Chapter Two

Literature Review

This chapter describes the literature review and the conceptual framework that are used in this research. In the first sub chapter, the researcher clarifies the review of the literature on certain points. The first section of this review discuss students’ absenteeism. The next discussion is to discuss about the institution policy on minimum attendance followed by the kinds of students’ absenteeism. The following section is to identify the literature on the causes of absenteeism. Another part of this chapter is going to address the conceptual framework that will guide this research.

Students’ Absenteeism

Teixeira (2013) explained that “students’ absenteeism is generally defined as deliberate or habitual absence from the class without valid reason, excluding sickness or accidents” (p.2). Moreover, Teasley (2004) explained that students’ absenteeism as a period of time when a student does not attend the class. According to the explanation earlier, the definition of students’ absenteeism is a condition when the student do not attend the class because of some reasons.

Students’ absenteeism happens because students have less of motivation in learning. This reason could trigger students not to be present to the class. Some researchers argued that students’ attitude and motivation for learning was a key factor in student absenteeism (Kottasz, 2005). In addition, Kottasz (2005) found that student with low motivation are absent more than student with high motivation level. Schwartz, Radcliffe, and Barakat (2009) reported that absenteeism negatively related to future-oriented academic goals. Another group authors
argued that students’ attitude towards teacher plays important role in students’ absenteeism (Adıgüzel & Karadaş, 2013; Attwood & Croll, 2006; Gökyer, 2012; Pehlivan, 2006; Veenstra, Lindenber, Tinga, & Ormel, 2010; Wilkins, 2008). This matter shows that low motivation of students to attend the class could increase bad impacts to academic progress of the students. It would be different for students who attend the class regularly. The students who attend the class regularly will get higher academic progress because they follow all of the lessons and tests. The students who have followed all lessons in class have lot of preparations and knowledge for doing test. This reason makes the students get a higher score in a test rather than the absent students.

Besides, there is another impact of students’ absenteeism which is “students’ absenteeism could guide the teachers plan in the classroom and motivates other students in that class to absent at the same time” (Thornton, Darmody & McCoy, 2013, p.488). As an example of the explanation earlier, the teacher have made a teaching plan using group discussion. In the teaching plan, the teacher will divide the students into some of group discussion. However, it could not be happen because some of students are not to be present to the class. In this case, the teacher have to change the teaching technique in their plan to be applied in teaching learning process. Furthermore, students’ absenteeism could also disrupt students’ learning, not only for the absent student but also for the entire students in the class. In this case, the students who often absent from the class could trigger other students to absent at the similar time. It means, they can influence motivated students to do the same thing.

**Institution Policy on Minimum Attendance**

English Education Department of UMY has a policy on minimum attendance for the students. Based on the Academic Guidebook, the chance of students to leave or not being present
at the class is four meetings in total sixteen meetings. It means that, the minimum attendance is twelve meetings or 75% attendance in a semester. This contract is explained by the teacher on the syllabus or in the first meeting. If the student did not attend the class more than four times or higher than 75%, the student would get failed score. The failed score at English Education Department of UMY is D. It indicates that if the student has the failed score, the student will get the penalty or did not pass the course. It means that, the student have to retake the course on following semester.

**Kinds of Students’ Absenteeism**

As stated by Komakech and Osuu (2014) that students’ absenteeism is classified into two classes which are absence with permission and absence without permission. Students’ absenteeism with permission commonly known as truancy. Meanwhile, students’ absenteeism without permission commonly known as withdrawal.

The first kind of students’ absenteeism in this review of the literature is truancy. Truancy is the condition that the absent student absence from the class without permission from their parents (Cunningham, 2005). Furthermore, Sa’ad, Sabo & Dahuwa (2015) explained truancy as being absent for unacceptable reason by teachers. According to Adam, Usman & Msheliza (2017), the reasons are not because of illness, religious holiday and death in family. In addition, Perry (2000) also explained that truancy is absence from the class without parental knowledge. The student who engages in truancy is called truant. In the matter of truancy, the truant student is absent from the class activity without permission from their parents. When the truant students leave their class, the reason of students is because they arrive late to the class. Another reason is because students leave the class early before the activity in their class over.
Truancy commonly talks about unexcused, unpermitted, and uncommunicative absences. Absenteeism relates to lack of parental knowledge about the behavior, criminal behavior or academic issues, or social situations such as homelessness or poorness (Fremont, 2003). Besides, truancy identically with social situation of the student for the example is poverty. Poverty problem influences student not to be present to the class because the students are not able to pay their tuition and buy some books.

The next discussion is to explain about withdrawal. In this case, students are not present to their class because their parents ask them to not attend the class. In this case, parents’ necessities and importance becomes the common root of students’ absenteeism. In line with Cunningham (2005), the researcher mentioned that withdrawal as absence with approval from their parents. The last expert, Bond (2004) stated that the student could absent only be permitted by the teacher and their teacher gives them a reasonable excuse. The explanations from those statements are the reason why the student excuses from their class because of their parents necessities and priorities. In this case, the students are not present to their class because the student has another importance with their family in that day.

Causes of Students’ Absenteeism

This review of the literature centers on the causes of students’ absenteeism was conferred under certain categories. Etsey (2005) stated the causes of students’ absenteeism could be categorized into four. They are family reason, academic reason, community reason, and personal characteristic of the student.

The first cause of students’ absenteeism is family reason. In this case, students are not attend their class because their parents are not permitted them to the class. Their family has several reasons not to permit their children to the class because they want to go for vacation,
shopping, attend their family wedding party, or attend funereal ceremony. These reasons on the explanation above are in line with Thornton, Darmody, & McCoy (2013) who stated that sometimes Irish family are not ask their children to go to the class because they want to go holiday.

The following cause of students’ absenteeism is academic reason. This reason involves the teacher, university administrator or even the atmosphere in the class. In their research, Shute and Cooper (2015) stated that students attend to the class but they left some activities during the meeting or left whole meeting. Moreover, Pehlivan (2006) found that the reasons given by students for non-attendance at lecture were bored at the class, dislike of lessons, encouragement of friends, and lack of expectations about education. Both of researchers explained that the finding shows that liking the teacher and their subject also has importance to the students motivation to attend the classroom.

Bad atmosphere of the university and the class could also become the cause of students to absent the class. This matter could be happen because of less number of supporting facilities in the class, limitation of books in library, and the internet connection. The level of students’ satisfaction of their university system and facilities could increase their motivation to not attend the class (Gomleksiz & Ozdas, 2013). This statement is in line with the statement from Aküzüm, Tan, Yavaş, & Uçar (2014) that the condition of being dissatisfaction of facilities also becomes the cause of students’ absenteeism.

The next category is from the community of students. The relationship among one student to their friends also affects students' absence in their class. In this case, the student mot attend the class because the student get influence from another student. It is in line with the statement from Altinkurt, that is students want to get internet access on the cafe, or get influence
from another absent student could be affect student to be absent from their class (Altınkurt, 2008).

The last discussion is the cause of students’ absenteeism because of students’ personal reason. In this case, students are absent from their class because of several reasons. Health problem could be the biggest cause of students’ absenteeism (Yıldız & Kula, 2012). Sometimes students' health problem makes the student absent from their classroom. Moreover, Teasley (2006) noted some factors that contribute to student absenteeism such as family health, low income, transportation problems, and community attitudes towards education. Another cause is, the distance from students' home to their university and bad condition of the (Ozbas, 2010). In this case, students could not attend the class because of the difficulty to access their university, the limitation number of transportation, and bad condition of the weather such as rain and earthquake.

Lastly, the researcher concludes that the student do not present to the class with a lot kind of causes. The causes of students’ absenteeism in this review of the literature are for the reason that students' family, academic reason, community reason and the last is for the reason that personal reason of the student.

**Conceptual Framework**

Students’ absenteeism happens because the student has low motivation in learning. According to Teixeira (2013) explained that “students’ absenteeism is generally defined as deliberate or habitual absence from the class without valid reason, excluding sickness or accidents” (p.2). Students’ absenteeism is divided into two classification. They are students’ absenteeism with permission and students’ absenteeism without permission. Students’
absenteeism with permission commonly known as truancy. Meanwhile, students’ absenteeism without permission commonly known as withdrawal.

Furthermore, there are some causes that trigger students’ absenteeism. As stated by Etsey (2005) the causes of students’ absenteeism could be categorized into four. They are family reason, academic reason, community reason, and personal characteristic of the student. Family reason is an absence because the students go for vacation, shopping, attend their family wedding party, or attend funereal ceremony. Meanwhile, academic reason involves the teacher, university administrator or even the atmosphere in the class as the reason for students to not attend the class. Moreover, community reason is the students’ reason to not attend the class because of the relationship between another student. Last, the student not attend the class because of their personal reason which is illness.

![Diagram of Students’ Absenteeism](image)

**Figure 1.** Students’ absenteeism divided into two, they are absence with permission and absence without permission (Komakech and Osuu, 2014).
Figure 2. Cause of students’ absenteeism categorized into six. They are students’ factors, academic factors, family factors, and community factors.