

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter deals with the research background, research question, research objectives, scope of the research, research benefits and definition of research term.

#### **1.1. Research Background**

Language is the medium to communicate with each other; with it, we can express ideas, feelings, and emotions. And if wondering about language in the current world then English is one of the most used languages in our present world. As people from all over the world have their own local or national language, English as an International language to communicate has an important role to break the barrier among the differences. Thus, it means language is a medium to achieve a success in global communication.

English as Foreign Language (EFL) is introduced in Indonesia at the primary level and it continues till the highest level of education which is the University level. At present, English is introduced differently from one place to another place. Commonly, in the city area, people introduce English to children at age 4-5 years old, when they enter kindergarten. It is then followed up in elementary, then secondary school. The people in the cities or urban areas tend to have a good English skill. On contrary, the people in rural have poor English language skills. As the domino effect, this lack of skills, impact to the job opportunity of rural people can enter because English skill is one of the competencies most needed in lot of company. It is in line with the statement from career development expert Andi Lumbantoruan which published in Kompas by M. Idris on May 02, 2020 that lot of companies prefer receive curriculum vitae in English which represents the applicant's skill.

Rural area can't explain in a specific definition, it has more than one definition. The concept of rural meaning is different in one to another place. Generally, rural is an

area that has agriculture as the main activities and typically has a low population density and small settlements. It means people who live in the rural area have low economic growth and low professional human resource. It is in line with the statement of Bagja Waluya in his unpublished paper entitled "Rural Community". He wrote "*Aktivitas perekonomian yang rata rata di sector pertanian yang belum pasti, membuat kehidupan perekonomian juga tidak pasti*" (Waluya, 2009). It can be translated as "the economic activity in the agricultural sector is uncertain, it makes the economic condition of people also uncertain." The economic condition of the rural people impacts their education quality in general, including English skills in a specific term. Rural area based on agriculture, and limited access of job opportunity make rural has higher number of underemployment and unemployment. In summary, rural area is an area where the people are economically depending on agriculture as their main income and has low financial capability as result of limited access in higher education and job opportunity.

Bantul Regency of Yogyakarta province has the largest amount of poverty, at 139,590 impoverished individuals, of all the regions in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia, 2018). Lack of education is considered to be one of the major contributing factors to people living below the poverty line. The average amount of time attending school for the parents in poor families is 6.65 years, which is leaving school before graduating from Primary school. A lack of academic and vocational training majorly limits the earning power of these people.

Nadiem M. Karim, the current Indonesian education and cultural minister, in his first speech in front of education and culture department staff, mentions that Mastering English in school is mandatory because, through English, students will able to consume world content through internet and online windows (Rahman, 2019). In that so, English is a skill that needs to be mastered by all students to be able to compete globally. It has huge part to change people future; then finding out the reason why rural people tends to have poor English skill is important. To find the reason, measuring the students'

level of interest in English in rural area is one big step achieving a global competency for rural students to avoid underemployment haunting future.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

After identifying the problems, the research questions are formulated as follows.

1. How is the interest level of students in rural area to learn English?
2. What is the impact of revealing interest level of English in rural area?

## **1.3. Research Objective**

This research is conducted in effort to achieve the study objectives which are:

1. To reveal the interest level of students in rural area to learn English.
2. To find the impact of the interest level of learning English in rural area.

## **1.4. Scope of the Research**

This research on revealing the student's level of English interest in the rural area setting in SMP Islam Prestasi Al Mubtadi ien. This school located in Karangmojo village, Trenggeng District, Bantul Regency ([www.smpislamprestasi.sch.id](http://www.smpislamprestasi.sch.id)) . The school is located around 60 KM from the city. The school was built among villages where the distance from one house to another house is around 100 meters. The other villages are located 1-5 KM, as in between is farmland.

The school has 3 classes the total number of students from all the classes are 47 students. The students come from few places as the school also provided boarding houses. According to the school administration officer, Mrs. Linda, the students come from rural places or villages in Bantul regency and have low financial ability. The students receive English as one of the academic subjects to be learned. Specifically, the students practice English to communicate among the students and with their teacher at a specific time.

According to the Education and Culture Minister Regulation number 51, students' age ranges are students the age of 6 to 21 years old and attend formal or informal education. Precisely for this research, the students' ages range from 13 to 15 years' old who are studying in Mubtadi ien in 7 grade and 8 grade.

### **1.5 Research Benefits**

The result of this research hopes to give a real contribution into villagers in wider community for a better opportunity of English education. The input as follows:

1. Theoretically, this research hopes to support existing theories on research and development study of English, especially provide valid information on the level number of students' interest in learning English in rural area.

2. Practically, the importance of this research result are expected:

a. Rural's Students

This result of the research is expected to expose and identify information of the level student's interest in English. The information is hoped to trigger the rural students in English education.

b. English Teacher

This result of the research is expected to encourage English teacher involvement and participation into English education in rural area.

c. Education Institution and stake holder

This research results are expected to motivate Education Institution, stake holder and the third party to take action improving the quality of rural area students to have higher competency value in English skill.

## **1.6. Definition of Term**

These are the definition of terms to make the research topic clearer.

### **1. Revealing**

Reveal has many synonyms as disclose, discover, expose, uncover, unveil. According to Joshi (2014), reveal is generally used to figure out something related in a data source. In revealing something, it needs an analysis or interpretation of the data before a conclusion is made. In the other words, it can be meant that revealing is an attempt to make something become visible and as public information, which everyone can access it through.

### **2. Interest**

Interest is a desire or feeling in wanting to know or learn about something in which the desire is not intentional influenced by talent and environment. Interest also considered as important and significant education component as it is in line with statement from (Krapp, 2002). In other words, students with interest in object learning will have better engagement in study, and relatively affected their knowledge and positive emotion value which increased their achievement in study. Interest can be developed over time, which means interest also can change when an individual grows up or any situational incident occurs. According (Hidi & Renninger, 2006)The four phases are 1) triggered situational interest, 2) maintained situational interest, 3) emerging individual interest and 4) well-developed individual interest. These four phases describe how individual interest develops over time in four stages. According to those phases, there are two kinds of interest; individual interest refers to intrinsic motivation that develops through time and second situational interest refers to fleeting interest, where the interest can be influenced by the environment, incident, or other cause.

### **3. Rural Area**

Rural area is defined as an open swath of land that has few homes or other buildings, and not very many people. There is longstanding debate as to whether “rural” is a geographical concept, a location with boundaries on a map, or whether it is a social representation, a community of interest, a culture and way of life. There are main considerations about rural areas which are demography (number of people), geography and economically (Plessis et al., 2001). It means that rural has many forms of definition depending on what concept about rural in demography, geography or economically. According to Prasodjo, farmers with a low level of education cause they could not compete in job opportunities with good income (Prasodjo, 2012). In line with that statement this research defines, a rural area as an area where the people are economically dependent on agriculture as their main income financially has low financial capability as a result of limited access to higher education and job opportunity, and geographically an area that is located outside of the city as the economic center.

Thus this research focuses on the way to find the level of students' interest to learn English in rural areas, in that so will attract attention for any interested individual, stakeholder or institution making action to change in developing English competency in the rural area.