

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher describes the background of the research. It discusses the reason why the researcher chose the topic. The researcher also presents the statement and limitation of the problem followed by research questions and objective of the research. Finally, the researcher gives some significances of the study and the outline of the research.

#### **Background of the Study**

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language and one of the important subjects that must be learned by students at schools. English has been taught from elementary school level to university level. Hannah (2009) as cited in Aydogan and Akbarov (2014) said that teaching English can be taught to students “at minimum launch since elementary school level to the university level” (p. 673). It means that the students may get opportunity to learn English as a subject starting from elementary school to university.

In the process of learning English as a foreign language, students need to understand four basic skills of English. In general, English skills can be divided into two kinds. They are receptive skills including listening and reading skills and productive skills consisting of speaking and writing skills. Receptive and productive skills are related to each other because receptive skills are the input of

productive skills. Thus, in learning English, it is essential for the students to master the four basic skills.

In learning English, students also learn how to communicate. There are two methods of communication as mentioned by Aydogan and Akbarov (2014). The methods of communication involve macro and micro skills. Macro-skills consist of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, while micro-skills comprise of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and spelling. Macro and micro skills are related each other. Thus, students' learning activities should engage those skills to improve students' communication skills.

In the English learning process in the classroom, students sometimes face problems as they do not understand what their teacher teaches. These problems are caused by some factors influencing the English learning process. To overcome those problems, an institution possesses some strategies to improve students' English skills. One of the strategies is by establishing an organization that enables students to enhance English skills. It aims at assisting students to achieve learning objectives that they cannot obtain in the classroom such as informal environment in learning English and longer time to practice English. Yanda (2014) argued that in joining organization students can improve their English skills because they are able to get new knowledge and experience from outside the class.

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) as an educational institution also provides facilities to improve students' English skills. One of the facilities is Student English Activity (SEA). The SEA of UMY is one of the

organizations that can help the students to improve their English skills such speaking skills. The SEA of UMY has many activities organized by the main board and five ministries, namely Media and Literature, Art and Culture, English Career, Public Relations and Speaking Skills. Every Ministry has many activities such as Discussion, Got Talent, Movie Screening, Seminar, Power of Speaking, Teaching English, Debate, Speech, Conference, English Camp, Dance, Olympiad, Power of Relation, *Seakaten*, Creasy Dance, Promoting SEA and English Career. The SEA activities enable students to have English improvement, good time management and self-confident improvement.

Although there are a lot of the SEA activities that give many opportunities for students to foster their skills, only a few English Education Department (EED) students are joining this organization. From all members of SEA only 10 members come from the EED of UMY, but only 5 members that are active on the activities of SEA. Students do not join the SEA of UMY because they might not know the various benefits that they can get. Besides, they probably do not know that the effective programs can improve their English skills. This condition led to a question whether or not the programs offered by SEA are beneficial and effective for the students to improve their English skills. Therefore, the researcher attempted to find out the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY and to reveal which SEA programs are effective in improving English skills.

## **The Statement and Limitation of the Problem**

Student English Activity (SEA) is one of the organizations at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) that aims at helping students to improve their English skills. The activities of the SEA of UMY have the main board and five departments, such as Media and Literature, Art and Culture, English Career, Public Relations and Speaking skills. Every ministry also has activities, such as Discussion, Got Talent, Movie Screening, Seminar, The Power of Speaking, Teaching English, Debate, Speech, Conference, English Camp, Dance, Olympiad, The Power of Relation, *Seakaten*, Creasy Dance, Promoting SEA and English Career.

Although SEA provided a lot of advantages for the students, only some students of English Education Department (EED) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) are interested in joining this organization. This condition can be caused by the fact that not all students know about the SEA, the programs of SEA, and the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY. It also might be caused by the schedule of the SEA activities which are not appropriate for the students' time. The problem also might happen because the programs are not interesting. Therefore, these problems are potential to make students less interested in joining the SEA of UMY.

In this research, the researcher focused on the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY. The researcher also concerned with which SEA programs are effective to improve students' English skills. These two focuses will be based on the

students' perception. The researcher did not discuss the disadvantages of joining the SEA of UMY and the problems related to the SEA activities. Therefore, this research is limited to the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY and the effective programs to improve students' English skills.

### **The Research Questions**

The researcher formulates the research questions written as follows:

1. What are the benefits of joining the Student English Activity (SEA) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta?
2. Which Student English Activity (SEA) programs are effective to improve students' English skills based on students' perception?

### **The Purposes of the Research**

The aims of this research are:

1. To find out the benefits of joining the Student English Activity (SEA) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.
2. To investigate which Student English Activity (SEA) programs are effective to improve students' English skills based on students' perception.

### **The Significance of the Research**

The result of this research is important for some parties such as:

**Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY).** This research is beneficial for UMY as it provided the information on the benefits that the students gained from joining SEA. It also provided the effective programs of SEA based on the students' perceptions. Therefore, this research can be used as a basis for the university to evaluate and make policy on the programs of SEA.

**Student English Activity (SEA).** This research can be used to promote the SEA of UMY. By revealing the SEA effective programs and the benefits that the SEA members have gained based on this research, SEA can attract more members to join SEA of UMY.

**Students.** This research can be used as a guideline for the students to choose the programs that they want to join. Besides that, they also know the benefits that the students get from joining SEA of UMY.

**Lecturers.** This research can be used by the lecturers at EED of UMY to inform the programs of SEA that can help in improving English skills for the students. The lecturers can also share the benefits of joining SEA of UMY to their students. It is hoped this research can make the lecturers encourage their students to join the SEA of UMY.

### **The Outline of the Research**

This research consists of five chapters. In the first chapter, the researcher talks about the background. It presents why the researcher is interested in investigating the problems. After that, the researcher also explains the statement

of problems and limits the problems. The researcher also provides some research questions. In addition, the objectives of the study, the significance of the problem and the outline of the research are also presented in the first chapter.

The second chapter of this research gives some literature reviews on the definition of English skills, English organization, benefits of joining an English organization, programs on an English organization, Student English Activity (SEA) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY). Then, the researcher also provides the conceptual framework.

Next, in the third chapter, the researcher focuses on the research methodology. It includes the research design, setting and participants of the study, an instrument of the study, techniques of the data collection, and the analysis of the data.

The fourth chapter of this study presents the findings of the study about the benefits of joining SEA in improving English skills. The researcher also explores the SEA programs considered effective to improve students' English skills based on students' perception. Finally, in the last chapter of this research the researcher draws the conclusion of this research.