

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents: (1) background, (2) research problem, (3) research objective, and (4) significance of this study.

#### **1.1 Background**

Language is as a tool to connect the people in different places and cultures, so language is very important to communicate and used to deliver messages. According to O'Brien (2006), language is a system which is used by all people in a culture to communicate or interact, because if the people used clear language, it can make another will be easy to learning and get the point what the people talk about. Additionally, Larsen (2003) states that language is a way used to interact between people and make contact with others. Pointedly, language is needed for human life to communicate, and used to tell others what to do, and the very important to create good language learning.

Learning English is learned very seriously by many students, and realizing that English is important many people want to study because if English is mastered, it will be easy to communicate with other people in the world. Richards (2015) states that more people learning English today in the history of the world because English as important role for human's life to communication (as cited in Marzulina et al., 2021). According to Lie (2007), learning English is well thought as the most vital and influential language in the world, because English is one of compulsory learned in junior high school to university. Haycraft (1999) states that in learning English, there are various skills that should be mastered by many students, such as writing skills,

reading skills, listening skills, and speaking skills. Therefore, learning English is very learned seriously by many people, because learning English don't focus on just one skill but all skills in English lesson.

In learning English, there are several sources of the difficulties because English is not an easy to learn and caused by several problems. According to Basri (2018) and Ratminingsih (2017), the difficulties often faced by students in facing English learning are difficulties in understanding text and understanding language skills. In addition, Sintadewi et. al. (2020) states that one of the problems in learning English is the students that English is difficult and boring subject, so that many students do not like English lesson and even make English as one of the lessons that have difficulty understanding the material presented and have an impact on its low English achievement. According to Marzulina et. al. (2018), learning English is not an easy to process, because there are several difficulties in learning English are unmotivated, students' lack of confidence, and English foundation background. Moreover, Baker (1998) states that the language errors usually occur in the second language learners, because pronunciation problems faced by English language learners may be due to different elements between English and Indonesian language. Then, Corder (1997) states that there are three main causes of error in learning a second language, namely: (1) language transfer, (2) Intralingual, and (3) teaching technique or materials. Therefore, to overcome some of these problems, the students must apply several ways in order to be able to receive the material given by the teachers, it is important because the purpose of learning is to create a pleasant learning atmosphere.

In learning English, the most important is the students must be active and accustomed to learning English before learning English activities are carried out. According to Witherington (1999), learning is a change in personality that expresses itself as a new pattern rather than a reaction that shapes skills, attitudes, habit, intelligence because the understanding of the material provided by the teacher depends on the student's mindset. Additionally, Moller (2015) states that language learning focuses on imitation, practice, encouragement, and habit formation because when students are able to apply these methods it can make it easier for students to learn English. According to Ur (1996), there are two main components of teaching the language that is the 'what' and the 'how'. This focuses on linguistic aspect such as the sound or pronunciation, the teaching of grammar and teaching vocabulary. Then, focuses on the four skills such as listening, writing, speaking, and reading. Those component imply what students will master when they learn language such as English, and at the same time can be source of problem for some students along with the teaching process and methods and motivation of the learner's or students in mastering English as a foreign language. The subject of the study focuses on the evaluation of problems when studying English in the classroom. Therefore, the activeness of student's skills is needed in learning English. So that an effective and efficient teaching is needed so that students can achieve the desired learning.

In relation to this, a preliminary study was conducted at SMP Adabiyah Palembang through an informal interview with the English teacher at seventh grade of SMP Adabiyah Palembang. It showed that there are some problems that was found at

SMP Adabiyah Palembang in learning English for instance, the students' difficulties in vocabulary mastery, so it affects students' ability in English. (N, personal communication, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Otherwise, an informal interview conducted with two of seventh grade students at SMP Adabiyah Palembang revealed that in learning English, they preferred to be silent during ongoing lesson (N. L, personal communication, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Then, the student felt confused when the teacher delivers the material (A. F, personal communication, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Consequently, the result of the preliminary study about an analysis of students' learning difficulties in English lesson becomes the main concern of this research.

In addition, there have been numerous previous studies which showed students' learning difficulties in English lesson. First, a study conducted by Sintadewi et. al. (2020) revealed that the students experienced difficulty learning English, the English lesson is boring subject, the students less motivated, less interested in taking English lessons, and the teacher does not use teaching aids and the methods used are less varied and not innovative. Then, a study by Rachmawati (2018) states that there are the students' faced English learning difficulties, this caused by: the first difficult was school factor, there are seven component of school factor consists of how teacher deliver the material, teacher infrastructure, the relationship between teacher and students, the condition of rooms, the rules, and the condition of school environment. From the results of component from school factor our research, there are some indicators that are not appropriate. The second difficult was family factor, there are five component of family factor consists of the parents attention of education, parents

motivation, learning situation, infrastructure, and condition of family environment. From the results of component from family factor our research, there are some indicators that are not in accordance with the reality so that the students' learning difficulties, especially learning English. The last difficult was environmental factor, there are three component of environmental factor consists of attitude, the influence of friends about learning motivation, and students attitude outside school activities. From the results of component from environmental factor our research, there are some indicators that the influence of friends on the spirit of learning was very less. The last related study by Sultra and Baharudin (2020) showed that the level of students' learning achievement is low, and the students' difficulty in learning English is due to the lack of students motivation to learn English it appears that the students not studying enough for the English course, lack of linguistic knowledge and the students show reluctance to learn especially in increasing their English vocabulary, and the last factor is that teacher strategy, and parental support.

As the result, this phenomenon encourages the researcher to conduct a similar research about students' learning difficulties in English lesson at SMP Adabiyah Palembang. This research aims to find out what are students' difficulties in learning English. Next, the researcher chose this school because it is one of the popular school in Palembang. Therefore, a research was conducted entitle "An Analysis of Students' Learning Difficulties in English Lesson at SMP Adabiyah Palembang".

## **1.2 Problem of the Study**

Based on the background, the research problem was formulated in the following question: What were the difficulties faced by students in learning English at SMP Adabiyah Palembang?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the research problem, the objective of this study was to find out the difficulties faced by students in learning English at SMP Adabiyah Palembang.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study are expected to give beneficial contribution for some ideas. This research gives an explanation of the students' difficulties in learning English and also know what are the difficulties that students encounter in learning English. After knowing everything, and encourage the students to be more spirit in learning English, the teacher must find good strategies to solve all aspects of the problem students in learning English process.

The second, the students to know the difficulties that they faced in learning English, and the students are motivated to learn English. Then, they can try to solve the problem. Not only change their bad habits, mindset and their perception about learning English language but also the students can study hard and be more diligent in order to overcome their difficulties. After that, they can be more interested to study English.

Third was for the researcher, this research can give many advantages and information about what are the students' difficulties in learning English. The result of this research can help me to know and analyze the difficulties that affected the students. In the next time, the students can be more interested to study English.

The last, this research expected to give a contribution for others researcher to get knowledge about students difficulties in learning English, and to help others researcher as the guidance in developing their research in the same field.