CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Name of State Senior High School 1 Purworejo is no stranger in the area of Purworejo particularly, also in Central Java province, and even at the national level. State Senior High School 1 Purworejo formerly named SMA B/C South Kedu Selatan in Purworejo. It was built based on the initiative, effort and struggle of Keluarga Besar Tentara Pelajar (KBTP) Det III Brigade 17 in 1954. Later it became SMA Negara Purworejo in 1955. At the time, it was the only state high school in South Kedu, even it was being the only one high school in Indonesia located in the capital of district, because in general, a State High School was located in a capital of residency or a provincial capital.

At the beginning of the school year of 1954/1955, State Senior High School 1 Purworejo accepted students in four classes, and the classrooms stayed in SR Cemara, then Regent of Purworejo gave a more viable space in Gedung Balai Rakyat (Hall of the People), and now it occupies an ideal school complex in Kutoarjo street (now Tentara Pelajar 55 street), in Middle Pangunjuru village. And it becomes a regional asset, as the top school and favorite school as well.
State Senior High School 1 Purworejo progress has been increasingly visible since the decade of the 80s followed by the success of students that were accepted in public universities. At that time each year was ranged about 50-60% of accepted graduated students. Now, after more than half a century, in 2012 approximately 92% of students were accepted in favorite public and private colleges and also State official Academy. Since then its graduation rate has been always a hundred percent.

Curriculum dynamics at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo amended eight times during the long journey of national education in the era of independence until today, those are: (1) 1947 Lesson Plans, (2) 1964 Lesson Plans, (3) 1968 Curriculum, (4) 1975 curriculum, (5) 1984 Curriculum, (6) 1994 Curriculum, (7) 2004 curriculum, and (8) the Education Unit Level Curriculum and its development.

Learning is essentially a process of interaction between students with students, students with learning resources and students with educators. These learning activities will be meaningful to students if it is done in a comfortable environment and provides a sense of security. The learning process is individual and contextual. This means that learning occurs within the individual in accordance with its development and the environment.

In teaching and learning activities, students are the subject and object of those activities. Therefore, the core of teaching process is the students’ activities of learning to achieve the objectives. Of course the teaching
objectives will be achieved if the students are active to achieve it. Djamarah (2004: 44) states that learning is essentially "changes" that occur in a person after the expiration of learning activities. Despite not all changes including the category learning.

Learning is essentially a conscious activity by a person who produces behavioral changes in themselves, either in the form of new knowledge and skills, in the form of positive attitudes and values. Hamalik (2010: 45) defines learning as a change in behavior through activities, practices and experiences. In the world of teacher, learning is very important, because it involves the teaching and learning process. In the learning process, the parties directly involved are students and teachers. The teacher serves as a teacher, while the students as individuals who learn and be required to obtain maximum learning achievement.

Slameto (2010: 73) argues, "Many students fail to learn because they have no good learning culture. They mostly just memorize the lessons". Many people learn in great difficulty, but get no any results, only failures that are encountered. The cause is because they have irregular and undisciplined learning, as well as less excited, know no how to focus on studying, ignore timing issues in learning, have no enough rest and sleep.

Learning difficulties are not only caused by low intelligence, but also non-intelligence factors. These factors can be derived from the student (internal) or from outside the student (external). Internal factors that can
lead to learning difficulties such as health factor, disability, intelligence, talents, interests, mental health, and special types of learning. While external factors, they can be in the form of the influence of family environment, school and society (Ahmadi and Supriyono, 2004: 78).

State Senior High School 1 Purworejo is an excellent school in Purworejo. To achieve the school’s target of quality, in this globalization era, State Senior High School 1 Purworejo implements the effective teaching and learning process that is based on philosophy of making strong school leadership with a strong and dynamic teamwork and a culture of quality, supported by safe and orderly environment, and uphold the principle of accountability reflected in the vision and mission of the school.

State Senior High School 1 Purworejo prepares students based on the National Standards of Education (SNP) in Indonesia and international level so that graduates are expected to have the capability of international competitiveness. Averages of National test scores of students have ranked first in district level and the eight in provincial level. This shows that the students of State Senior High School 1 Purworejo have good learning character.

Based on the previous explanation, the writer was interested in doing a research entitled “Students’ characteristic of learning at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo.”
B. Research Focus

Based on the research background, this study has a focus on “How are the students characteristic of learning at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo.” The focus can be described as follows:

1. How are students’ characteristics of learning in the academic field at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo?
2. How are students’ characteristics of learning in non-academic field at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo?
3. How are the characteristics of excellence in student learning both in academic and non-academic fields at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo?

C. Research Objectives

1. General purpose

The general purpose of this research is to know students’ characteristics of learning at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo. Because as one of the top schools, State Senior High School 1 Purworejo has students and teachers who have specific teaching and learning character in improving students achievement both in academic and non-academic fields.

2. Special Purpose

Specifically this study has three purposes to describe, as follows:
a. Students’ characteristics of learning in the academic field at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo.

b. Students’ characteristics of learning in non-academic field at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo.

c. The characteristics of excellence in student learning both in academic and non-academic fields at State Senior High School 1 Purworejo.

D. Research Benefit

1. Theoretical benefits

   This research is expected to be useful for the development of knowledge, especially in education, that refers to improvement of student achievement.

2. Practical benefits

   a. For students, the results of this research can be used as a form of motivation in developing their learning character and improving their academic achievement.

   b. For principal and teachers, the results of this study are expected to improve their abilities in motivating students and developing their characters of learning that has impact on supporting the improvement of academic achievement.
c. For school, the results of this study can be a reference to improve facilities and infrastructures that can motivate students to develop their learning character and achievement.

d. For the next researcher, it can be a reference or as one of literature in order to develop knowledge, especially by regarding to develop students’ learning character and achievement.

E. Glossary

1. Character refers to a set of attitudes, behavior, motivation, and skill. Characteristic is the realization of a positive development as an individual (intellectual, social, emotional, and ethical).

2. Learning is a teaching and learning activity to develop self-potential students in the personality, which is claimed to be a new pattern in the form of skills, attitudes, habits, intelligence, or an understanding in an understanding.

3. Characteristics of Learning is a positive development as the realization of the individual (intellectual, social, emotional, and ethical) in teaching and learning activities to develop self-potential students in developing learnt knowledge personality that is a pattern in the form of skills, attitudes, habits, intelligence and motivation, for teaching and learning process.