

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter contains introduction of this research. This chapter explains background of the research, statement and limitation of the problem, research questions, objective of the research, significance of the research, and outline of the research.

Background of the Research

Lecturer is the stakeholder in the classroom that has role to transfer knowledge to student as learners. However the transfer of knowledge not only can be obtained from the lecturer alone but also from interaction among students. There are various ways that can be done so that teaching and learning activities not only focus on the interaction between lecturer and students. One of them is using a learning model that can more engage students in teaching and learning activities in the classroom such as Cooperative Learning. According to Olsen and Kagan (1992) Cooperative Learning is an organized group learning activity, so learning is dependent on socially structured exchange of information between learners in groups in which each learner is responsible for his or her own learning and is motivated to increase the learning to others. By doing this Cooperative Learning, each students in the group can enhance their knowledge by receiving information from other students.

There are also other experts say about definition of Cooperative Learning. One of them is Rofiq (2010) also said that Cooperative Learning is a learning method which is done by a group of students so that the students are not

only successful for themselves but also successful in a group. In their group, they can teach their friends. They will share knowledge each other. So, if the other members of the group get difficulty, the other students will give them information of what they do not know. Therefore, this process will make the students and the group successful in doing a project. In short, with this method, their social thinking can be developed. Moreover, Karli and Yuliaritainingsih (2002) mentioned that Cooperative Learning can involve the students in developing the knowledge, attitude, and also ability in open and democratic learning process. So, students are not only as the learning object but also the learning subject. Because of that reason, this Cooperative Learning method is a suitable method which can be used in both individual and group situation.

Cooperative Learning method has been used by some lecturers in some subjects in English Education Department (EED) of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), one of them is Material Design. This course is designed to provide opportunities for the students of English Education Department to learn how to design and develop classes teaching materials and textbooks through reading, analysing, and reflecting on the theories of Material Design. In Material Design class, students are asked to make a group. Then, the students in each group learn the materials they have read from books or other resources and share it to other students. The way mentioned in the Material Design class in EEDUMY is in line with the statement of Johnson and Holubec (1994) about Cooperative Learning. They said that Cooperative Learning is the use of small groups in which students work together to accomplish shared goals and to maximise their own and

others' potential. With the use of Cooperative Learning, capabilities of students' hard skill and soft skills will develop.

Meanwhile, in the class of Material Design using Cooperative Learning methods, students will get both positive effect as mentioned above and negative effect of the method. When students are doing a project in a group, the students will share knowledge each other. The students will be always talking in their group to show some explanation to others. However, this Cooperative Learning method can also give some problems like non conducive class. When students make a discussion in a group, the class will be noisy. Furthermore, during the discussion, the class will be dominated by some active students. So, it will cause other students to be passive students.

Based on the case mentioned above, this Cooperative Learning method has both positive and negative effects. Therefore, the study investigated the perception of students of year 2013 of English Education Department UMY toward applying Cooperative Learning method in Material Design class. This study is important to be carried out because both lecturers and stakeholder of EED UMY need to evaluate the implementation of the method.

Statement and Limitation of the Problem

Cooperative Learning method has been used as teaching method in Material Design class in EED UMY. However, there is no study that conducted to evaluate whether the implementation of this method has benefits and problems. Whereas an evaluation of the implementation of the method is needed to be conducted in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning process in EED

UMY. Therefore this study is conducted to find benefits and problems of the implementation of Cooperative Learning method in Material Design class at EED UMY. This study will investigate the students' perception toward Cooperative Learning in batch 2013 Material Design Class in EED UMY.

Research Question

Based on the background of the research above, there are two main research questions to be answer in this research as following:

1. What are the benefits of Cooperative Learning in Material Design class at EED UMY?
2. What are the problems of Cooperative Learning in Material Design class at EED UMY ?

Objectives of the Research

Through this research, the researcher would like :

1. To find out the benefits of Cooperative Learning in Material Design class at EED UMY.
2. To explore the problems of Cooperative Learning used in Material Design class at EED UMY.

Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial for the Students and Lecture.

The Students.After students know the benefits and the problems of Cooperative Learning, students can maximize the benefits and avoid the problems

of this method. So they can improve their learning when attending class using Cooperative Learning method better than before.

The Lectures.After the lectures know students perception towards the implementation of Cooperative Learningin Material Design, they can evaluate and find the solutions for the problems in Cooperative Learning to be a better method.