

Chapter I: Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to give a brief explanation of the background of the research. The research question which is related to the objectives will present in this chapter too. Besides, it also has a research significance and delimitation of the research.

Basic Consideration

Language is well-known as the crucial aspect in the existence of human being. Without language we cannot communicate with each other. Even the deaf people can communicate with their own language. There are so many languages around the world. But nowadays, English language is become a worldwide language.

Everywhere we goes we always found something that related to English language; for example in restaurant, market, book store, etc. not only become an important subject in school, but English language also become a job's requirement. For instance, when we apply for a job in an office, they will ask for your ability in English or even your TOEFL score as the requirements. So we can say that English is really important for daily life.

The modern parents know about that, so they attempt to teach their children about the importance of English on their future and emphasize them to learn English. Parents think that if you mastered the English language, you will easily get a job. But on the other hand, the children / the student have a different perception about the English learning, and the different perception makes a different on students' attitude towards learning English. As Crystal (1997) said that attitudes are the feelings that

people have about their own language or the language of other. Attitude as personal character contained in two parts which is positive and negative. Usually, the person with positive attitude always thinks that “I can”, while the person with negative attitude always thinks “I can’t”. For instance, when have a problem on doing homework, student with positive attitude will focus on find the solution, while the student with negative attitude is protracted with the problem. Montano and Kasprzyk (2008) on the theory of planned behavior also claims that “attitude is determined by the individual’s beliefs about outcomes or attributes of performing the behavior (behavioral beliefs), weighted by evaluations of those outcomes or attributes. Thus, a person who holds strong beliefs that positively valued outcomes will result from performing the behavior will have a positive attitude toward the behavior. Conversely, a person who holds strong beliefs that negatively valued outcomes will result from the behavior will have a negative attitude”.

Based on the observation, in some cases not all the people who already study English as a foreign language have a positive attitude toward language learning itself. This situation also happened in English Department, Letters and Culture Faculty in State University of Gorontalo. Even the students of English Department studied English every day, not all of them have a positive attitude towards the English learning. It is known that according to the experts the positive attitude is signed by the enthusiasm of the student in learning process. While in this case, there are some students who can be categorized as having a negative attitude. For instance, the students who have negative attitude tend to be not interested in learning. Even some

of them became a truant. These kinds of students also lack of interest to explore their English language skill. They just come to campus if have a course, sit quietly listening to the lecturer without any contribution and go back home when the lesson is over without participating in the learning process. Unlike the students who have positive attitude, they are more enthusiastic in learning English and have a desire to study more. Not only learn in the classroom, but also outside the classroom as follows the English club.

Thus, based on the real condition of English Department especially about the students' attitude towards learning English and also based on the researcher's experience as a student in English Department itself, this research conducted in order that the student will know about their attitudes towards learning English and to give a contribution concerning the information about the students' attitudes towards learning English. This study would investigate whether there are positive and negative attitude among the students of English Department towards learning English.

Problem Statement

Something that needs to bear in mind is that students' attitude is a crucial aspect in teaching and learning process. Thus, it is needed to find out and analyze how is the students' attitude towards learning English in English Department, Letters and culture faculty in State University of Gorontalo. So based on the assumption, the question which is needed to be discussed in this research is:

“How is the English Department students' attitude towards learning English?”

The Objective

Based on the problem statement which has been explicated in problem statement previously, the objective of this research is to analyze the students' attitudes towards learning English among the student of English Department.

Research Significance

The significance of this research could be elaborated into two major points. There theoretical significance and practical significance.

Theoretical significance

In the field of theoretical function, this research is expected to find out the fact that there are positive and negative attitudes in learning English among the students of English Department and to give a big picture of what is really happening in the real situation in teaching and learning process of English.

Practical significance

Meanwhile in the field of practical function, the significance of this research is expected to be useful for students, lecturers and also for further researches. For students, not only could help them to be more aware about their own attitudes on learning English, but also it will encourage them to be discipline and can motivate them to learn English. For the lecturers, this information could help them to know about the students' attitude exactly, so it is advisable for the lecturers to maximize their performance in teaching and have to be more ingenious in developing new techniques of teaching English in order to make the students curious and more interested in getting involved in the teaching and learning process. For further

researches, it is hopefully could be a guideline and references for the other research that have correlation with students' attitudes. And the most important thing is it is expected that the findings of this research would be used as a starting points to conduct another research.

Delimitation of Study

This research focuses in analyzing the students' attitudes towards learning English. It involves the analysis on how is students' positive attitude and negative attitudes in terms of affective, behavioral and cognitive component during the English teaching and learning process at English Department, Letters and Culture Faculty in State University of Gorontalo.