited to the following aspects:

1. This study was only limited to narrow aspect which is student's perception towards their learning environment.
2. This study was not conducted in deep using interview. The questionnaire was used as the instrument in this research.
3. Small scale of respondent was used in this research, the samples were only 86 students of English Department from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> semester of Language

Faculty students in a Private Islamic University of Semarang, Central Java  
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### **1.7 Definition of the Key-terms**

To avoid ambiguity on the terminology used in this study, each term will be clarified as follows:

1. Students' Perception

Perception is a kind of self-observation of how people can integrate a sense to some object and then how we use it to understand something (Atkinson, Atkinson, Smith, & Bem, 1996). So the students' perception refers to how the students can integrate to some object and then perceive towards it to make better understanding.

2. Learning Environment Quality

According to Purwanto (2011), Learning Environment is every factors that influences student's behavior in learning from the outside. It plays important role for their intelligent growth to reach their target in their learning process. How the teachers and lectures teach them, how their relationship with their friends even the facilities are influencing their behavior. This environmental factor must in good perception in the students' point of view. The Quality of Learning Environment has to be

measured in sequences to improve and develop the institution administrators and managements.

## **1.8 Outline of the Study**

The outlines consist of five chapters, they are:

Chapter 1 presents the Introduction consist of the Background of the Study, the Reason for Choosing this Topic, the Research Question, the Objectives of the Study, the Limitation of the Study, the Significances of the Study, the Definition of Key Terms, and the Outline of the Study

Chapter 2 presents the Review of Related Literature consist of Perception, Learning Environment, and Aspects of Learning Environment: Campus Setting and Atmosphere, Teacher-Students Relationship, and Peer Relationship.

Chapter 3 presents the Methodology of the Research; consist of the Research Design, the Variables, and the Subject of the Study, the Research Instrument, the Data Gathering Technique, and the Procedure of Analyzing the Data.

Chapter 4 presents the Findings and the Discussion based on data gathered by the researcher; consist of the Questionnaire Result Analysis and the Discussion.

Chapter 5 presents the Conclusion and the Suggestion based on the Discussion