

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, mastering English is not taboo. As a language which used by more than a half of population in the world, English holds the key as an international language. According to Fromkin (1990, p.259) English called as the “lingua franca” of the world. English is very dominant in technology where most of the terms used are in English, and to be able to use technological devices we are required to understand the terms. Most information also uses English, such as research journals, etc. For society is not separated from the use of English, for example when we want to interact with someone who is in the next country, we certainly use international languages as our communication language, because we cannot force to use our native language when interacting with people who are not from within the country. It means English has become a dominant language in modern society as mean of communication among people of the world to get trade, social cultural, science, and technology goals. Therefore, many people begin to learn it because of the many benefits that can be gained from mastering this foreign language.

Even, many young learners are already good at speaking English. In fact, they are still young, and it seems impossible for them to master it. According to David (2003, p.3), he stated that “English is not your mother tongue, you may still have mixed feelings about it. You may be strongly

motivated to learn it, because you know it will put you in touch with more people than any other language; but at the same time you know it will take a great deal of effort to master it, and you may begrudge that effort”. It means English will gives advantages to people who learning it , but it is also take a great deal of effort to master it. Therefore, we should be enthusiastic in learning it. This thing is already be taught by Rasulullah PBUH that we should be enthusiastic in learning something that is useful for us, like what he said in Hadist Narrated by Muslim:

إِحْرَصْ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْجَزْ

The researchers found that this is inseparable from parental engagement. They are one of the factors of the ability of early children to be able to speak English and also understand about English. They contribute in several ways, and some involve themselves directly in the process. It means they help their children to gain this ability and knowledge. In fact, to know something, we must be taught first. This thing is already exist in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 31-33:

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ {٣١} قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ {٣٢} قَالَ يَا آدَمُ أَنْبِئْهُمْ بِأَسْمَاءِ نِهِمْ فَلَمَّا أَنْبَأَهُمْ بِأَسْمَاءِ نِهِمْ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَا وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَعْلَمُ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ {٣٣}

In these verses Allah gives lessons to Prophet Adam about the names of nature (objects entirely), and confirms that Allah is all-knowing. In other words, when children get taught about English, they already have knowledge about it.

Based on the above background, the researcher is eager to hold a research under the title “An Analysis of Parental Engagement toward the Foreign Language Acquisition of Young learners”.

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, research problem can be formulated as follow: how do parents engage in the process of acquiring their child’s foreign language?

C. Objectives of Study

The objective of study was to know and describe how do parents engaged in the process of acquiring their child’s foreign language.

D. Significance of Study

The results of this study are expected to provide good benefits that are practical as well as theoretical, among others, as follows:

1. Theoretically :

The result of the study was really expected to give the benefit for parents of young learners who contributing on English learning process of

their children for giving information about how to influence their children in learning English as their foreign language.

2. Practically :

- a. For readers, this research hopefully can give benefit to information about parental engagement toward the foreign language acquisition research.
- b. For English Department, this research hopefully can be adding in syllabus development in English for young learners subject.
- c. For parents, this research hopefully can make parents pay more attention to the stability of their children English learning and always support them to be a great person in the future.
- d. For researchers, this research hopefully can help another researcher to find more information about parental engagement toward the foreign language acquisition. The Researcher also hopes this research will be useful as a reference to improve further research.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding to this research, the writer gives an explained to some terms dealing with the title, such as:

Parental Engagement : Parental engagement is highly relevant to the educational achievement of children, which means the influences of parents

has a great influence on the academic success of students and helps students to further improve their foreign language learning..

Foreign Language Acquisition : Language acquisition is language income that refers to natural processes, involving humans by learning languages unconsciously. But, to acquire foreign language young learner should learn consciously.

Young Learners : Elementary school students from the ages of six to twelve years old.