Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher provides the introduction of the study. It is divided into background of the study, statement of the problem, the research questions, and the objectives of the research. Then, significances of the research are presented last.

Background of the Study

University students are demanded to be more independent than high school students in terms of solving their learning problems. It is because they have been mature to take responsibility for themselves in learning process. In learning, university students have the chance to determine their learning purpose, planning the learning process, applying learning resources, making an academic decision and doing activities to get learning goal on their own. It will be obtained when students have autonomous learning. Autonomous learning enables students to be aware in the responsibility for their learning process. Therefore, students who have autonomous learning are able to conduct learning activities without command from others. The better the students' autonomous learning, the better the academic achievement they will get. Good academic achievement can be obtained from a good learning effort.

When students can do learning activities without any command from someone else, students have the ability to control themselves to become independent students. Independent attitude is as a responsibility that has to be done in the learning process. Islam (2004) said that autonomous learning as the

part of learning has a responsibility to planning, doing and evaluating the result of learning. Students can direct to reach their learning purpose clearly to solve their learning problems and learning tasks independently. Djamarah (2011) mentioned that there are students at the certain level who can solve their learning problem without the others' help, while some other students cannot.

The purpose of academic achievement is to know students' ability of mastering and understanding the subject matter. The result of an achievement can show the progress and decline of students' learning. According to Syah (2015), the academic achievement is the rate of learning success for the student that knew from the test that provided in the form of numbers or words. In university, the result of academic achievement is presented in the form of Grade Point Average (GPA). It can be seen at the end of each semester. The academic achievement can give a representation that someone has done in the learning process. It will be achieved optimally if students can independently carry out learning activities.

There is some research on the relation between autonomous learning and GPA that support for this study. Lowe (2009) said that many components in the learner autonomy profile-self-regulation are seen as contributors to academic success. The learner autonomy profile-self-regulation may be seen as a diagnostic tool for helping to identify areas for improvement that can positively impact GPA and thus academic success. Ng et al. (2011) said that learner autonomy profile is as one of the variables to enhance students' capacity to learn, it can be used to diagnostic tool of academic potential.

The researcher found the problem that the learning hours in the class is shorter than outside of class. It may take several hours through in the week. Whereas, only doing learning activities in the class is not enough to create a maximum learning process. Actually, doing learning activities can be done in anywhere and anytime by students. They can be done in the learning activities without command from other people as their responsibility. Increasing academic achievement can be done by students if they know their needs to achieve. Then, students have to study hard to gain a good academic achievement. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to investigate the relation between students' autonomous learning and students' academic achievement.

Statement of the Problem

Students have to start to be aware of their learning problem. They must be responsible to do learning activities without command from other people. It is because only doing learning activities in the class is not enough to create a maximum learning process. Autonomous learning will give a chance for students to determine their learning purpose and to make decisions for their academic. This study aims to investigate the level of students' autonomous learning and academic achievement. So, the researcher only focuses on the study of the correlation between students' autonomous learning and academic achievement.

The Research Questions

From the statement above, this research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' autonomous learning level English teacher training program at one private universities in Yogyakarta?

2. How is the students' academic achievement level English teacher training program at one of private universities in Yogyakarta?

3. Is there any correlation between students' autonomous learning and students' academic achievement?

The Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question of study, the objectives of the study are:

1. to investigate the autonomous learning level English teacher training program in one private universities in Yogyakarta.

2. to investigate the academic achievement level of English teacher training program in one private universities in Yogyakarta.

3. to find out the correlation between students' autonomous learning and students' academic achievement.

Significances of the Study

This research is expected to give advantages to the readers such as teachers, students, and other researchers.

Teachers. This study will investigate the correlation between students' autonomous learning and academic achievement. The results help the teacher to

stimulate students became autonomous in their learning process. The teacher can give exercises for students to be independent.

Students. After knowing the correlation between students' autonomous learning and academic achievement, students can evaluate their learning method to get a high level of academic achievement. It is expected for students to manage and arrange their time in doing learning activity; independent in solving their learning problems; and responsible for their academic achievement.

Other researchers. The study can be a reference for other researchers in studying the same topic. The next researchers can conduct further specific variables to investigate an impact of autonomous learning in teaching and learning process. The result of this study can give a contribution to the development of students' learning method.