

Chapter I

Introduction

Basic consideration

As the expansion of education, technology and information in global era, nowadays the acquiring of another language instead of first language such as English is become crucial, where it is often considered as the need to share and develop knowledge. Therefore, it is considered as the reason of appearing Bilingual program (Genesee, 2004). In most of countries, the used of second language /target language instead of first language have been widely acquainted for learners such as the teaching between French and English called Immersion program and many other countries in Asia such as in Malaysia, Singapore etc.

In relation to the statement above, as to the development of education context in many institutions the Indonesian government has been establishing Bilingual education namely Immersion program as a form of type Bilingual program. It is considered to overcome the global demand related to developing education system and students' performances in their fields. This can be seen previously in the effort of the Indonesian government by implementing Bilingual program in education area. For instance, to support the establishment of international standard school (SBI/sekolah bertaraf internasional). The policy also have been supporting based on the law of education system No. 20, 2003 paragraph 3 of article 50 stating that the Indonesian government put in order that the education unit at any grade need to be improved as an international standard

unit of education. In addition, the international standard schools at least English is become or used as a medium of instruction in some subject matter such as in science (Biology, Physics, chemistry, mathematics) and information and technology as communication (Islahuddin, 2010 cited in Masduqi, n.d p 3). Furthermore, according to Margana (n,d) there is primer reason of establishing the Bilingual education program that is regarded also as an effort to reach international standardized in particular fields regarding of education, information, communication, and technology in order that students could master the subject based on the instruction. (p.1)

Conversely, the implementation of bilingual program made some issues since it had been claimed by many people. It is not only about the program but also related to the students performance or achievements. It has been claimed that the implementation of bilingual class program was only enjoyed by the rich people where Bilingual students were facilitated much better than those who are non in bilingual class program (kompas,2013 cited in Margana, n,d P.3). Besides, there are many difficulties that might be faced by the students when apply Bilingual program in class. The difficulties might not only come from students but also could be from teachers as well. The difficulties that students and teachers face when applied Bilingual program such as most of students get difficulty to acquire concept of lesson when it is being instructed in English as medium of instruction, it is because of the lack of proficiency and the different of acquiring English that students have. Otherwise, getting understand of the concept when deliver the material is become the primer goal of learning and the program itself.

At the same time, the lack of proficiency in English that teachers has as what happened to the students might difficult to implement Bilingual program in class. In this case, the material or concept that has been delivered by the teacher would be interpreted differently by the students. Therefore, this kind of situation might influence students' performance (Arnyana, 2008 p.5).

In relation to the statement above, there has been growing interest about Bilingual program in science department. In developing the performance of the students, now state University of Gorontalo has been establishing Bilingual program called PGBI (program guru bertaraf internasional). The program was actually acquainted by Dikti as bequest program. At this time, Mathematic and science faculty is the one that proposes to implement it. The program has been establishing at math and science faculty (Biology department) since 2009 but it prevailed for students at 2008 academic years. A good thing of this program, the Biology students are taught or use English as medium of instruction as well in their class or in their selected subject. The students who are in bilingual program were given two different subjects and two lessons as well that should be instructed with two languages using English as medium of instruction. This program was actually intended to anticipate the existence of SBI, where through this program the Biology students are expected to become a professional teacher after graduating. Furthermore, trough this program the Biology students are also expected to be able in handling the teaching and learning process by using two languages which regarded as direction to produce a great graduation and achieve high quality standard. Unfortunately, since the existence of SBI was no longer

now the PGBI has been changed become PG MIPA U (Program Guru Mipa Unggulan). There is a reason to continue this program by Math and science Faculty especially at Biology department because it is considered as the preparation for the education advance and global demand for the future.

The implementation of Bilingual class program lately called PG MIPA U is made and applied based on the capability of students, where school grades become one of the requirements to be selected as Bilingual class students. In this case, students who are placed in Bilingual class called Bilingual class will be taught or used English as medium of instruction based on the selected subject given. For instance, in doing presentation and discussion related to the subject matter.

On the other hand, as the perception given by the Biology students who are in Bilingual class when the researcher conducted mini research, it is found that the use of English as medium of instruction is quite challenge and difficult for them. Besides giving positive side to the academic performance, to develop the capability of communication with two languages around the subject and be able to compete toward the education advance in global era, students face some barriers and difficulties in it as well. According to the Biology students who are in Bilingual class program some of them argued that the lack of proficiency in English when deliver the materials or in doing presentation using English is become one of the serious problems that they face. This is because they are not actually having any English background proficiency. As a result, this might appear and effect student's concept of learning itself.

Furthermore, the implementation of PG MIPA U as Bilingual program have not been strictly applied around Bilingual class students since the existence of SBI was no longer. It is also found that the implementation of PG MIPA U is not intensely done, this is because of the implementation PG MIPA U might be considered different by the students or might be effected by the students own view. By looking at this, this might be taken as the foundation in applying Bilingual program for the next by knowing more students perception on Bilingual Program itself. Students' perceptions are become important in this research because it could adjust all the problems and the difficulties that they have experienced in implementing Bilingual program, related to their achievement during following the program and the impact that they have experienced toward their performance. So it is therefore to investigate the students' perceptions on the implementation Bilingual program itself.

This research tends and focuses on students perceptions about the implementation of the Bilingual program. This research also would like to discern about the implementation of the Bilingual program at Biology department. Besides, this research is useful for State University of Gorontalo in implementing Bilingual program especially for Math and Science Faculty

Research question

Based on the basic consideration above, this study intends to discuss;
What are students' perceptions on bilingual program in biology department?

Aims of Study

Referring to the question formulated above, this research aims to find out and analyze the students' perceptions on Bilingual Program at Biology Department at State University of Gorontalo.

Significant of the research

The significances of this research are dealing with students, teachers and following researchers. For students, they could argue about the implementation of Bilingual program as the views and expectations for the applying program toward the subject and would get the additional knowledge as well about the implementation of Bilingual program itself. For the lecturers, it is advisable for the lecturers to be responsive toward students' perceptions and the obstacles for the implementation of Bilingual program. Moreover, it acknowledges the implementation of Bilingual program based on students' perceptions especially regarding of science lesson which is being instructed in two languages.

Delimitation of Research

This research is limited only on finding out students' perceptions on Bilingual program at Biology department. The perceptions related to the implementation of Bilingual program were taken from 20 students of Biology Department. The delimitation is only for students who were placed in Bilingual class program which delivered in some sub topics. They are students' perceptions on bilingual program, students' perceptions about the aims and advantages of the implementation bilingual program, students' perceptions related to the problems and barriers in bilingual program, students' perceptions related to the motivations in implementing bilingual program, and students' perceptions on teaching and

learning science in English. The reason of investigating the perceptions of students is because of the different point of view conveyed by students and staff during the program was implemented. However, the lecturers perceptions was not included in this research, in this case it is worthwhile to involve the lecturer perceptions for the next research.