

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

In this era, English seems to be one of the major players of the global village. Today English is used as an international language in diplomacy, international trade, tourism, international media, air-traffic control, pop music industry, technology, economic and etc. Skill in English language is a great need to survive in the environment where the language is a necessary. As Alptekin (2002) stated that given the lingua franca status of English, it is clear that much of the world needs and uses English for Instrumental reasons such as professional contact, academics studies and commercial pursuits. It is considered the most significant and functional language for the technological and scientific development. Especially for Economics students who will find more word and knowledge of Economy in English word. They will be more competence when they understand English language.

To face the challenge State Institute Islamic College of Lhokseumawe (IAIN Lhokseumawe) has attempted to provide its students basic knowledge in English. It has two foundation English courses as a compulsory subject for the first year of Economics students during the first and second semesters. All the freshmen at the Economics students must enrol those general English courses.

The improvement of students' competency in English is based on the lecturer who teaches them the English course. However, in order to boost learners' skill in English. Especially for undergraduate students who are not majoring in English.

Every lecture would encounter some relevant questions: “Where should we start?”, “What should we do to involve the students in classroom activities and then they will practice the English skills in all aspects possible?”, “Even though the lecture has tried their best, why do most of them seem to lack the intended interesting in learning?” To answer all the questions, it is necessary for the lecture to first understand attitude and motivation toward learning English of the courses’ learners. This way, the instructors will be able to re-design the course or even adjust activities in certain classroom so that it can increase the students’ stimulation and enhance the learning atmosphere. Furthermore, once students feel encouraged, their viewpoint toward learning English will finally become more positive. Prapphal (2001) suggest that increase the students’ motivation toward learning the language is another way to help the students achieve their goals in learning language.

In Indonesian, English teach as a foreign language. Learning a language is influenced by a variety of factors. Two of the most important of which are the learner’s attitude and perception toward the target language. Different perceptions of language skills and language learning can have an impact on students’ motivation to study languages (e.g. Csizér and Kormos 2009). Furthermore besides the intellectual perspective, the nature of language learning has psychological and social aspects and depends primarily on the learners’ motivation and attitude to learning the target language (Padwick, 2010). The ability of students to master a second language is not only influenced by the mental competence or language skills but also on the students’ attitudes and perceptions toward the target

language (Abidin, Majid and Hanan, 2012). They also advocated that attitude concept could enhance the process of language learning, influencing the nature of student's behaviours and beliefs toward the other language, its culture, and community, and this will identify their tendency to acquire that language.

The motivation of the language learners often related with whom and where the language learner is. The community and habit will affect the students in learning language. Therefore, the student ability in mastering a language is determined by their motivation which comes from their perception and attitude toward learning language. IAIN Lhokseumawe is a campus where located in Aceh. It is a unique, because Aceh has certain culture and community with different belief of law and other.

Positive and negative attitude is based on the perception of an individual toward certain objects or matters. The input of experiences which get by observation will make a belief that will influence the attitude of an individual for something. In this case the perception, attitude and motivation defined in learning English language for Economics students.

Moreover as the preliminary data, the researcher did a short interview with the lecturer who teaches the Economics students in State Islamic Institute of Lhokseumawe and a students of Economics major. Based on the interview, it can be concluded that the Economics students of IAIN Lhokseumawe are passive in the learning process due to their difficulty to respond in English. The lecturer had to share what the important of learning English although they are not an English major student, but the atmosphere of teaching learning still passively. The

researcher assume that the perception of students to English is negative so the atmosphere of class not effectively. The interview can be seen below:

R : *Bagaimana mahasiswa Ekonomi belajar bahasa Inggris di kelas?*

(How do the Economics students learning English in class)

L : *Mahasiswa terlihat pasif untuk merespon dalam bahasa Inggris, mereka lebih banyak mendengarkan. Menurut mereka bahasa Inggris penuh dengan rumus-rumus. Sulit sekali memotivasi mereka untuk belajar bahasa Inggris*

(The students look passive to response in English, they tend to listen more. In their opinion English is full of formula or tenses)

(Note: R is researcher, L is lecturer)

Based on the dialogue above it can be seen that the students have such perception of learning English, the students have less confident in learning English. They have negative perception of English about English is full of formula. The lecturer also stated that she get the difficulty to push students motivation in learning English.

The researcher also did interview with the students. The researcher asked the students assumption of learning English.

R : *Bagaimana pendapat kamu mengenai belajar bahasa Inggris di prodi Ekonomi?*
(How do your opinion about learning English for Economics department)

S : *Penting, tapi bahasa Inggris sulit untuk di ucapkan dan terlalu banyak tensis.*

(It is important, but English is difficult to utter and it is so many tenses)

(Note: R is researcher, S is Student)

From the dialogue above, it can be said that students have abstract statement about English he said English is important but he also argued difficult to utter in English and assumed learning English it's about so many tenses there. It was appropriate from the lecturer opinion, which stated the students' passive in class. The researcher assumes that it can be some students there less of skill in English class. The researcher interested to did a research to identify the Economic students' perception, attitude and motivation toward English.

There are some previous study that had been explored about perception, attitude and motivation of learning English Language. The first study conducted by Alkaff (2013) found that most students have a positive attitude towards learning English and they try to improve their English and to use the language even though there are a lot of demands on their time and few opportunities to practice their English. The study also reflects on the obstacles confronting the students and their suggestions to facilitate the learning process. The second study, a research by Chairat (2015) found that the majority of the students were surprisingly highly interested in learning English as a foreign language because they want to read the literature of a foreign language in the original language rather than a translation. In addition Vibulphol (2016) asserted that most students had a relatively high level of motivation and many reported having internal interests in learning English; however, the level of learning was not assessed to be as high. Furthermore, a few students in almost every class showed a lack of motivation. Duong (2013) study showed that although the participants had positive attitudes towards ELL, they were likely to engage in SRL very low. Then, Burgos

(2015) asserted that students appreciate English as global language, but they were not committed learning it at school.

So far, it was stated that research found variety of perception, positive and negative attitude and high motivation of students in learning English. It was seen from the assumption of the language, and students interesting in learning English. In contrast, the study also showed the different fact beside positive appreciation learning English, they are few students still lack of motivation and engage the teaching strategy very low.

Based on some explanation above, it was stated that the study about perception, attitude and motivation were the current issues which were still controversial regarding to the recent research findings from several research where come from several countries. It meant the study was acceptable too research further.

This study conducted a study which examined perception, attitude and motivation of Economics student toward learning English language.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the perception, attitude and motivation of Economics students in learning English?
2. What are level of perception, level of attitude and level of motivation of Economics students in learning English?

3. Why are the perception, attitudes and motivation of Economics students realize toward learning English as the ways they are?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In link to the problems of the study, the objectives of this research are:

- (1) To describe the perception, attitude and motivation of Economics students in learning English.
- (2) To describe level of perception, the level of attitude and level of motivation of Economics students in learning English.
- (3) To explain reasons why the Economics students realize such perception, attitude and motivation in learning English as the ways they are.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The scope of study is limited on three main aspect namely perception, attitude and motivation. In other word the scope of this study focused on three different aspects, they are perception, attitude and motivation in learning English at State Institute Islamic College of Lhokseumawe.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

This study is expected to have some significance. First, theoretically this study is expected to provide new contribution to the theory of perception, attitude and motivation in learning English as a foreign language.

Second, practically, the findings of this research will give some contribution especially to 1)college student who learn English, 2) teacher/lecturer who teach

English as a source of information and references in order to enrich their knowledge and horizon about the student perception, attitude and motivation in learning English. As well as 3) other researchers, this research can be used as a basic reference on information in order to have further related study.



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