

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Nowadays, English has become a global language since it is used as a communication tool by people around the world. As a global language, many countries introduce English as a foreign language including Indonesia. English is important to be introduced in some other countries, it makes English becomes one of the subjects to be taught in schools both formal and informal education. It also makes the English qualified as a primary requirement to communicate in the global communication.

Mastery of English is necessary, considering this language is an international language that is used by many people in the world. Same with other languages, English also has a basic skill that must be owned by the language. Language skills that must be mastered in communication in general are four such as: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The four language skills are then used as a measurement of a language comprehension.

The students have different abilities and preferences. English lessons must be made very interesting so the students want to learn. Interesting teaching method can make the students enjoy the class' activities. Talk about method, method can aid teachers in bringing conscious awareness of the

thinking that underlies their action (Freeman, 2008, p. 7). Methods in a series of learning systems have an important role in the success of an education. Because the method is the initial foundation for achieving an educational goal. As good as any strategy that is designed but the method used is not right then the results will be less than optimal. But if the method used is right, the results will have an impact on the quality of education as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, An-Nahl: 125 as follow:

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

Furthermore, the Holy Quran, Al-Maidah: 67 also mentioned it as follow:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ

There are many kinds of method to teach English, one of them is direct method. In order to master English skills, students have to practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking. One important thing which should be kept in mind is that these four skills are normally integrated in real life (Byrne, 1991, p. 21). It means that mastering integrated skills is needed by the students to create a communicative classroom environment that engages students to improve their language abilities.

The students do not only learn grammar of the target language but also how to use the target language from the exercises. The process of integrating

language skills involves practice through exercises which bring different skills (Tavil, 2010, p. 765). Therefore, learning integrated skills benefit students to master English naturally.

Learning English in the classroom is expected to be able to develop the knowledge and skills of students in using language in acts of communication that involve four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Integrated skill is a perspective that views all four language skills as a unit and not separate.

The application of integrated skills has several advantages, namely providing an actual language experience for students by interacting naturally using English. Integrated skill based learning provides a real picture of the richness and distinctiveness of English when applied in communication. With the application of integrated skill students will understand that English is not just knowledge to be learned, but a skill that must be applied and can be mastered gradually and continuously.

Most English teachers do not present learning activities that touch all four language skills. Some English language teachers usually only focus on reading text activities, followed by discussing new word meanings (vocabulary) and answering questions about text content. As a result, students do not have the skills to communicate actively, especially writing and speaking.

This study analyzed the implementation of Direct Method by MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin to teach integrated skills. MEC is one of the English courses in Banjarmasin. This place offers a different concept with other English courses in Indonesia, most of teaching and learning process are done in the classroom for giving the theory. This course is located at Brig. Gen. Hasan Basri Street No. 15C, Banjarmasin. Open every Monday to Saturday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

MEC English Syariah has two advantages, the first one besides having classrooms for the provision of material, but this place also has a cafe which is also a place for member to practice directly. Then the second, they see it in terms of security, because the parents feel more secure because we use the syariah system, so even though their children are left late at night the parents do not worry because the class is separated between boys and girls.

There are four level groups in this course namely Regular, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. In Regular class, the students learn about English basic like some expression in English and the teacher gives the dialogue then the students practice it each other. In Silver class, the students already can speak English like do conversation between teacher and students or each other. In Gold class, the students already speak English better than in Silver class. The last is Platinum class, the students learn about public speaking, such as MC, debate, speech, announcer, reporter, and so on.

In this study, the researcher will research two class, they are Silver and Gold class. Because in Silver and Gold level the students already can speak in English like conversation between teacher and students or each other. The researcher is interested in conducting a study at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin because in this course uses the direct method to teach integrated skills.

The researcher thinks that it is different from another course. Usually, most of English course teachers teach English just for one skill for example like grammar. The students have to understand and can make a sentence but not to practice it in speaking skill. Then in MEC English Syariah involves more than one skill namely speaking, writing, reading, and listening skill at the same time in learning process for each meeting which is called integrated skill by using direct method. Therefore, the researcher is interested to know about the implementation of direct method to teach integrated skills at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin.

B. Research Questions

1. How is Direct Method to teach integrated skills for students at MEC English Syariah implemented?
2. What are the students' perceptions toward the implementation of Direct Method to teach integrated skills at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin?

C. Objectives of Study

The objective of this study is to know about how the implementation of Direct Method to teach integrated skills and what are the students' perceptions toward the implementation of Direct Method to teach integrated skills at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin

D. Significance of Study

This study is expected to have a significant contribution in quality improvement in teaching and learning process. For the teachers are able to teach integrated skills for the students using the Direct Method effectively so that the students are able to communicate by using the target language actively in the class.

For other researchers, this research is expected to be one of the references to other researchers. They can analyze the use of teaching methods to teach students for teaching integrated skills.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Direct Method

The meaning of the name "Direct Method" comes from the fact that the action like demonstration and visual aids, so the teacher explains to the students with practice it or with picture, power point, card, game, and so on.

Those needed to convey the meaning directly into the target language. In the Direct Method, language is learned for communication and primarily speech (Freeman, 2008, p. 22). Direct Method refers to the teaching method at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin is conveyed directly through demonstration and grammar is not taught directly.

2. Integrated Skills

Integrated skills can be defined as the combination of two or more skills namely speaking, writing, reading, and listening that appear in a course. This approach allows teacher to know students' progress in multiple skills at the same time. In this research, integrated skills refer to the integration of language skills such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing which appear in one meeting. At MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin, each meeting does not only consist of one skill but it involves two or more skills (Oxford, 2001, p. 32).

3. MEC English Syariah

MEC English Syariah is a subsidiary of MEC Indonesia which is a community-based English education institution and has 16 branches spread across the islands of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Sumatra, and Java. The name of MEC does not have an extension. MEC is just a brand and Syariah because the students between girls and boys are separate. MEC English Syariah is the

first English course based syariah in Indonesia, especially in South Kalimantan which provides an English language environment in the form of an English café. Since it was founded in September 2017, MEC English Syariah has more than 1356 members in Banjarmasin and in Banjarbaru.