

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the discussion on the background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefit of the study and paper organization.

### **A. Background of the Study**

Active learning is a learning theory that comes from experience and developed from their own understanding. This form of learning can be called constructivism. During the learning process a teacher must be able to build student activity. Learning activities only focused on students. In this learning process, students not only accept the material, but students must have a critical thinking and also be able to solve the problems. A learning that emphasizes activeness and student participation during the learning process also trains intellectual and emotional intelligence. Students are directed to how to process knowledge skills, attitudes and values. Therefore, the teacher's role is not dominant in this learning model. The teacher only acts as a facilitator, motivator or evaluator. The teacher only gives the material and observes the students when they found the difficult things. In the learning process, the task of the teacher is only to convey the material to the students, but the teacher must also be able to create the conditions properly so that during the learning process students can achieve the optimal learning goals. Students as subjects of learning have the opportunity to develop their abilities and skills. They can construct an idea individually or in groups. While in the learning process, the situation given by the teacher to students is free. Determine the material to be studied by adjusting the needs and characteristics of students freely. Student-focused learning will not make them feel bored. Accordingly, the material will be easy to understand by the students. In

addition, the students must be brave in conveying an idea or opinion in front of the class, students are free to submit a statement or question individually or in groups. Indirectly, this kind of thing aims to train students' self-confidence and improve public speaking skills.

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi received an award from the UN Agency for the Protection of Children (UNICEF) for 25 years of service to meet the needs of children around the world. The first Asian woman who became UNICEF's ambassador claimed to have experience meeting children recruited as soldiers, starving children, and girls who were victims of rape during the conflict. Kuroyanagi was interested in the world of education after he wrote a book that tells about his childhood memories. A book entitled "Totto-Chan, Little Girl in the Window". In fact, Kuroyanagi received gifts for nonfiction books and three other awards. The Japanese government decided this book as a compulsory book in the world of education. Until now, Totto-Chan has also become a handbook for teachers and educators in various countries regarding the concept of education. Then, in 1997, Kuroyanagi made a book entitled "Totto-chan's Children". The book tells of his experience as a UNICEF ambassador. In that book, he inspires all people to the suffering of many children in this world. Besides the author, the woman born on August 9, 1933 is also known as a leading actress in Japan. His name began to soar since 1975 when he made a television program titled Tetsuko's Room (Tetsuko no Heya) in Asahi. The program is the first talk show program in Japan. In the event, Kuroyanagi discussed various things, ranging from politics, sports to various other issues. Tetsuko's Room has become a phenomenon in Japan. He won 14 times the most favorite television actress award in the Japanese Cultural Broadcasting Award which is held every year. The woman born in Nogisaka, Tokyo in 2006 was called by Donald Richie in her book about Japan titled Japanese Portraits: Pictures of Different People. Richie considers Kuroyanagi the most popular woman and inspires many people.

One example of the literary works explicitly is about active learning contained in his novel entitled *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window*. In this novel, she describes the period of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's study at Tomoe Gakuen which was founded in 1937. Tomoe Gakuen's school is different from other conventional schools. Most conventional schools the learning system focused on the teacher, the role of students is only accept the material presented by the teacher and have to obey the rules made by the school. Conventional schools also have a curriculum that must be adhered to by students. The concept given by the teacher with the lecture model, the way to communicate between students and teachers is still rarely found. In another side, conventional schools have classrooms and facilities that are very complete. But that is different from the school in Tomoe Gakuen. Tomoe Gakuen is a school owned by Sosaku Kobayashi as headmaster, where classrooms are located in wagon. The learning system focuses on students. The students not only sit and listen to the teacher explain the material, but they are given the freedom to choose the subjects they like. Tomoe Gakuen applies a student-focused learning model. The teachers invite students to play and learn, because of that students do not feel bored during learning. For example, inviting students to walk around observing the environment after lunch time together, without being noticed by students, they will understand about science and social. They are also taught about responsibility and also respect for differences.

*Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* is written by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi. A story about of a six years girl who has spirit to study. But, she was expelled from her school because the teacher assume that she looks weird and naughty than another students. The habit of looking out the window during study, waiting for a musician street and etc. Her mother decided to move her in another school. The school named is Tomoe Gakuen. In Tomoe,.Totto-chan was excited because the education system is different with the conventional school or her school before and the

students study in the train carriages, Totto-chan and her friends can enjoy the study, viewing the scenery also they can choose freely the lesson who will be learned. Not only learn the academic lesson, but also learn about life, friendship, and respect for others. Totto-chan who considered as a naughty girl by her teacher, but in fact it is not true. She loves her friend so much even with her friends who have the physical disabilities.

There are two public response by the readers. Mostly, in their opinions this novel is highly recommended to those who are interested in education and parenting. This novel tells about Totto-chan is a girl that curious about something. She was expelled from school because she was too active and according to her teacher, she was very disturbing while in the learning activities. Then, she was transferred to another school. In the new school named Tomoe Gakuen, she was very happy. Because the learning system in Tomoe Gakuen, students are free to create and explore. With this system, it is suitable for children's education where children should be free to conduct what they want to do. For parents, they can understand about the characteristic of children.

This novel *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* is best seller novel in Japan. An English edition, translated by Dorothy Britton was published in America in 1984. The novel has been translated into more than 30 languages. Not only that, Totto-Chan created history in the publishing world in Japan at that time and sold more than 4.5 million books in a year. In 1999, Kuroyanagi published her book *Totto-Chan's Children: A Goodwill Journey to the Children of the World*, about her travels around the world on her humanitarian mission as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

The researcher interested the novel entitled *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* because presents related problems in the real world. Namely children and education. Where the children are eligible for education, which is known as active learning. The children are free to

determine what their talents or their passion. children have the right to explore something. Because children have a sense of curiosity about something too.

Based on the topic to be studied, the researcher interested the novel to be discussed. Some of character buildings, setting and subject matter are clearly visible. Characterization of Totto-Chan, she is a talk active and curious about something. While the headmaster asked her to explain about anything. It takes several hours. She talked about everything that already happened such as her dog named Rocky, she was curious about something new or just communication with another people around her. She has parents that support her. Another character is Sosaku Kobayashi as headmaster and founder Tomoe Gakuen. Sosaku Kobayashi creates the system learning with an active learning. The teacher only as facilitator and motivator, the students must capable to create their thoughts, idea or solving the problem. Sosaku Kobayasi never differentiates the students, very attentive to the students and never gets angry if the students make mistakes. Many things are taught at Tomoe Gakuen such as being polite, how to respect each other without hurting them and responsibility. In addition, the setting of novel was in early 1940s and ended mid 1945. The educational model called active learning at that time puts students as subjects and the teacher only as a facilitator are different with another conventional school. The subject matter presented is active learning is the involvement of students in the learning process in a variety of learning levels. (Bonwell & Eison, 1991). The researcher chooses the active learning because this system is rarely used in education. If this system applied especially in our country, students will be able to adjust their passion and talents without having to know about many things. Active learning requires the students to explore the things they want to know. In children, this system is suitable to be applied. Another name of active learning is constructivism. Constructivism theory defines learning as a truly activities, where the students build their own knowledge, search their

own meaning, solving problem by themselves, find out about what they have learned, make a conclusion from new concepts and ideas that is already in themselves.

## **B. Problem Statement**

According to the background of the research above, the problems are:

1. What are the indicators of active learning in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's *Totto-Chan : The Little Girl at the Window*?
2. How is the active learning described in this novel?
3. Why did the author address the active learning in this novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The study was conducted keeping in view the following objectives are:

1. To find out the indicators of active learning in Tomoe Gakuen in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's novel Entitled *Totto-Chan : The Little Girl at the Window*.
2. To describe how active learning creates the idea of the students
3. To reveal the reason why the author addressed the active learning.

## **D. Benefits of the Study**

There are two benefits of study:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This research is expected to contribute significantly as a scientific knowledge or literature that can be used as a study material for academic people who are studying the science of child education, especially in the active learning system in the classroom.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

Besides that there is also a practical benefit the aim is to provide broader experience and insight into innovative and creative learning so

that students do not get bored with particular learning methods in literary study on *Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window* novel based on Sociological Approach.