

Chapter Four

Research Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the findings to answer the research questions proposed in this study based on the interview data. In this chapter, it provides further discussion of findings by relating to some references which have been reviewed in chapter two. There are six major findings revealed from this study. The finding reports the factors that trigger students' absenteeism could be divided into six, they are students' factors, academic factors, family factors, community factors, unexpected factors and environment factors. The finding is strengthened by the caption from the interviewees. The identities of the participants in the captions are shown as Mawar, Melati, Delima, Asoka, Lily and Bunga. Following the findings, the researcher puts the discussion. The discussion is experts' statements or other previous related research that is in line or contradictory with the finding of this study.

The factors of students' absenteeism in English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

According to the interview result, the researcher found some findings about the factor that trigger students' absenteeism at EED UMY. The researcher analyzed six main factors that trigger students to be absent from the class. They are students' factors, academic factors, family factors, community factors, unexpected factors, and environment factors. All of those factors are explained on the discussion below.

Finding 1: Students' factors. Students' absenteeism classified because of students' factors. The classification is according to the analysis of the interview. In this case, there are four subcategories that trigger student not attend the class. They are students' lateness or laziness, students' leisure, students' health problem, and students' schedule.

Students' Lateness and Laziness. In this discussion, the students not attend the class because the students come late to the class. Another reason is the students feel lazy to attend the class.

Coming late. Lateness is one of students' reasons to not attend the class. This can be seen by the statement of Mawar. As reported by Mawar, "I came late to the class" (P1.5). According to Bond (2004), there are some conditions that categorized as truancy which are the students arrive late to the class, leave the class early, and skip the class for entire days. In this case, Mawar not attend the class because of the lateness. So, if Mawar did not attend the class because of coming late, it indicates as a kind of truancy.

Being lazy. Another reason that trigger student to not attend the class is because of being lazy. In this research, there was a participant who pointed out that lazy is one of the reasons to not attend the class. Melati said "Usually on Wednesday, my schedule is always full until afternoon, because I have 4 credits and 2 credits subject in that day, and I choose to waiting in my house rather than in the campus. But, I'm so lazy to comeback to the college, that's why I'm absent from the class" (P2.4). Furthermore, a participant reported that he was absent in consultation session. Mawar said "...i think it's easier to be absent in consultation session" (P1.9). In this case, Melati did not attend some sessions at the class but Melati attended at another session. Meanwhile, Mawar not attend the consultation session. It could be concluded that Melati and Mawar did not attend the class because of being lazy.

Students' Leisure. Students' leisure could be as the reasons for the students not to attend the class. In this case, the students did not attend the class because of going to the movie or music concert. Another reason is because of doing sport.

Going to the movie or music concert. Based on the interview result, the participants did not attend the class because they went to the movie or music concert. As stated by Asoka, he said “I went to the movie with my friend on the weekday because it’s cheaper” (P4.10). Moreover, Lily also explained that going to the music concert is one of the reasons to not attend the class. Lily said “I ever not attend the class because I went to the concert” (P5.6). The statements earlier indicate that the students choose to go to the movie or concert rather than attend the class.

Doing sport. Doing sport is an example of the students’ reason to leave the class that related to students’ leisure. It could be seen from the statement from Lily. Lily was absent from the class because Lily did sport, as Lily said “I often not attend the class because I did jogging in the afternoon” (P5.7).

According to Cook and Ezene (2010), going to game shop, music concert, playing football could contribute students’ absenteeism. Based on the statements from participants, they did not attend to the class because they went to the movie or the concert. Besides, there was a participant explained that he not attend the class because of did sport.

Students’ Health Problem. The third topic in this subcategory is students’ health problem. Students’ health problem also could be the reason for students to not attend the class. Based on the result of interview, two participants explained that health problem or medical reason could trigger them to not attend the class. As stated by Melati, she said “the factor is because my health condition, and sometimes I have to be hospitalized, and it made me absent” (P2.3). Additionally, Delima also reported that health problem could be the reason to not attend the class. He said “most of the reasons are because of medical reason” (P3.3).

According to Yildiz and Kula (2012), health problem could be the biggest cause of students’ absenteeism. It is similar with the statement from Besculides, Heffernan, Mostashari,

and Weiss (2005), the explanation explained that health problems also could be one of the aspects of students' absenteeism. In the interview, Melati and Delima reported the same idea that medical problem could be as the reason to not attend the class. As stated by Melati, health problem is the cause of student to not attend the class for a couple of days because the student need to be hospitalized. It is in line with McShane, Walter and Rey (2001), their study explained that the student refused to attend the class with the permission from their parents or the teacher because of medical factors or health problem. This statement indicates that student did not attend the class with permission from their parent and the teacher. As reported by two participants in this research, they were absent from the class with permission from their parents. Melati said "my parents knew that I did not attend the class. If I got sick, my parents asked me to take a rest in our house" (P2.8). It also explained by Delima, he said "If I got sick, I told it to my parents" (P3.6).

Students' Schedule. The explanation in this subcategory is about students' schedule. In this case, the students did not attend the class because of having part time job. Another reason is because of taking course in another university.

Having a part time job. Another reason that could trigger students' absenteeism in EED UMY is because the student has a part time job. As stated by Bunga, he said "I felt difficult to manage my time because I had part time job. I should manage my time for campus, work and homework. Sometimes I came to the home at 10 p.m. then, I did my homework or chit chat with my friends until 12 a.m. It made me late in the morning and not attend the class" (P6.2).

According to Rocque, Jennings, Piquero & Farrington (2016), they explained that "there are some cause for increasing absenteeism, such as: lower subject interest, poor and boring teaching technique, unfavorable environment, extreme student socialization, commitment to part

time job, insomnia and ill health” (p.2). Based on the interview result, Bunga did not attend the class because of the difficulty of managing time between part time job and study. The difficulty of managing time gave an influence to students’ absenteeism. In this case, the student often woke up late in the morning because of feeling tired after working on the last night.

Taking course in another university. Students’ absenteeism also happened to the student who takes double degree in different university. In this case, the student explained that he had same schedule at EED UMY and another university. Because of that reason, the student did not attend at TEYL class because the schedule was collided with the class schedule in another university. It could be seen from the statement from Bunga. Bunga said, “I did not attend at TEYL class because the schedule was collided with my schedule in another campus because I took double degree in another university” (P6.4).

Finding 2: Academic Factors. Disliking the teacher, subject and teaching technique are also the reason for the students not to attend the class. Additionally, when the students could not finish their homework or feel not confident at the class, it also trigger students’ absenteeism. Those reasons are related to academic factors.

Disliking the teacher. Based on the interview result, the participants reported that disliking the teacher is the reason to not attend the class. There were some reasons of the student to dislike the teacher. They are the student felt disappointed to the teacher and the student could not attend the makeup class. These are following statements of the student.

“I don’t like the teacher” (P1.7).

“I feel disappointed to the teacher because the teacher not attends the class for a couple of weeks” (P1.10).

“... The teacher asked students to hold the makeup class but the student could not attend the class on that day because the schedule is same with another class” (P1.11).

According to Sharmin, Azim, Choudhury & Kamrun (2016), they explained that “the qualities of teachers, their practices and the relationship they have with the students appear to play a role in students’ absenteeism” (p.3). Moreover, Sahin (2016) stated that there is an importance factor of liking the teacher and the subject. It looks similar with the statements from P1 above that one of reasons to not attend the class is because of disliking the teacher and feeling disappointed to the teacher. The student felt disappointed because the teacher not attend the class for a couple meetings and asked for a makeup class schedule where the student could not attend on that day.

Moreover, Lily did not attend the class because of bad classroom management by the teacher. It strengthened by the statement from Lily. He said “the teacher was often not checked the attendance list and it was being my reason to leave the class” (P5.5).

In the interview, the participant also reported that one of the reasons that could trigger students’ absenteeism. The reason is if the teacher not checked the attendance list. According to Sahin (2016) explained that the weakness of the teacher in classroom management could decrease the students’ interest and attention to attend the class. In this case, the student explained that he was absent from the class because the teacher never checked the attendance list. It shows that bad behavior of the teacher also could increase students’ absenteeism.

Disliking the subject. Another factor that trigger students’ absenteeism at EED UMY is disliking the subject. It can be seen from the statement by Bunga, Bunga said “I’m not really interested in the subject” (P6.7). As explained earlier in previous discussion, Sahin (2016) stated

that there is an importance factor of liking the teacher and the subject. So, it indicates that the reason of Bunga to not attend the class because Bunga did not like the subject.

Disliking the teaching technique. The teaching technique commonly used by teacher gave influence to increase students' absenteeism. In this case, if the student felt the teaching technique is too boring, the student will not interested to attend the class. Based on the interview result, a participant reported that he was absent from the class because the teaching technique used by teacher was not interesting. Lily said "I often not attend the class because the way teacher taught me was too boring and always looked at his power point" (P5.4).

In a study, Sharmin et.al (2016) explained that "dislike for teaching style is also a contributing factor for absenteeism" (p.3). Furthermore, the teacher should take effort to make an interesting subject by using creative teaching techniques (Sharmin, Azim, Choudhury & Kamrun, 2016). Based on the interview result, it indicates that the participant was not interested to attend the class because the teaching technique used by teacher was too boring.

Having unfinished homework. One participant reported when the student found the difficulties to finish their homework, it also could be the factor that trigger student to not attend the class. According to the interview result, the student did not attend the class because the student could not finish the homework. It can be shown from the statement below.

"Sometimes my homework at campus A has not been done and it was an important homework. So, I choose to not attend the class at EED to finish my homework. Another time, I attended the class at EED, but not attend at campus A" (P6.5).

According to Sahin (2016), "homework emerges as a highly important factor that affects the students' attendance at school." (p.204). Moreover, when the student could not finish their homework, they would not attend the class. In addition, Altinkurt (2008) wrote that some

students did not attend the class when they did not finish their homework. Based on the statement from participant, the participant did not attend the class to finish the homework for a subject. It means that, if the student could not finish the homework on time, it could be the reason for student to not attend the class.

Feeling unconfident at the class. Based on the interview result, one participant explained that he did not attend the class because he felt unconfident in a subject. So, the student always not attend the class in that subject. It would be different with the reason of students' absenteeism because the student was lazy. In this case, the student felt unconfident in speaking class. The student did not have quite ability in speaking. It could be seen from the statement by Bunga below:

“I felt unconfident to speak in public at Tourism class. The teacher asked me to speak up. Maybe I was not intense in practicing, so I felt unconfident but it was not because I was lazy” (P6.8).

Finding 3: Family factors. There are four kinds of family reason reported by participants, such as attending family celebration, attending funeral ceremony, having family business and going to holiday with family. In this matter, the students' parent asked their children to not attend the class for some reasons. According to research finding, the student did not attend the class because they had another schedule or event with their family. Further information that indicate the factors of students' absenteeism because of family reason are given in the discussion below.

Attending family celebration. The students' family also could be the reason of students' absenteeism. Based on the result of interview, some participants stated that the reason of their absent is related to the family celebration. The participants in this research reported that family

celebration such as wedding ceremony and graduation could be the cause to not attend the class. As mentioned by Melati, she said “If there were family celebration and my parents forced me to attend, so I have to absent from my class” (P2.6). “Usually I attended wedding ceremony with my family but it was not being held on Jogja (P2.10). The same explanation was reported by Asoka. Asoka said “I ever not attended the class because I attended to my sister’s wedding” (P4.6). Asoka also mentioned that he not attend the class because of attending graduation. It could be seen by the statement “I was not attend the class because of my mother’s graduation” (P4.7).

Family celebration such as wedding ceremony and graduation could be the reason for students to not attend the class. In this case, the students’ parent ask to their children not to attend the class because they have to attend the celebration with all family members. It is in line with the statement from Sahin (2016) that the students’ family asked their children to not attend the class because of some reasons, and one of them is wedding ceremony.

Attending funeral ceremony. Besides to attend family celebration, the students’ reason not to attend the class is to attending funeral ceremony or an event to commemorate the death month of family member. It could be seen from the statement by Asoka and Melati. They said, “then, I attended an event to commemorate the death month of my grandfather” (P2.11).; “I was not attend the class because of attending funeral ceremony” (P4.8).

Funeral ceremony is included in family factors that trigger students not to attend the class. Based on the result of the interview, a participant stated that he was not attend the class because of attending funeral ceremony. Another participant stated that he was not attend the class because of attending an event to commemorate the date month of his grandfather.

According to Sahin (2016), besides attending wedding ceremony, funeral is one of the students' reason to not attend the class.

Having family business. The third discussion in family factors is having family business. Based on the interview result, there are two causes that trigger students not to attend the class. First, the student attend the court for being a witness to her brother. As reported by Melati, she said "I attended to the court as a witness for my brother" (P2.7). In this case, the student's family has a problem that must be resolved in the court. The student must be attend to the court as the witness for her brother. Because of that reason, the student could not attend the class.

Moreover, the interview result showed that there was a participant did not attend the class because of taking care her mother. It could be seen from the statement by Mawar. Mawar said, "I came back to my hometown because I want to taking care my mother" (P1.6). According to Cook and Ezenne (2010), they explained that "one possible reason for student being held back at home during the class period was to care for their younger siblings or other family members" (p.38). This statement is similar to the statement from P1 that his reason to not attend the class is to taking care for his mother.

Going to holiday with family. A participant mentioned that he not attend the class because of holiday with the family. As reported by Delima, Delima said "I went to Jakarta to holiday with my family so I was absent the class" (P3.9). Delima also mentioned "I accompanied my family as a tour guide to holiday in Jogja, so I was absent the class" (P3.10).

Holiday with family is also the reason for students to leave the class. In this case, the student and his family went to another city for a couple of days. Another example, the student accompany his family as a tour guide when the family have a holiday in Jogja. Those statements are in line with the statement from Sahin (2016) that the students' family asked their children to

not attend the class because of some reasons such as went to holiday or having a guest at their house. Furthermore, the similar statement by Thornton, Darmody & McCoy (2013) also explained that sometimes students' parent did not ask their children to attend the class for reasons such as went on holiday.

Finding 4: Community reason. Community reason could be as the factors that trigger student to not attend the class. According to the result of interview, participant in this research not attend the class because some causes which is related to community reason. In this matter, students did not attend the class because of having a schedule in organization or seminar, getting an influence from other students and having problem in pair work.

Having a schedule in organization and seminar. Some participants explained in interview that having similar schedule in organization and class is the reason to not attend the class. As reported by Mawar, he said "I had a meeting with my organization outside the university" (P1.12). Moreover, Asoka shared the same opinion with Mawar. Asoka reported "I was absent the class because of my organization schedule. Sometimes the schedule was same with my class" (P4.3).

According to the statement above, Mawar and Asoka not attend the class because of attending a meeting in their organization. Another reason that trigger students not attend the class is because of attending the seminar in another city. In this case, those students could not attend the class because the students have to attend the meeting in their organization. Moreover, the meeting schedule in the organization is similar with the class schedule. However, the students are prefer to attend the meeting with their community rather than attend the class. It indicates that the students' activity with their community or organization could trigger students not to attend the class.

Furthermore, the participant also stated that schedule in seminar could make the student not attend the class. Asoka said “I was absent the class because I attended seminar in another city” (P4.4). In this case, the student also choose to attend the seminar with their community rather than attend the class. This shown that students’ community could be the reason for students not to attend the class.

Getting an influence from another student. The participant explained that getting influence from another student could trigger students’ absenteeism. As mentioned by Asoka, Asoka said “My friend persuaded me to be absent, he would not attend the class, and I accompanied him” (P4.9). The statement earlier is in line with the explanation from Altinkurt. According to Altinkurt (2008), students got influence from another absent student could be affect student to be absent from their class. Based on the finding from interview, the absent student got influence from another student to not attend the class. It indicates that the absent student could give affection to another student to accompany him to leave the class.

Having a problem in pair work. Another example in community reason is problem in pair work. In this case, if the student did not have friend to work in pair, the student choose to not attend the class. According to interview result, there was one participant stated that he ever not attend the class because the student did not have friend to make a group work. This statement was stated by Bunga during the interview. It can be seen at the answer from participant, he said “I ever woke up late and not attend the class. Unfortunately, in that day the teacher asked student to do peer work. And I did not have a peer group. So, i was not attend the class in the following week because I did not have a friend to do the task in pair” (P6.3).

According to Sahin (2016), he wrote that “students’ friendship with their peers is one of the most important factors that affect their attendance at school” (p.205). Because the student did

not have a friend to work in pair, the student did not attend the class. It is because the student could not finish the task by himself.

Finding 5: Unexpected factors. Unexpected factor is the last reason of students' absenteeism at English Education Department of UMY. In this discussion, the cause will determine as bad weather condition, accident and road construction. Some participants in this research shared their opinion that they ever not attend the class because of unexpected reason. Further explanation about students' absenteeism because of unexpected reasons are presented into the discussion below.

Bad weather condition. One of the reasons from student to not attend the class is because of bad weather. According to the interview result, the participant in this research left the class because the weather situation was really bad. It could be shown in this statement, Lily said "I'm not attend the class because of the rain" (P5.2).

Based on the explanation from Ozbas (2010), the negative climate conditions could trigger students' absenteeism. In addition, Gomleksiz and Ozbas (2013) also explained that a bad outcome of seasonal weather conditions is the cause of students' absenteeism. It points out that the reason of Participant five to not attend the class because of the rain is a kind of bad weather situation.

Accident. Flat tire is one of the accident that could be as an example of unexpected factor. In this case, flat tire could trigger student to not attend the class. One of six participants in this research stated that flat tire was the reason to not attend the class. In this case, the student went to the workshop to fix the motorcycle. Because of that reason, the student chooses to not being present at the class. The answer from participant will be seen at the statement below.

“I got flat tire, and I have to fix it by went to the workshop, but in the morning most of them were not already opened, so I choose to be absent from the class” (P2.5).

Road construction. Another form of unexpected reason is difficult access to the university. One example of this matter is road construction. One of participants in this research does not attend the class because of the road construction. It strengthened by the answer from Participant five. He reported “The second day is because the road in front of my house was constructed” (P5.3).

The bad effect of media or road access from the student’s live in to their university is also the cause of students’ absenteeism (Sahin, 2016). According to the statement from the participant, the participant could not attend the class because the road in front of his house was constructed. It shows that the road construction is the kind of unexpected reason for the student to not attend the class.

Finding 6: Environment Factors. The last finding in this research is environment factors. In this case, the difficulties of transportation faced by student could be the reason to not attend the class.

Getting the difficulties of transportation. According to the result of interview, the student ever not attend the class because the student got the difficulties in transportation. This can be seen by the statement from Delima. Delima said “In the beginning of semester, I didn’t have a motorcycle” (P3.4). Delima also mentioned that he did not have friend to ride together. It could also trigger him to not attend the class. Delima said “Sometimes I went to campus with my friend, but sometimes she did not allow me to go with her” (P3.5). Moreover, Delima reported that there was no public transportation from the student’s house to the university also being the reason to leave the class. Delima explained “besides, there is no public transportation” (P3.6).

According to Sahin (2016), environment factor that affect students' absenteeism could be as the difficulty of transportation and bad weather conditions. It shows that the statements like "I didn't have a motorcycle" and "there was no public transportation" stated by participant was an example of the difficulty of transportation. Moreover, Ozbas (2010) explained that the distance of the location where the students live to the university is the factors that cause students' absenteeism. Additionally, Sahin (2016) explained that "students who cannot establish good relationships with their friends have a higher tendency to be absent from their class" (p.205). Based on the interview result, Participant said that "sometimes I went to campus with my friend, but sometimes she did not allow me to go with her". This statement indicates that the student could not attend the class without transportation or the help from her friend. It is because the distance of students' rent house to the university is quite far. However, sometimes the participant did not get the help from her friend. For that reason, the student could not attend the class.