

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to find out the underprivileged students' difficulties in learning English at SMP Negeri 1 Muara Padang, Banyuasin. The participants of the study were eight students of eight grade at SMP Negeri 1 Muara Padang, Banyuasin, which was chosen by using purposeful sampling. In this study, the writer used a qualitative case study, in which interview was used to collect the data. In addition, in order to find out the difficulties encountered by the underprivileged students in learning English, the data gained from the interview was analyzed by using thematic analysis. The findings showed that there were five difficulties that underprivileged students faced in learning English, such as: 1) afraid of learning English, 2) lack of English mastery, 3) lack of reading ability 4) unsuitable textbooks, and 5) lack of practice.

Keywords: *underprivileged students, difficulties in learning English*