

Perception of pursuing post graduate program in overseas among students of one private university in Yogyakarta

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Abstract

This qualitative descriptive study aims to investigate the perception about pursuing post graduate program in overseas among students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta. This research adopted a qualitative approach that selected a place at one private university in Yogyakarta and selected three students of batch 2014. The participants were chosen using purposive sampling technique. In addition, individual interview as the data collection method direct the researcher to find out various opinions of students' perception of pursuing post graduate program overseas. Regarding the result of this research, becoming open minded, getting better education system, getting better facilities, getting network, getting personal development, gaining new culture and gaining more experiences are the perceived benefits of pursuing post graduate program. Moreover, accommodation and financial issue, difficult adaptation, and language barrier are the perceived problems of pursuing post graduate program in overseas.

Keywords: higher study, post graduate program, study overseas, perceived benefits, perceived problems

Background of the research

Education is very important for human life because education gives the skills humans need to help themselves out from poverty into prosperity (Gignous, 2002). Gignous (2002) also added that education is important because education will support the growth society, democracy and political stability, allowing people to learn about their rights and acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to exercise them. Moreover, Education will improve the human intellectual skills, decision makers and trainer (Sreenivasulu, 2013). Mitra (2011) also stated that education has several basic cognitive benefits and improving decision making ability and reasoning skills. Mitra also stated that the benefit of education is helping individual to have more options to make better decision about their life.

The choice to pursue post graduate program in overseas will give more benefits to the students than pursue post graduate program at home. Parey and Waldinger (2010) argued that students who choose to pursue post graduate overseas expect to increase an individual's probability to work in foreign country. Parey and Waldinger (2010) also added that pursuing post graduate in overseas will affect international students in having good student's behavior in their labor market mobility and good career prospect in the future. Furthermore, there are many impact of pursuing post graduate in overseas such as the existence of the study overseas program to the students and also satisfaction with the study overseas program (Donahue, Krentler, Reinig, & Sabol, 2012) Donahue et.al added that students who pursue post graduate program in overseas report improve academic and cognitive growth and along with intercultural competencies and psycho-social development. Thus, when the students return home, the student will have grown intellectually and personally, having developed a greater measure of global and intercultural competence and, having develop greater in

language of English

This study is important to be investigated because the urgency of the differences of the goals and reason among students who want to pursue post graduate in overseas. However, Understanding the goal and reason is important because if the students do not know their truly goals to pursue post graduate in overseas, it will affect to the students itself. Moreover, students who do not understand the goal to pursue post graduate in overseas, they will get unsatisfied result of the study and the process of the study will not be maximal and focus because there is no something to be achieve.

Second point of the problem of this research is about phenomenon where the students want to pursue post graduate program but they do not know how to begin. However, the differences problems among students who want to pursue post graduate in overseas may lead the students more understand about the meaning of differences. Thus, the students will understand that the difference of the problem to pursue post graduate program in overseas create the problems to the students because the differences of the problems show that students do not understand well what their truly goals pursue post graduate program in overseas. Thus, the researcher wants to conduct the research by finding deeper information in research.

Based on the problems and delimitation of the study, the research question is formulated as follows:

- What are the students' perceptions of pursuing post graduate program in overseas at English Language Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta?

The purpose of this study is to find out the perceptions of pursuing post graduate

program in overseas among students of a private university in Yogyakarta. The purpose of this study will focus to find what are the perceive benefits of pursuing post graduate program in overseas and what are the perceive problems of pursuing post graduate program in overseas.

Research Design

The researcher applied qualitative research as the research approach and descriptive qualitative as the research design in this study. The researcher believed that the reasons why qualitative research approach was used because the researcher was interested in investigating the student's perception about in overseas deeper. It is in line with Creswell (2012) that stated qualitative research is best suited to address a research problem in which the variable is not known. In addition, Lambert and Lambert (2012) stated that descriptive qualitative tends to draw from naturalistic investigation.

Setting and participant of the research

This research was conducted at English Language Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta and the participant are three students of English Language Education Department batch 2014 that were selected using purposive sampling.

Result of the research

The Perceived Benefits of Pursuing Post Graduate Program in Overseas

Students of batch 2014 believed that they have abilities to pursue post graduate program overseas. However, the students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta believe that pursue post graduate in overseas is very important because the students will get many benefits that the student pursue post graduate at home. Thus, the result of perceived benefits of pursuing post graduate program in overseas are presented as follows:

Finding 1: Becoming Open- Minded. First finding suggests that there are three participants who believed that higher study overseas is important because the students becoming open-minded. As stated by Nindya. “Ehmm, PBI has many lectures graduated from Australia and America, I think, they have different way to face the problems and different way to teach “.Nindya added “We have different point of view. Thus, it can make students open minded. This is one of the perceive benefit of pursuing post graduate program in overseas because we can think how to solve the problem wisely”. Moreover, Azalea also argued that “we will became open minded”. Parto also explained that “We will get knowledge because our thinking is open minded “.

This findings was in line with Tucker (2014) that stated the international students will gain greater knowledge of culture and gain global mind-set. Students who pursue post graduate program in overseas are required to be open minded. Open minded means that the students develop the individual capacities in point of view. Savage and Wehman (2014) argued that increase ability to engage in problem solving, expanded student’s perspective, improve student’s communication skill, improve student’s ability to navigate in different environment, increase motivation (desire to learn) are the benefits when the students can pursue post graduate program in overseasThe development of capacity happened because the student live in the diversity of the society where the environment is multicultural.

Broadminded attitude is the way how the people can behave in the society.

Finding 2: Getting better education system. The participants believed that pursuing post graduate program overseas will get better education system. Actually, education system is system who will determine the student’s ways to study. As Nindya mentioned “Education system in overseas is better than Indonesia. Most of the students find scholarship because education in overseas is better.” It is in line with Tucker (2014) that explained the international student will gain greater knowledge of culture and gain global mind-set. In the

other hand, the rank of the best universities in the world is dominated by American and European universities.

Azalea stated “Yes, I mean education system in overseas is better”. Furthermore, higher level of education is associated with the wide range of the individual outcomes. The Better education that is had by the human being, the better individual outcomes will be presented. In the other hand, Students who study overseas may follow better education system wherever they study overseas. Additionally, higher level education presented quality of education that is had by the scope of country. Tamas (2014) argued that Study overseas will give students many advantages. Knowing different culture, language fluency, becoming independent, better education system, better study program and top university are the benefits of study overseas.

Finding 3: Getting better facilities. The participant believed that the finding related with the issue that facilities is one of the perceived benefit that will be gotten by the students who study overseas. Facilities in the university represent the evidence that the university supports education system that was applied in the university. Nindya mentioned “Then, the facility in the university is better, thus, the quality of the graduation is different.

Tamas (2014) explained that international students’ experiences, access to better facilities and personal level will affect to the students who study overseas. Better facilities will affect to the lecturer and students itself. In the other hand, the lecturer and students have benefits each other to support the learning process. Lecturers can teach completely using media (facilities) that was provided by the university while student also get clear explanation. Furthermore, Better facilities will determine student’s outcome because through facilities the students can practice well. For example, students who took major of science need laboratory as the facilities to practice their learning. Through practice, the students will understand well

the learning because the students do not only listen the explanation from the lecturer but also the students also try in real life.

Finding 4: Getting network. Networking is becoming fourth finding of this research. The participant believed that if the students of one private university in Yogyakarta batch 2014 can study overseas, they can get more networking. Nindya mentioned that “One of the benefit is networking, networking usually we get through traveller, we seldom travel thus, we can get connection through study in UK or Australia”. Meanwhile, Azalea also stated “we will get friends which became our network”. Parto also argued that “The benefits is getting new network because we meet new people “.

Networking is building relations with other people such as friends, classmates and others. This condition will give the students benefit to expand the network. The students have friends from other countries and it means they have built relation with. In the other hand, the relations will strengthen the information, business relations, share innovation and communicate with students each students .Additionally, it will make the students who want to pursue higher study overseas expand their long term investment having relations with other people and it help the students easier to access needs relate with the networking. It was supported by Sellar and Lingard (2013) that explained “One of the benefits of study overseas is networking”

Indeed, as long as we have connection, we will get many benefits. A lecturer who has connection in abroad, will be easier to contact them if the lecturer needs real information about the country and also the lecturer can share each other about the development of the knowledge if there is something needs to be discuss.in the other hand, it can be conclude that networking is a key for students who want to expand their relation with many people in the world.

Finding 5: Getting Personal development. Another finding that the students mentioned related with the issue is that the participant indicate that pursuing post graduate program overseas is important because global demand. In this finding, Nindya mentioned “I think, if we only study in domestic I mean in Indonesia, we will not be able to develop our capacity .thus, if we pursuing post graduate program overseas, we will not only the degree but also we will develop ours capacity”.

Asian Economic community (AEC) is one of the evidence that global demands is getting higher so far. Global demands require human resources that capable to compete in the global competition in this technology era. However, in the technology era, Indonesia as the developing country still needs reliable human resources to develop the potential of the country. One of the way to increase human resources for Indonesian. Pursuing post graduate program in overseas can be a solution for the country to increase standard of human resources ability. Students who pursue post graduate program in overseas was testing the understanding of the world, adaptability, and open minded students approaching everyday problems and situation.

Moreover, Sasaki (2007) also mentioned that by studying overseas, students’ second language writing quality and fluency significantly improve than they study in domestic .Savage and Wehman (2014) argued that increase ability to engage in problem solving, expanded student’s perspective, improve student’s communication skill, improve student’s ability to navigate in different environment, increase motivation (desire to learn) are the benefits when the students can pursue post graduate program in overseas. Moreover, according to Donahue Krentler, Renig and Sabol (2012) added that students who pursue post graduate program in overseas report improve academic and cognitive growth and along with intercultural competencies and psycho-social development. Thus, when the students return home, the student will having grown intellectually and personally, having developed a greater

measure of global and intercultural competence and, having develop greater in language of English. Moreover, Donahue at .el also argued that student who take study in overseas are simply different with the students who study in the local. The students who study in overseas will more aware, privilege and academically elite

Finding 6: Gaining new culture. The students believed that life experience in the different culture is one of the perceive benefit for students who want to pursue post graduate program in overseas. The differences of culture will lead the students to know the value of each of the culture itself. As Azalea mentioned “Then, the second is different culture, we are the students who learn the language, of course we will learn directly their culture and automatically we will get new culture

Living in the diverse culture is very important. Different culture will create the students who study overseas life in the dynamic environment. A variety point of view of the diversity culture will make the students become adaptable person. Furthermore, Parto admitted “Then, the benefits pursuing post graduate program in overseas is new culture”. This benefit in line with Niehaus and Crain (2013) that students who pursue post graduate program in overseas will have more culture shock than students who study in local. Niehaus and Crain (2013) also identify that students who study overseas are more experienced than those who study in domestic, especially in terms of culture.

Finding 7: Gaining more experiences. The students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta believed that if the students can pursue post graduate program overseas is gaining new experiences. two of the participants agreed that pursuing post graduate program in overseas is important because it will give them many experiences .Azalea mentioned “Thus, we have better experiences and more experiences than

we pursuing post graduate program in domestic (Indonesia)", while Azalea said "Of course , the benefits except social ,we will get more experiences"

Indeed, students who pursue post graduate program in overseas will meet many kinds of people who have different background knowledge. In the seminar, university, organization and also class are the possible place for the students to gain new knowledge. Thus, when the students are in the class, there will be discussion that make them rich about experiences. How the students perceived to face the problems and how the students perceive to solve and survive in the place where they study are the perceive experience that will be gotten by the students. According to Arjuna , Putra, Muttaqien, Atiyasa, & Condro (2015), there reasons why people have to study overseas are giving experiences and perspective point of view

The Problems when Pursuing Post Graduate Program in Overseas

Students who want to pursue post graduate program in overseas will perceive problem as the new people who live in the other country. The students have different problems based on their selves. In this theme, the researcher found three problems based on the participant perception that will be faced by the students of one private university Yogyakarta batch 2014 if they can to pursue post graduate program in overseas. The perceived problem consist of accommodation and financial issue, difficult adaptation, and language barrier.

Finding 1: Accommodation and financial issue. The participants believed that the second problems that perceived faced by the students of one private university in Yogyakarta is accommodation. As mentioned by Nindya "The second problems of pursuing higher study overseas is accommodation such as living cost".Nindya also stated "The first problem will be faced by the students who want to pursue higher study overseas is accommodation (tuition fee ".In the other hand, the statement was strengthened by Azalea that mentioned: "Waaa,, of course accommodation (financial /tuition fee) will be the first problem because we knew

sometimes the scholarship is coming late. Ludlum, Ice and Nguyen, (2013) assumed that higher study overseas is expensive. . So, the high cost of study overseas is discouraging students to participate (pursuing higher study overseas)

Accommodation and financial issues are the big problem for the students who want to pursue post graduate program in overseas. Sometimes this problem make the students afraid to pursue post graduate program in overseas. Students who want to study overseas should prepare well whether their accommodation is done or not. For example, if the student's accommodation is being provided by the campus, the students should ensure well that the accommodation is enough as long as studying in overseas. Our life and everything needs are covered by the accommodation. It means that as long as our accommodation is fixes, we can more safety to study overseas. Parto also stated "The problem is accommodation (financial) because the currency each country is different". Silvia (2016) explained that there are students who cannot survive to study Overseas because financial problems. Furthermore, the statement was proven by Heisel and Kissler (2010) that the role of tuition is crucial because it will cover students' live".

Usually the university offers financial aids as the alternative for the students which is good for the students who face the problem in accommodation (tuition fee). In the other hand, because the accommodation is about students' life, students can take part time job as long as the part time does not disturb the study. It is in line with Weidman (2016) that stated books, room and boards, tuitions, travel expenses, bills, transportation, and all of living cost is very expensive if the student do not take part time jobs during their study overseas. In conclusion, the problem above indicated that financial problem is very crucial for the students who want to pursue higher study overseas. The students should prepare well if they want to study overseas safely.

Finding 2: Difficult Adaptation. Another finding suggest that culture problem is one of the common problem that will be faced by the student of English Language Department of one of private university in Yogyakarta batch 2014 if they want to pursue post graduate program in overseas. Different culture may give benefit and also become problem for the students who pursue post graduate program in overseas. It is happened because different culture require the students to adapt with the condition. Thus, it was in line with Weidman (2016) that stated the kinds of culture differences are food, religion, transportation system, dress and shift of culture. Nindya said “The problem of pursuing higher study overseas is different culture because study overseas required the adaptation with the new society we never meet. Indeed, Nindya also stated “The problem if we pursue higher study overseas is adaptation. We have to adapt with the weather, food and the season”. Nindya added “The adaption with education system (program and academic procedure) is also problem for students who want to pursue higher study overseas.”While, Azalea also argued “Another problem if we want to study overseas is adaptation to live (daily activity)”.

For the first time the students come to another country, perhaps they will be shocked shock with the real difference culture. Local culture, foods and also the weather will be problem for the students who don't really ready to face the condition.one of the example is food. Maybe it will hard to find the halal food in the place we study. Another problem is about rice. It was happened if Indonesian students do not eat rice, it is same that they eat nothing. Moreover, different culture will lead the students feel frustration, anxiety, and homesickness. Wu,Garza and Guzman (2015) confirmed that culture shock is condition when the students are unfamiliar with the local culture. Students are shocked because local culture in a foreign country is very different with the students' own culture. Niehaus and Crain (2013) confirmed that students who study overseas will have more culture shock than student who study in local

Finding a decent place to live overseas is not easy. Although the students has searched information about the place where they will stay, of course the students also need to adapt for the first time. Adaptation in the other place is not easy. Parto argued that “I think adapt with the environment, find the best (suitable place) and find new friends are the hard problem We leave our country and live in the other country”.Parto added “Of course, the problem is finding the halal food. We are Indonesian and mostly Indonesian will find halal food “.This condition like when we will start new life. Finding new friends, neighbors and also favorite place for our self. The problems such as being frustrated because they have to speak with local people who has different language accent or the way how the local people treat the students are the examples of problem should be paid attention by the students who want to study overseas. It was in line with algamdi and otte (2016) explained that if the students cannot adapt and being socialize where the pursue post graduate program in overseas, it will be problem for the students.

Finding 3: Language barrier. The last perceived problems mentioned by the students if the student want to pursue post graduate program overseas is language barrier. As Parto mentioned “If we want to pursuing higher study overseas, of course the problem is language barrier”. As international students that use English as communication, the students have to understand that language barrier is the biggest problem if they cannot master the language. Language is a key for the students to pursue higher study overseas.

It is consequently, if the students cannot mastering the language, the students will be hard to follow the learning process. If they cannot follow the learning process of the study well, the student will get bed score. Besides, the students will live the society where they use English as the language communication. Language is one of the important thing should be mastered. Weidman (2016) that stated that language barrier exist in every country. in the other hand, Mori (as cited in Alghamdi & Suzanne Otte,2016) stated that the majority of

international students have problems in the language difficulties. In the other hand, we live in the society where the society use local language for communication. Thus , Students are required to mastering the language especially english language as the common language.

Conclusion

To summarize, students of one private university in Yogyakarta batch 2014 thought that pursuing post graduate program overseas is important for them. The students will get perceive benefit a lot when they want to pursue post graduate program overseas. becoming open-minded, getting better education system, getting network, getting personal development, gaining new culture and gaining more experiences are the specific perceived benefits that students believed if the students can pursue post graduate program overseas.

In addition, as the students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta, the perceived benefits of the students was capable enough to study overseas because of their background as the English Language Education Department students. The important of pursuing post graduate program overseas and perceived benefit of study overseas will help them to be better students and will give them experiences as the student who study in different country. It means that because the students got experiences, the student will be more open-minded and also skillful to teach the students in the future when they become lecturer.

However, besides the perceived benefits students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta batch 2014. The students also believed that there are perceived problems will occur when they pursue post graduate program overseas. The perceived problem was found such as accommodation, difficult adaptation and language barrier need to be pay attention by the students. The students should prepare well anything needs and possibilities that will be faced.

To sum up, the perceptions of the students of English Language Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta are different. It means that one participant and other participants have different perception about pursuing post graduate program overseas. The researcher analyzed that the cause which make the students have different perception about pursuing post graduate program overseas is likely of the background knowledge of the students.

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