

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter is divided into four subtopics namely background of study , research question, research objective, delimitation of study, and significance of research.

Background of Study

In general, in Indonesia, children learning English when they enter as the students in Elementary School. During this period, the students are in the age of 7-12 years old. The children learn English with some basic materials such as an alphabet, numbers, name of days, name of months, etc. Then, they will learn a simple reading and writing, for instance, family, hobbies, and my living room.

To understand an English material they used their brain. The brain consisted of right hemisphere and left hemisphere. Each side has a different function. The right hemisphere function such as imagination, feeling, music, and creativity. In contrast, the left hemisphere function such as language, logical, analytical, and precise. Besides, the different functions of two sides of brain that work dominantly be able to affect someone in using one side of hand dominantly whether right or left hand. According to Chaer (2013), that the right handed people are dominantly of left hemisphere and left handed people are dominantly of right hemisphere. It is happened because all the parts of the body are commanded by the brain. The right side of the body is arranged or connected to the left hemisphere. In the other side, the left side of the body is arranged or connected to the right hemisphere. The reason for this inversion is the motor pathways of the nervous system cross over to the other side of the body as they go down to the spinal cord. Thus, the movements of one side of the body are controlled by the hemisphere on the opposite side.

Related to the theory above, there is the study from S.Knecht et.al research (2000) of handedness and hemispheric language dominance in healthy humans. The result of this study showed that a threshold effects accounting for the 4% incidence of right hemisphere language dominance in extreme right handed and a modified effects accounting for the increase in incidence of right dominance along with the increase in left handed. Moreover, the result of the study proved that right handed as healthy human is strength in right hemisphere language dominant than left handed.

Furthermore, the researcher made a research related to see the learning styles of right handed and left handed of school age children, this study conducted pre-observation at Lukmanul Hakim Intergrated School on Wednesday, July 9th 2014, and on Friday, July 18th 2014, the writer found that the righty students are active in learning English process. They like to answer the teacher's questions and they like to write down the materials during the lesson. Besides, when they righty students were correct in spelling the letters in their writing , for instance they wrote “ clothes”, and it is a correct writing. While, the lefty students are passive in learning English process. They only silent during the lesson and they like to make their assignment with their friends. In addition, when the lefty students are wrong in spelling the letter in their writing, for instance they wanted to write “desk” , however the spelling become”dask”. It means that they were wrong in writing.

Based on the finding in pre-observation that the righty students as active person, and lefty students as passive person. Additionally, the right students is better in writing vocabulary than lefty students. Thus, The researcher investigated through their learning styles and categorized them into visual, auditory, and kinesthetics (the categorization of learners will be explained in chapter two). Lukmanul Hakim Intergrated Elementary School was chosen because

this school is only one of the Islamic School which has an English Subject. This study takes the participant of Fourth Grade. The Fourth Grade consist of two classes. The research choose one class of Fourth Grade because there are the left handed students in that class and the students age are between 9-10 years old in good period to learn English.

Research Question

Based on the background of research, the researcher interested in investigating how the learning styles of right-handed and left handed of school age children in learning English?

Research Objectives

The aim of this research to know the learning styles of right-handed and left handed of school age children in learning English.

Scope of Study and Delimitation

This research only focuses on the children age of 9-10 years old, especially at fourth grade of elementary school. The children in this age have an ideal period to learn English. The focus on the children here is the students who have learning style at right handed and left handed related in learning English. Their differences of learning styles are related to the function of their dominant hemisphere.

Significance of research

This study provides a good reference for the readers to know about the learning process and the learning styles of right handed and left handed children in learning English. For parents, to support and facilitate their children's ability in learning English. Additionally, for the English teachers, can expand knowledge about the characteristic of human (right-handed and left-

handed), especially for children in learning English. They can also expand knowledge that the dominant hemisphere influences someone in learning language. Furthermore, the English teachers can select an appropriate material and facilities which can support the students' ability based on their characteristics. Besides, the lecturers are assisted in guiding or teaching the students in university to know about right-handed and left-handed children in learning English, especially for the students who learn about EYL (English for Young Learner).