

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

According to May, 2005 in (Aldabbus, 2012), "Teaching enables you to be forever young. When you teach children you share their interests and their problems. For someone like me, who is the child at heart, it is an absolute pleasure" (p.1). According to Bransford and Brown (1999) in (Octavina, 2017), "Children differ from adult learners in many ways in learning a foreign language." (p. 126). It is also stated by Cameron (2003), "there are some obvious differences: children are often enthusiastic and lively as learners." (p.1). From statement, I agree with May's point of view that teaching young learners is enjoyable and pleasurable, especially for teachers who have good background knowledge about the theories and principles of teaching young learners. However, teaching young learners is different from teaching adults. Young learners tend to change their mood every other minute, and they find it extremely difficult to sit still

Teaching English for young learners is very much different from teaching adults in a way that they are often more enthusiastic, active, and easily adaptive than adults. Generally, primary school is the first step for children as young learners to know and understand English. Therefore, the teacher should be active and creative to choose the teaching method. According to Hafield (1985) in (Sulistiyawikan, 2014), "Elementary school students are children who still like playing, so the teacher is expected to be imaginative and creative in developing their teaching technique to make the English lesson more exciting" (p.5).

Teaching also to make someone has the knowledge and makes them more intelligent. Ali bin Abi Thalib said:

لا تؤدبوا أولادكم بأخلاقكم ، لأنهم خلقوا لزمان غير زمانكم

That means: “do not teach your children according to your morals, for they were not created in your time”. Based on Ali bin Abi Thalib said that different times will affect the mindset, behavior and habits of these children. so that parents need to balance how to educate their children according to their time. For example, children in the past if their children made mistake they would be yelled at and beaten, but now things like that can no longer be used because they will be more resistant and difficult to direct.

There are 3 steps educated children according to Ali bin Abi Thalib, they are 1) The first stage, ages 0-7 years, treat children like kings. 2) The second stage, ages 8-14 years, treat the child as a prisoner. 3) The third stage, ages 15-21 years, treat children as friends.

Several challenges have been founded by the theory of teaching English for young learners; especially from the beginning. The challenges usually relate to the trend that believes that the students must study English without any fee; in the elementary stage do not too care about who is going to teach those young learners. As reported by the International Bank that some people of foreign instructors of English who are not actually qualified to teach English in so many primary school. (Nunan, 2003)

The other challenges, Chung (2016) found in (Mumary, 2017) "One of the most challenging tasks students encountered in mastering vocabulary." (p.56) Consequently, students in English as a foreign language context are limited in their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary of the target language and have struggle to comprehend the content. In many parts of the world, the large class is a common challenge (Ho, 2003; Wedgwood,

2007; Shamin, 2012) in (Mumary, 2017) "causing teachers to believe it is difficult or impossible to introduce learner-centered teaching because, for example, they cannot closely monitor students' language use (Li) or use pair work and group work" (p. 12). Many teachers believe that limited students in the class can do some activity effectively. Besides that, the teacher will know easily the level of students in learning English. Butler (2005) in (Garton) found that some teachers see this as particularly challenging during English classes because of the interactive way they are expected to teach, which is different from teaching methods used in other subjects. (p. 12)

Nowadays, some teachers in schools don't know what the students need and what materials appropriate for them. In fact, the teachers still have no syllabus and just give the materials through the textbook or *LKS*. The teachers explain the lesson in class monotonously. They do not use the correct method and strategy with the students' development and the result is teaching and learning activity becomes un-interactive. On the other hand, the common phenomena in teaching young learners are the ability to select the material and how the teacher present to the learners. Some teachers are very good at choosing the material but cannot in practice with the strategy, method, and media. Sometimes, teachers do not use authentic material. They just follow the lesson in the textbook, but do not really look at the student's wants and need. For example, if the lesson in the textbook talks about a hobby or occupation some of the teachers just explain what in the textbook provided without preparing kinds of other hobbies or occupations. It might be enough for students to know some of their hobbies and occupations, but it is not enough to extend their knowledge and to enrich their vocabulary.

Some research on Teaching English to Young Learners which have been conducted in English as a Second Language (ESL) as well as in EFL mostly explore the strategies, method, and techniques toward teaching English to Young Learners. While some researches have been carried out on how the teacher uses the technique, on what the method and the strategies they use. The researcher is interested to research practical challenges in teaching young learners after observing in SDN kebun Bunga 5. The researcher found that the students were taught by the professional teacher and the way the teacher teaches is very good. But, the researcher found that the students still feel uninterested and unfocused during a learning activity.

Therefore, to fill the gap in the literature, this proposed study attempts to investigate the process of teaching principles for EYL, focusing on how the teacher applies the principles in teaching EYL. This proposed study also attempts to investigate the challenges of teaching English in the primary stage, focusing on how the teacher's perceptions about the challenges that they face in the classroom. The last, this proposed study attempts to investigate the different challenges in public schools and private schools, focusing on comparing the challenges from public and private schools.

This research is expected to be beneficial for The Teachers of primary schools in Central Kalimantan. The researcher hopes that this project report will be beneficial to the English teacher as a reference to find alternative teaching and to handle the challenges when teaching in elementary school. From this research, they can take as much as information to apply during teaching. Therefore, the reader is a reference for the next researcher who will take children as a subject in their research.

To prove the originality of this study, the researcher presents previous research that especially with teaching English to young learners. This previous research is written by Hussain Al Ali and Katy Maan they researched the challenges in teaching young learners, the year 2019. They researched in a primary school in the State of Kuwait. The researcher wants to develop from their research at Schools in Sampit, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. The researcher will focus study on the principles of teaching young learners that the teacher used to solve the challenges, the challenges that the teacher faced in the class while teaching and the different challenges between public and private schools

for the reason above, the researcher would like to be more specific and conduct the research about this problem. The researcher intends to take the title:

“The Challenges in Teaching English to Young Learners in Primary Schools”

B. Research Questions

1. What are the challenges faced by the teacher in the primary schools?
2. How does the teacher carry out the process of teaching principles to solve the challenges?
3. What are the different challenges in public primary school and private primary school?

C. Objectives Study

The overall aim of this study to investigate the practical challenges in teaching EYL in primary school. The chief aims are to:

1. To investigate the challenges of teaching English in the primary schools
2. To investigate the process of teaching principles for EYL

3. To investigate the different challenges in public primary school and private primary school

D. Significance of the study

This research is expected to be beneficial for:

1. The Teacher of primary schools in Central Kalimantan

The researcher hopes that this project report will be beneficial to the English teacher as a reference to find alternative teaching and to handle the challenges when teaching in elementary school.

2. The reader

As a reference for the next researcher who will take children as a subject in their research

3. Language learners

To make them know what the principles of teaching young learners are. So, they can applicate themselves when to be a teacher of young learners.

E. Definition of Key term

Three key terms must be clarified to avoid misconceptions and misunderstanding of the concept underlying this study. The following definitions would be helpful in this regard:

1. Challenges

In this research Refer to the teacher's problem in teaching English, how the teacher can handle using the teaching principles and compare the challenges between private and public schools.

2. Young Learners

In this research English Language learners who refer to the children in Elementary School in Central Kalimantan. In this researcher students are 7-12 years old and the teachers teach from the first grade till sixth grade.

3. Primary School

Primary School is the first level of education in Indonesia after graduating from kindergarten usually the learner is around 7-12 ages.

