

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents: (1) the background, (2) the problems of the study, (3) the objectives of the study, and (4) the significance of the study.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

As a global language, English plays great roles in many aspects of life. According to Mauranen & Ranta (2009), English has set up its situation as the worldwide most widely used language, it has become one of images within recent memory, together with globalization, networking, economic, integration, and the internet. Herlina & Holandyah (2016) added that English is an international language. It is used by many people in the world for different purposes such as to communicate to other people from different countries and provide a means for exchanging knowledge. In conclusion, it is widely known that English is an international language and it has many interrelations various aspects of people's life.

In teaching and learning English, there are several skill and abilities that influence the success of the English learning process. Harmer (2001), said that they are known as productive skills which include writing and speaking and receptive skills which include reading and listening Also, those skills are taught with different methodology and technique since each has a different objective. Furthermore, those two are not the only factors to achieve the successful learning process. Shams (2008) stated that factors such as motivation, attitudes, anxiety, learning achievement, intelligence, personality, and age are also should be

considered in the learning process. Therefore, one of the factors of a successful teaching and learning English is students' attitudes.

Attitude is one of the considerable factors in learning since it can influence language learning. Attitude plays an essential factor which can influence language performance since this is slightly correlated to the theory of Picken (2005) that attitudes allow us to see situation also to behave toward situation or object. Also, attitude is the way of someone's thinking and feeling toward something. It is supported that attitude is as set of beliefs that learners have toward the language they learn. In other words, attitude deals with how someone's feeling, thinking, and behaving toward something. In language learning. Attitude can be defined as learner's feeling about language learning given and influenced by learning ability. The attitude may be positive or negative towards the language. When someone learns a language and his attitude is positive, the attitude will be followed by a good action and indicate a good result in studying the language. In contrast, the negative attitude is followed by negative action. So, the result of language study will be surely bad. Hence, attitude will be on the list of consideration as a factor affecting on language learning.

There are several componenets that make up attitudes. Baker (1992) argued that there are three parts of attitude components. They are cognitive component concerns thoughts and beliefs. For instance, someone learns English because he believes that English is an important language. The affective component refers to feelings towards the attitude object (e.g English). The feeling may be love or hate to the language. The last component of attitude is readiness

for action or conative. It is a behavioral intention. It is concluded that a person who has a good conative in English, for instance, will use English frequently in speaking.

In this research, I observed the language attitude of students MA in Palembang towards English. Khoir (2014) stated that the students seldom use English as a communication tool with their classmates. The statement showed that that the students have problem with the attitude towards the language which is being learnt by them. Although, they learn English in school, it does not mean they have positive attitude towards the language. They may have negative attitude.

Also, either it is positive or negative attitude, both will sometimes occur in a teaching-learning process due to some factors toward an object or situation. Long (2016) stated that every attitude has different function or role, but it always relates to one another. Linked with the idea stated regarding attitudes, it also can be seen as real phenomena toward teaching and learning process in the school based on the experience of the writer. I noticed that some students join the class enthusiastically and enjoyably which can be proven with the good interaction with the teachers. For example, the discussion between the teachers and the students are active, and some students also show good performances and achievements. Additionally, some students also tend to be silent or passive and less of enthusiasm and discipline in the learning. For example, the students only join the class and do not involve in the discussion, or some students do not do the assignments or homework. With that phenomenon, learning process in class does

not achieve satisfying result since students have those kinds of attitudes. Therefore, it can be concluded that every student in that class might has different attitudes in learning English regardless it is positive or negative. Revealed form the phenomenon about various attitudes showed by students, it raises researcher's curiosity to explore more about student's attitudes in learning English as a foreign language. However in my preliminary study show that the fact. Some students have enthusiasm to join the class of English learning. That can be seen with the good interaction between teacher and students. And some students have tendency to be quiet and not interested in language learning. Where this research purpose is investigating the attitude of students and aiming the students to have a good way of learning English to achieve the successful.

There is a previous related studies concerning to students attitude in English learning. Shameen (2015) revealed that the learners are not confused as to what they want or expect from English language class, so the student's success or failure in in their own hands. On the other hand, the attitude is a vital factor to success the English learning.

From the problems occurred above, in the consideration of theories discussed previously, I predicted that the student's language attitude are the cause of these problems. Thus, this study aims to investigate attitudes of the students of MA Al-Ittifaqiyah Indralaya.

1.2 Problem of The Study

In this research, the problem are formulated into the following questions:

1. How is the English language attitude among EFL students of MA Al-Ittifaqiah Indralaya toward language learning.

1.3 Objective of The Study

this paper aims to describe:

1. The language attitude toward English language learning among EFL students of Ma Al-ittifaqiah Indralaya.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Theoretically, the research about language attitude has been done over the world, but it is still interested to be discussed considering the people's behavior which is dynamic and different in different social settings. It can be influenced by some factors whether internal or external. Practically, this research is significant to help the students to know their attitude rate towards English in order they can take decision wisely how they should behave to the language that is being learnt and apply it in daily life. For the teachers, in teaching and learning process, teachers act as an important role since they will be a facilitator in class which will guide and teach students. Having this role, teachers must fulfill standard qualification like good pedagogical knowledge, and one of the components that also deal with pedagogical knowledge is student's attitude. Thus, this research will especially provide some information about student's attitude either it is positive or negative in learning English as a foreign language, so that teachers will

gain more information about it and know how to handle gaps or problems that might be encountered in class. For other researchers, it can stimulate them to do more researches relating to the language attitude with a different thing and also student's attitudes toward English have its concern because those will always be faced in teaching and learning activity. For some people who might be interested in researching about attitudes, this research will be one of resources that provide information, such as finding, literature, or some cases. For me, as the researcher, this study would intend to increase my own comprehension about language attitude and gives him valuable experience in conducting a research.