

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

The English language is a global language that has become a crucial tool in many aspects of life, including academic, professional and personal communication. The ability to communicate effectively in English has become a necessity in many countries, including Indonesia. The Indonesian government has recognized the importance of English proficiency and has taken steps to improve English language education in the country.

One of the initiatives taken by the government is the English Village program, which aims to improve English language proficiency among students in rural areas. The English Village program is a *Studi Independen* program that provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in English language learning and practice. The program is designed to be an engaging and fun learning experience that will help students improve their English skills.

The English Village program has been implemented in various regions in Indonesia, including in Parit Baru, a small village in Indonesia, including in Parit Baru, a small village in Indonesia. However, the success of the program depends heavily on the students' interest and participation in the program. Therefore, it is important to analyze the students' interest in participating in the program and their perception of its effectiveness in improving their English skills.

In the field of language learning, the study of students' interest in the subject has been a topic of interest for the researcher. There are several studies that discuss interest. According to Kustanti & Prihmayadi (2017:179), studying English is challenging for many people, and many students avoid taking English classes or are relieved when the English subject teacher doesn't show up to teach. It demonstrates a lack of interest in pupils in English subjects when they adopt an avoidant attitude or express displeasure when students do not study English.

In the case of English language learning, various factors can influence students' interests, such as motivation, perceived competence, teacher support, and attitudes towards the subject. According to a study by Katili (2013), students are interested in studying English. The study revealed that various elements, including student aptitude as an internal factor, instructor quality, and course material as an external factor, can affect students' motivation in learning English. Research on student interest as a major factor in first year students' participation was also done by Kahu, Nelson, and Picton (2017). The results show that in order to create situational interest, the educational environment and the students' particular interests and goals interact. Situational interest then boosts behavioral and cognitive engagement and helps students perform better in class and achieve higher grades.

In conclusion, the research of students' interest in learning English is crucial as it has the potential to influence their performance and attitude towards the subject. By understanding the factors that influence students' interests, educators and policy makers can create more effective strategies for promoting language learning and improving students' outcomes. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the level of students' interest in participating in the *Studi Independen* program and to understand the factors that contribute to it.

This research aims to find out the students' interest in participating in the English Village program and their perception of the program's effectiveness in improving their English skills. The study used mixed methods research design, and data was collected through questionnaires and interviews. The findings of this research will be useful in understanding the factors that influence students' interest in participating in the program and can provide insights for improving the program to better meet the students' needs and expectations.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background explanation above, the researcher concludes that the research problem of this study are as follows:

1. How are students' interest in participating of *Studi Independen* Program of English Village of Parit Baru?
2. What are the factors influenced students' interest in participating of *Studi Independen* Program of English Village of Parit Baru?

C. Research Purposes

Based on research problems, the research purposes are formulated as follows:

1. To find out students' interest in participating of *Studi Independen* program of English Village of Parit Baru.
2. To find out the factors influenced students' interest in participating of *Studi Independen* program of English Village of Parit Baru.

D. Scope of The Research

1. Research Variable

Research variable is a variable or a characteristic that can be manipulated, measured or controlled in a study. The single variable in this study is students' interest in participating in the *Studi Independen* program, which is the focus of the analysis. A single variable may be an independent, a dependent, or an intervening variable (Creswell, 2012: 124). According to Kim (2020), students' interest in learning a second language can be influenced by various factors, including motivation, perceived competence, teacher support, and others.

2. Research Terminology

a. Students' Interests

Students' interest refers to a student's curiosity, motivation, or enthusiasm for a particular subject, activity, or topic. It is the level of engagement and enthusiasm that a student has for learning and

understanding something new. Student interest can be shaped by various factors, including personal experience, cultural background, and previous knowledge and understanding of the subject. In education, it is important to recognize and understand student interest as it can have a significant impact on learning and academic success. When students are interested in what they are learning, they are more likely to become engaged and motivated, which can lead to better understanding and retention of information.

b. *Studi Independen* Program

The *Studi Independen* program is an study independent program designed to improve students' English skills in the English village of Parit Baru. In this program, students have the freedom to choose learning materials, set study time, and study methods according to personal needs and preferences.

c. Learning English

Learning English is crucial because it has become a global language used for communication by the majority of communities around the world. While in Indonesia, it is considered a foreign language and is taught as the target language in schools. The aim is to improve students' proficiency in English.

d. English Village

The English Village program serves as a non-formal educational center dedicated to English language learning activities that are managed efficiently. The English Village program examined in this research was implemented in Parit Baru Village, which is located in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. This program was carried out by a group of English Education majors from IKIP PGRI Pontianak. For the purpose of this research, Desa Parit Baru was selected as the location, which is a village situated in Sungai Raya District, Kubu Raya Regency, West Kalimantan Province. Parit Baru Village is in close proximity to the city center of Pontianak.

E. Significances of Research

There are some theoretical and practical perspectives on the study's significance, namely:

1. Theoretical

The theoretical of this research is expected to add references and that it contributes to the existing literature on second language acquisition and language learning motivation by examining the factors that influence students' interest in participating in *Studi Independen* program.

2. Practically

a. To the English Village

The results of this study can provide practical recommendations for improving English language education and increasing students' motivation and interest in participating in the *Studi Independen* programs of the English Village of Parit Baru. This can lead to improved English language proficiency among students, which can benefit the informal school and its reputation as a center of excellence in education.

b. To English Teacher

The findings of this study can provide valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of the students participating in the *Studi Independen* program in improving the English skills of the English Village of Parit Baru. English language teachers to better understand their students and enhance their teaching methods to better support student learning can use this information. Additionally, the study can provide recommendations on how teachers can improve students' motivation to learn English, which can lead to improved English language proficiency.

c. To the Researcher

This study can provide valuable insights into the factors that influence students' interest in participating in the *Studi Independen* program and the experiences and perspectives of the students at the English Village of Parit Baru. This information can inform future

research in this area and contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that students face when learning English.

d. To the Students

The result of this research can motivate the students interest in participating *Studi Independen* program.