THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS’ ATTITUDE TO ENGLISH TEACHING ON THEIR ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT AT SMP N 1 BANCAK OF SEMARANG REGENCY

RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language has central role in student’s intellectual, social and emotional development and it supports the success in learning of all subjects. The language learning expected to help the students to know themselves, their culture and another culture. Besides that, language learning also helps students to express their idea, and to participate in their society. Since English as an international language, it is important to teach English in Indonesia. English as foreign language has been taught from elementary school up to university. In junior high school it is aimed to reach functional level (Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, 2006: 227). It means that the students are demanded to be able to use English to fulfill their daily need such as for reading the newspaper and communicating both spoken and written for solving their life problem. In other word, the purpose of English teaching in junior high school is to reach communication target. It refers to discourse competence including comprehension and production competence both of written and spoken text realized into four language skills then and it will be used to response and produce the discourse in the society.

The result of teaching learning process can be seen from the student academic achievement. Academic achievement is a result which has been achieved by an individual after she or he accomplished some assignments
It can be concluded that academic achievement is the result which has been achieved by someone after she or he follows certain subject at school. Herawati (1985) in Jakobovits (1994: 13) states that, “there are several factors affecting students’ achievement, and the attitude is one of them”. According to Merger (1986: 3) attitude is “a word used to a general tendency of an individual tendency to act in certain condition”. He adds that the use of word attitude is based on what someone says or someone does and it based on visible behavior. It means that someone attitude toward something can be seen from the way they say and act related to the attitude object.

According to Slameto (1988: 191) in a classroom, someone who has positive attitude will view the object is valuable. In other hand, someone with negative attitude will view that an object is not valuable for example someone who has positive attitude toward a particular subject (for example English subject); it means that he or she likes this subject and always talk about English whenever they always slip English into conversation, frequently study hard on English and never absent in English class. It shows that attitude is based on visible behavior because we can see it when people do such kind of behavior.

According to Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan (2006: 4) teacher should understand not only the material and method in teaching but also the students’ attitude toward English and its culture because; it determines the success of language teaching process. The students who have positive attitude toward English and its culture are expected able to master English better than the students who have negative attitude toward English, because they will
have stronger motivation to learn a language, while students who have
negative attitude toward a language will do the opposite. The writer concludes
that the student who likes to study English will study harder than students who
do not like to study English; hence, attitude becomes important factor in
language learning. For this reason, teacher should build good attitude in
teaching learning process; the positive attitude toward English will help the
students in mastering it well, and if the students have negative attitude toward
English, they will be indifferent toward English.

Knowing the importance of English and the importance of attitude to
language learning, the writer wants to know the influence of student attitude
on their achievement. The writer chooses SMP N 1 Bancak of Semarang
Regency as the place of research because this school is located in the village.
The writer wants to know how important English for student who stay at the
city. Based on the information gotten from the head master of SMP N 1
Bancak, English as one of difficult subject for their students at this school, it
can be seen from their achievement at every semester test are poor. This
research will focus to the second grade student because based on interview
with the second students of SMP N 1 Bancak; they give opinion that English
is difficult because it is different from Indonesian, and they do not understand
about it. Based on the reason above, the writer decides to do a research
entitled “THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS’ ATTITUDE TO ENGLISH
TEACHING ON THEIR ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT AT SMP N 1
BANCAK OF SEMARANG REGENCY”.
B. Review of Previous Study

To provide the originality of this research, the writer would like to present the previous research which deal with the student’s attitude toward English subject. Widyastutik (2005) conducted a research entitled “The relationship between students’ attitude and their achievement at SMU N 1 Salatiga”. The purpose of her study is to find out whether the students’ attitudes to the English teaching have positive and significance correlation toward English achievement at SMA N 1 Salatiga. The result of her research is that there is significant and positive correlation between student’s attitude and student’s achievement.

Sari (2006) conducted a research entitled “The students’ attitude toward Reading III in Trimester I 2005/2006 in the English department of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga”. She focused his study on student’s attitude toward reading material such as article, book and newspaper. The result of her research is that the student of Trimester I 2005/2006 in the English department of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga have positive attitude to reading III.

This research related to the same theme that is about student’s attitude to English as the same case of Widyastutik’s research. The objectives of this research is to find out whether the students’ attitudes to the English teaching have positive and significance influence on English achievement at SMP N 1 Bancak of Semarang Regency. What makes this research different to Widyastutik’s research is subject of research. Widyastutik takes students of
SMU N 1 Salatiga as the subject of research, while the subject of this research is students of SMP N 1 Bancak.

C. Problem of the Study

In teaching learning process is found that English subject is difficult not all students enjoy it because they are not native. Based on the reason above, the writer wants to investigate students’ attitudes to ward English teaching and its influence on their English achievement. The research question that guides the research is formulated as follows:

“Does the students’ attitude to English teaching have positive and significance influence on their English achievement at SMP N 1 Bancak of Semarang Regency?”

D. Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study is to find out whether the students’ attitudes to the English teaching have positive and significance influence on English achievement at SMP N 1 Bancak of Semarang Regency.

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer would like to specify the scope of study. The attitude object is limited to the English teaching in second year of SMP N 1 Bancak. The kind of attitude only will be emphasized on positive attitude that realized on the positive statement
F. **Benefit of the Study**

   The outcome of this research is expected to show the influence of students’ attitude to English teaching on their English achievement. To be more specific there are two benefits of the study:

1. Theoretically
   a. It can be used as input on English teaching-learning process,
   b. The result of the research can be used as reference for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching.

2. Practically
   a. By investigating students’ attitude to English teaching, it shows the influence of students’ attitude to English teaching on their English achievement,
   b. By knowing the influence of students’ attitude to English teaching to their achievement, the teacher can use better technique in teaching English to build the positive attitude of their students.

G. **Research Paper Organization**

   The organization of his research paper is arranged as follows: Chapter I is Introduction relates to research background, previous study, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, and research paper organization.

   Chapter II is Review of Related Literature that covers the general concept of attitude, English teaching in junior high school, English achievement, conceptual framework, and hypothesis.
Chapter III is Research Method; it discusses the research type, object of the study, data and data source, method of data collection, and method of data analysis.

Chapter IV is Research Findings and Discussion of Research Findings.

Chapter V presents Conclusion, Implication and Suggestion based on the discussion of the research finding.