Abstract

Learning English language is a process for students to master English as good as possible. International students exchange program is one program that can help students practice and improve their English ability. This research aimed to explore the benefits and the challenges of joining international students exchange program in the process of learning English language in English Language Education Department of Islamic Private University in Yogyakarta. This research used descriptive qualitative method as the research design. This study used interview as the data collection method. The instrument used in this research was interview guideline. The number of participants in this research was three students of English Language Education Department of Islamic Private University in Yogyakarta. The first finding was about the benefit of joining international students exchange program in the process of learning English language. It showed that joining international student exchange program helped students to get international friends, interact with native English speakers, practice and improve students’ English skills, and increase self-confidence. The second finding was about the challenges of joining international students exchange program in the process of leaning English language. It showed that joining international students exchange program made students do not understand the local language, struggled to communicate with local people outside of campus, and experienced culture shocked.

Keywords: Students exchange program, Learning English language, perception.