

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In Digital Era 4.0, English is the most important language to be mastered besides Indonesian, especially by students who are studying in high school. Because English is an international language that is used as a means of communication with foreigners. In addition, English is also widely used in aspects of modern knowledge and technology so that everyone is expected to be able to master English. In the world of education, English is one of the useful tools to absorb knowledge from anywhere and anytime, English is a foreign language that is difficult for students to master in learning it. So, English teachers and tutors have an important role in teaching this language.

Learning English is very important because English is an international language where all countries use this language as their second language in communicating. English language learning has become a crucial aspect of education in many countries due to the increasing importance of English as a global language (Higgins, 2012). The benefits of learning a second language, particularly English, extend beyond communication and cognitive development. For instance, it has been suggested that language learning can foster empathy and intercultural understanding (Byram, 1997; Sprogøe & Laursen, 2017). In Indonesia, English is not referred to as a second language but a foreign language that must be learned by high school students, because English is called the target language that must be considered by teachers in schools in the current Indonesian curriculum. Therefore, students must be able to improve their English skills to prepare themselves in the increasingly modern development of science and technology.

In learning English, many students complain about the problems that arise in the learning process in the classroom, such problems are not conducive to the situation and condition of the class and the short learning time in the English learning process. To overcome these problems, students need extra time to learn and master English skills. Additional programs are needed for students to improve their English language skills. One of the programs in high school is the English Club. In the Government Regulation no 19/25 about National Education Standards, it is stated

that every school may provide an opportunity to develop its students' competency by applying an extracurricular program. Extracurricular is a program which is not part of the course that a student is doing at a school, different schools may have different extracurricular programs. According to (Simoncini and Caltabiano, & Lasen, 2012) extracurricular activities are unique from unorganized and unsupervised public activities such as interacting or enjoying activities with friends. Instead, they are structured structurally and contain supervision by teachers and under careful supervision, extracurricular activities could focus on group, interaction, management, and other public skill-building and beneficial growth for the members. Extracurriculars have an important role for students in the learning process at school. Extracurriculars are non-academic activities carried out outside of school activities, these activities can affect students' personalities because they can increase the value of the skills and knowledge of these students. By participating in extracurricular activities, students are expected to be able to develop their potential both in terms of knowledge and skills. In addition, students can also improve their own critical thinking and creativity through these activities.

One of extracurriculars that has an important influence on student skills is the English Club. The English Club has an important role in improving students' English skills, both from speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. This activity is not mandatory for students to participate in, only students who are interested and wish to study English more broadly participate in this activity. English Club is a media bridging one person with the others in which the aim is not only to improve their speaking's abilities but also to improve students' motivation and build up their confidence to speak as much as possible (Destrianti & Hati, 2018) In this English Club program, students get a longer time to learn English. With the form of fun learning activities and a friendly environment, it can attract more students' interest in learning English because they can learn with fun without feeling embarrassed, worried and nervous because their circle is smaller than their usual class. At VHS 3 Jepara provides extracurricular English facilities in the form of an English Club called ECoS. ECoS is the English Club of Smea. The activities in this ECoS are carried out quite actively with this activity which is held once a week on Thursdays which are learning and sharing knowledge of English. In addition to these routine activities, ECoS also has a work program that has been prepared and met by all members and supervisors every year. With these activities, students are expected to

be able to improve their English knowledge and skills.

B. Research Questions

The research questions are :

1. What are English Club's activities in VHS 3 Jepara?
2. What are the advantages in joining English Club's activities?
3. What are the disadvantages in joining English Club's activities?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement that have been formulated above, the objective of this study are :

1. To describe the activities of English Club in VHS 3 Jepara.
2. To explain the advantages in joining English Club's activities for students.
3. To explain the disadvantages in joining English Club's activities for students.

D. Benefit of the Study

This study is expected will give some benefits are as follows.

1. Theoretically
 - a. This research is expected to provide useful information about English Club activities of VHS 3 Jepara.
 - b. This research is expected to provide theoretical learning advantages for the students' English Skills through the effects that arise while joining the English Club.
 - c. This research is expected to provide theoretical learning disadvantages for the students' English Skills through the effects that arise while joining the English Club.

2. Practically

The results of this study can be used as input for the tutors or eleventh grade students in order to further develop English learning activities together with other English Club members, in this way students who take extracurricular activities can improve their English skills and mastering English better. The results of this study can also be addressed to the English Club coaches as well as students' English teachers so that they can develop this program to be more effective and attractive for students who have not participated in this program.