

Chapter One

Introduction

The researcher presents several points related to the main problems of this research. This chapter discusses the background of the study, identification of the study and limitation of the study, research question, purpose of the study and significance of the study.

Background

A vocational school or vocational education is a kind of school that is expected the students to master certain expertise, and it is designed to prepare the students for being ready to work after graduating. According to Indonesian Law No. 20/2003 on the System of National Education, vocational education is an education that prepares the students for being ready to work as their expertise after graduating. Thus, the vocational education is designed to enable the students to directly do the practical activities dealing with the learners' course. Vocational schools in Indonesia are recognized as *Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan* (SMK). SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping is one of the vocational schools in Indonesia. The SMK provides the students some study programs to master certain skills. The provided programs are fashion design, automotive, and mechanical engineering classes.

Based on the Regulation of Ministry of Education and Culture number 70 (2013), English is one of the required learning subjects to prepare students for facing the challenges in the international competition. Mastering English brings

many advantages to the students and will assist them to job easily. At SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping, English becomes an important subject to be taught because most of the companies require both written and spoken English skills.

However, Bas and Gezegin (2015) stated that within the learning environment every learner holds several perspectives including different impressions, manners, and outlooks. At English class, each student has different English proficiency level on understanding the materials so that they also have different outcomes. Indeed, teachers sometimes find that some students are interested in English learning but the other students seem uninterested.

Students' perceptions on English learning may support or hinder the process. As stated by Konings, Gruwel and Merrienboer (2005) that student perceptions are used as the means of examining the learning impacts. Then, to fulfill the learning process effectively, an English teacher should know students' various individual perceptions on the English subject at vocational school. It aims at seeking the deficiency in English learning process in order that the teacher could improve teaching methods.

Hutchinson and Waters as cited in Ayuningtyas (2015) stated that any subject should be built based on an observation on learners' needs. In order the language learning process could be engaged effectively, students' perceptions should be used to identify students' problems and interests. Then, the teacher should know what students need to develop their English learning awareness. Based on some afore mentioned reasons and descriptions, the researcher proposed

a study of students' perception at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping batch 2015/2016 of grade X on English lesson.

Identification and Limitation of the Problem

Based on the researcher's observation during her teaching practice at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping, she found out that only 6 to 10 of 25 students at a class attended the English class. Then, the researcher had a question about what the problems that caused this case were. The researcher was interested in widely exploring English lesson at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping related to the learning process and the materials so that she determined to research students' perceptions in this school on English teaching learning process and the materials that they used. This study was expected to reveal students' feelings and opinion on English lesson whether or not it was difficult and interesting. Besides, this study also aimed at revealing the problems and creating the teaching learning process more effectively in the future.

In doing this research, the researcher limited the research problem by analyzing students' perceptions on English lesson at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping grade X. The limitation of the problem on English lesson included the teaching learning process and the material used. This limitation was based on the problems that the researcher found in the school. Meanwhile, the limitation of selecting grade X to be examined was based on the recommendation from an English teacher at the SMK. The limitation also aimed at easing the researcher in doing the research.

Robbins and Judge (2013) stated that in the perceptions there are three factors, namely factor of target, situation and perceiver. This study concerned with the perceptions on the factor of perceiver towards the learning process and materials of English Lesson. In this study, the students' perception was based on the attitudes, motive, interest, experience, and expectation. Besides, the researcher also tried to investigate whether or not the students had problems and interests in English learning process and materials.

Research Questions

Based on the background above, the research questions were formulated as follows:

1. What are the students' perceptions on teaching learning process of English Lesson at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping?
2. What are the students' perceptions on the materials of English Lesson used in the classroom at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping?

Purposes of the Study

1. The researcher attempted to know students' perceptions on English lesson related to teaching learning process at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping.
2. This study aimed at revealing students' perceptions on the materials of English lesson used at SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping.

Significance of the Study

The research findings of students' perceptions on English lesson give t benefits to the students, the teachers and the researchers.

The students. For the students of SMK Muhammadiyah Gamping, the research findings are expected to be able to represent their opinions or suggestions for English Lesson. Further, the students are expected to be able to share their needs and opinions on English lesson with their teachers. Then, the result of this study hopefully can help them to have better English learning in the future.

The teachers. This study hopefully can help English teachers to know what problems may appear as the obstacles at English learning process and materials. The teachers can use the research findings as guidance in English learning process. The teachers can also create good communication with students or share one another since it is one of the keys of success in teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the English teachers could find the failure of the materials used and improve the lesson.

The researcher. The findings of this study can be guidance for the researcher as the candidate of a future teacher since the data provide new knowledge of some problems that may appear in English teaching and learning process. Besides, the result of this study can be used by the researcher as the measurement of English teaching and learning process and materials used in the future.