

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction of the study. This chapter is divided into five (5) sections: background of the study, identification of the problem, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, and the significances of the study.

Background of the study

English language proficiency consists of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Nevertheless, among these four skills, speaking seems to be a fundamental need that should be mastered by students of ESL (English as a second language) and EFL (English as a Foreign language). It is because of the development of science, especially literature demands in which all people have to be able to communicate using English as one of the international languages. As Nazara (2011) stated that for several reasons, speaking has always been considered as the most essential skill to be mastered. Therefore, many educational institutions in Indonesia provide English lesson to improve students' English proficiency. In addition, in order to encourage students' motivation to learn English, some schools facilitate various kinds of English activities for their students, one of the examples is Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (MMMY) is an Islamic boarding school in Yogyakarta. In developing religious and intellectual students,

MMMY also provides many activities which are strongly helpful for the students in encouraging their ability to master English speaking skill, for example the Tourist Hunting Program.

The Tourist Hunting Program (THP) is one of the English speaking activities which has function to emphasize students' English speaking skill improvement. While joining the activity, the students are prepared and guided by an English teacher to go to some tourism places in Yogyakarta to find and to interact with English native speakers. This activity will automatically challenge the students as an EFL students to learn English with native English speakers directly as well as get to know how native speakers use the target language confidently and fluently in the context of daily conversation. This program is aimed to improve students' English speaking skill. Moreover, the main goal of this program is to help students solve nerve and fear of making mistakes in the context of grammatical structure in speaking, and encourage students become more confident to speak English with native speakers.

In 2015, the members of THP consisted of 70 students from different grades that were the students of MTs. (junior high school students) and the students of MA. (senior high school students). Nevertheless, the members who are still active in joining the program until 2016 consist of 30 students from different grades. The program is held three (3) times a week. On Sunday, they have some practices in the school as the preparation before hunting tourists. Besides, on Monday afternoon and on Friday morning until midday, they have an agenda that is to practice their English speaking skill by hunting tourists in some tourism

places such as Malioboro, Borobudur, and sometimes they do the tourists hunting on the bus nearby *Ngabeyan* bus station. They all collaborate together and are divided into some groups, then they are spread away to different places in order to meet English native speakers.

Even though the Tourist Hunting Program has been implemented for about five (5) years, it has not been supported and evaluated well. As the result, MMMY does not really know whether the program has run well or not, whether the program can give contribution toward students' English proficiency or not. Seeing this circumstance, the researcher is interested in conducting the research in order to know students' perceptions on Tourist Hunting Program conducted at MTs. Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (MTMMY).

Identification of the problem

This research discusses students' perception on the Tourist Hunting Program as their English speaking activity at MTs. Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

Based on the researcher's observation in the formal class when he teaches the students at MMMY, the researcher sees some problems faced by the students. Those students' problems are for examples: first, students have less enthusiasm to participate in the classroom activity. Second, many of them get difficulty to practice their English speaking ability. Third, while trying to show their English speaking ability, most of the students get stuck and get difficulty to convey their ideas. Those kinds of problems are faced by students of MMMY. Besides, the

researcher also find that the English teacher as one of students` facilitators or guides in running THP also get difficulty to control the students in the field by himself. This is the reason why that English teacher is always accompanied and helped by the students of senior high school (students MA. Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta) in order to control and manage the students who are joining the program.

Limitation of the study

Based on the facts that happen, the researcher is interested in discovering and analyzing the students` perception regarding the implementation of the Hunting Tourist Program whether this program gives benefits for students or not. The researcher focuses on the students` perception when conducting Tourist Hunting Program, especially on its advantages and problems faced by the students of MTMMY. The goal of the research is to know students` perception toward THP conducted at MTMMY.

Formulation of the problems

There are two research questions discussed in the research:

1. What are the advantages of the Tourist Hunting Program as an experiential learning in speaking activity as perceived by the students of MTMMY?
2. What problems are faced by the students of MTMMY in conducting Tourist Hunting Program in the field?

Purpose of the study

Related to the formulation of the problems, there are two purposes of the research:

1. To reveal the advantages of the Tourist Hunting Program as an experiential learning in speaking activity as perceived by the students of MTMMY.
2. To investigate kinds of problems that are faced by students of MTMMY in conducting the Tourist Hunting Program in the field.

Significance of the study

This research is expected to give many contributions for the researcher, Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta as the institution that conducts the Tourist Hunting Program, the teachers, the students, and other researchers.

For the institution, MTMMY. In this research, the researcher reveals the advantages and the problems in holding The Tourist Hunting Program conducted by the students of MTMMY. By the explanation of the research results, MTMMY can compare and manage the strengths and the weaknesses of using experiential learning approach as their alternative way of teaching and learning process. Next, the school can pay more attention to evaluate and support this Tourist Hunting Program well.

For English teachers. This research gives information to the English teachers of MTMMY about the advantages and the problems of using the experiential learning activity, such as the THP can become English teachers' consideration to solve potential obstacles that might happen in implementing such

learning approach. Besides, this research also give a comprehension that the THP as one of the English outside classroom activities might help and influence students' attention and interest to learn the English.

For the researcher. This research is very important for the researcher as the candidate of English teacher at MMY. It is because from the result of this research, the researcher is able to know the advantages and the problems of the THP and it can become researcher's consideration and anticipation to handle the program for the students. Therefore, the researcher can give significant contribution for the school to show the role of the THP as their additional English learning practice in MMY. Moreover, accomplishing this research gives the researcher many insights into some advantages of conducting the outside classroom English learning activity that can become a reference for the next researcher's research.

For the student. This research gives many benefits and information for the students of MMY about THP. It is because from the result of this research, the students can know the advantages and the problems of the THP and it can become students's consideration and anticipation to handle this program in the field. Due to which, the students can have positive values about THP as their additional English learning practice conducted by MMY.

For other researchers. This research can be a good reference for other researchers who have the similar research topics dealing with English speaking activity. Moreover, this THP enables the researcher and other researchers to

research more about this study which is interesting to be investigated and analyzed.