

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Studying in university is a time of growth and change for students mindset. The first year experience in the university can provide the students a successful transition. Students around the globe have unique first-year experiences yet struggle with many of the same challenges (Nutt and Calderon, 2009). First-year experience is also transition into higher education presents challenges for students, whatever their age or previous educational history (Lumsden, E., McBryde Wilding, H., Rose, H. 2010). Therefore, the nature of first year of study is continuously challenging.

The transition from high school to university is one of the biggest experience students. While the freedom that come with leaving home for the first time will occupy, most students thoughts when it comes to their first year of university, the reality of studying at the undergraduate level will be quite often a shock experience. The first few weeks at university are amongst the busiest of a young adult's life anyway, but the challenge of new learning styles and independent study can add to what is already a very full plate of activities for most (QS Staff Writer, 2001). Accordingly, university is different from school in terms of what is expected either in the classroom or the laboratory or any academic activity outside classroom.

Indeed the first-year is crucial period to the students. The experience is has been excessively research, however, the perspective used mainly from the policy and theoretical practice. The investigation of the first year experience on the students perspective has not been well research.

Therefore this research is worth to conduct because it will reveal information how the condition of the students first-year experience. Hence, by understanding the nature of their first year experience in university, it will be a different insight to the issue. The researcher is interested in investigating the issue with understanding the first-year studying experience can help giving references on

the issue to the university to improve students necessity to accomodate students aspiration to failure. The researcher chooses the participant to understanding more deeply about the first-year studying experience in the university. The tittle of the research is “THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF FIRST-YEAR STUDYING EXPERIENCE OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENT AT UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA”.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the research is “How is the first-year studying experience of English Department students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta?”

C. Scope of the Study

The research focuses on student’s experience of the first-year studying in English Department at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

D. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to describe how is the first-year experience of English Department students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

E. Benefit of the Study

1. For the Students

This study is beneficial for students because the students can identify the problem of transition from their school into the university.

2. For English Lecturer

A part of lecturer of English Department are assumed as being not objective and some of lecturer also assumed as being less skill in English in their learning process. It is hoped that English Lecturer can accomodate and make an interesting teaching and learning process.

3. For Future Researchers

This research can be used as one of the references to conduct another research in the topic of first-year studying experience.