

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction of this research. Here, the researcher discusses the research background, the statement of the problem, research questions, research purposes, research significance and outline of the research. The content of this research is provided as follows.

Background of the Research

Majority of our learning randomly occurs by many occasions, such as reading a daily newspaper, or having conversation with friends and unexpected experience. Dewey , Piaget , and Vygotsky as cited in Manding (2016) argued that “learning is a process of engaging and manipulating object, experiences, and conversation in order to build mental models of the world” (p. 1). The learners acquire their knowledge by having a certain kind of activities and make connection between new knowledge and prior knowledge. . Learning is an unconscious activity that constantly happens during daily activities. Gagne, as cited in Walter, Carey, and Carey (2015) said that “learning is both external and internal” (p. 174) . According to Gagne further, learning is internal, occurring in the mind of the learner and also external because it needs stimulus to guide the internal process.

Learning environment plays a huge part in someone’s learning. Learning environment provide both stimulus to comprehend a new information and assistance from more knowledgeable peer. The researcher believes that English

language learning is a combination of constructing the knowledge by ourselves or being taught by a teacher in formal education setting. A person might construct his knowledge by listening to music, watching movies, reading novels or having conversation with the natives and being taught by a teacher in a formal education setting. Katy (as cited in Mbaga, 2015), proposed that “interaction is the best method for those beginning to learn English language” (p. 2). During interaction, learners receive input and produces output. In this context, learners get opportunity to use the language naturally rather than memorizing dialogues and pattern practices.

There are two types of learning environment, which are formal learning environment and informal learning environment. Formal learning environment is commonly used in a specific institution, such as universities and schools that is intended for teaching learning purposes. Formal education works on a systematic and organized classroom with a set of rules and norms that plays as goals (Dib, 1988, p. 1). In the other hand, informal learning environment is not intended for teaching and learning purposes, for example tourism places and shopping centers. Informal education does not follow a set of rules and norms and usually the learner shapes the systematic and organized the materials by themselves (Dib, 1988, p. 6).

Learning could happen in formal and informal setting. For example, a person could be taught by someone in the classroom and another formal education setting, or he could construct the knowledge himself by experiences that he has. Hall and Walsh (2002) saw the language learning activity as a social activity that

learners build their own set of knowledge by experiences and the assistance of more knowledgeable peers or teacher.

Malioboro Street is a very popular tourism place in Yogyakarta city. Many people go to Malioboro Street because there are so many shops that sell unique souvenirs in cheap price. Many foreigners from different places go to Yogyakarta city, not only from Indonesia, but also from abroad. Because the foreigner also comes from another country, the merchant and the foreigner have to find a communication method. Therefore, English language is needed as lingua franca. English as lingua franca is an additional language that is serve as a method to establish a communication with other speaker with different first language (Seidlhofer, 2001).

Malioboro Street is both the workplace and learning environment of the merchants. Malioboro Street becomes the place that the merchant learns and learns the skills that are required to their job. When in informal learning environment, learning occurs in form of problem solving and social interaction with peers or customer, (Manuti, Pastore, Scradigno, Giancaspro, & Morciano, 2015). In addition Manuti, et al., stated that the merchant could learn skills that are required for their job by having interactions in the workplace with some customers.

The researcher observes Malioboro Street many times. The researcher found out that some of Malioboro merchant could speak English well when they have a transaction with a foreign tourist. The researcher is interested to know their experience in learning English language and how they perceive their language

learning. Based on the background above, the researcher is interested to conduct a study on the perception of Malioboro merchant towards their English language learning.

Statement of the Problem

The Malioboro Merchant may in the past never learn English language before or maybe they learn but very little amount of English language. When they work as a merchant in Malioboro Street, they get an opportunity to learn English directly from the foreign tourist. The merchants of Malioboro became able to speak in English language. This phenomenon leads the researcher to conduct a research about how the merchants of Malioboro perceive about their English language learning and how is their experience in learning English in an environment that is often visited by foreigners.

The reason behind this phenomenon is interesting to be studied. The perception of the individual is the key to uncover this phenomenon. By conducting this research, the researcher could know the perception of Malioboro merchant learning in English language in a contextual setting and how they learn English language. There are perceptions of the subject of this research towards their English language learning. The researcher focuses to reveal the experiences of the subject in learning English and how is their perception toward the role of foreign tourist in learning English.

Research Question

There are two research questions that under the research about the perception of Malioboro merchants on their English language learning:

1. How did Malioboro merchants learn English language?
2. What are the perceptions of Malioboro merchants towards the role of foreign tourists in Malioboro Street for their English language learning?

Purpose of the Research

This research is aimed to reveal how Malioboro merchants learn English language and to reveal their perceptions towards the role of foreign tourist in Malioboro Street in their English language learning.

Significance of the Research

Hopefully after the research is done, it gains much significance from many aspects. The significances of the research are for other researcher, other merchants, teacher and pre-service teachers, and the government. The following significances are:

For other researchers, the significance of this research for other researcher is the result of this research as references for any research in similar theme. The results of this research, hopefully, other researcher could overcome some problem or to justify their statement. The findings in this research could help other researcher by examining in wider area. The other significance is to encourage other researcher to conduct a research in similar theme.

For other merchants, the result of this research could be beneficial for other merchants that have similar conditions to the participants. Other merchants could use the strategies that found from this research as a guide for them to learn English language. Hopefully, by applying the strategies could found from this research, there will be improvement for other merchants in their English learning.

For educational practitioners, the findings of this research also could be used as considerations for the teacher to design a new teaching method based on students' special needs. By adapting the strategies that is found in this research, the teaching and learning process might be more effective. The other significance for the teacher and pre-service teacher is to reflect themselves while teaching, so it can fulfil the students' needs.

For the government, the result of this research can help the government to develop some kind of policy that gives the beneficial for the merchants. By knowing their perceptions, problems and challenges, the government could make a policy that supports the merchants' English language learning.

Outline of the Research

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction consisting of background, statement of the problem, research question, and purpose of the research, significance of the research and the outline of the research. The second chapter describes about the literature review. In this chapter, there are several topics that will be discussed. The topics are learning, formal and informal learning, learning strategies, English in Indonesian tourism, conceptual framework. Then the third chapter explains the research methodology that used to

collect and analyze the data that has been gathered. In the chapter four present the findings and data analyze of the research. Finally, the last chapter tells about the conclusion, and suggestions.