

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Research on second language learning has been developed since the past years. One most popular second language learning is English. Throughout the world, English became a universal language. There are many factors that made English as the most used language for communicating cross culture whether it is for personal interest and requirement, study or work-related reason. Therefore, English is become the most-learning language all over the world.

In Indonesia, English is still a foreign language which it does not use in daily conversation. Consequently, Indonesian's English ability is still low than the country that use English as second language such as Malaysia. Therefore, Indonesian Ministry of Education has placed English as one of the most-learned subject from elementary to university level. The program aims to prepare high quality of Indonesian human resources.

Although English has been taught from elementary, it is not guarantee that Indonesia English ability is good. A lot of students have learned English for almost eight years but still have difficulty in communicating English. One crucial factor is the inappropriate learning strategies usage. Some students sometimes do not know how to learn

language better and they face difficulty while learning such as cannot be concentrated or failed at storage their vocabularies memorization.

Generally learning language is defined as conscious action in acquiring knowledge and skill about English. Acquiring knowledge means knowing the pattern how to construct good items of English in grammatically, pragmatically, and semantically. In addition an English learner should learn four major skills integrated including; listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Al Qur'an surah an Nahl verse 78 has mentioned the step in mastery a language by learning the four major skills in chronologically so that language learner can acquire language well:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ
السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَرَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

Actually that verse explained about human birth without knowing anything, but Allah give human ability to hear by ears, to see by eyes, and to think so that people would be grateful to Allah. The diction of hearing ability is starting point, then followed by seeing and thinking. This arrangement of words is proven by science that human ears is firstly operated than other senses (Shihab, 2002, p. 673). This verse can be adopted to language knowledge area. This verse can be explained as the step in learning language,

especially English such as *as-sam'a* (listening) in which listening sounds or conversation in English then step by step try to speak. Second is *al abshar/al basher* (reading and writing) refers to read the text and learn the structure of language. the last is *al fuaad* (thinking) means analyzing the function of the language in morphologically, semantically, and pragmatically.

Learning language especially English requires everyday-practice in terms of English for communication. Successful learning English can be done through independent learning outside the classroom such as following course, English community, and others. Effective independent study will improve English especially in speaking ability and all English skills performance as well. Therefore, person which can develop their learning is known as a good language learner.

Good language learner has some personal characteristics, styles, and strategies such as find their own way, taking responsibility for their own learning, organize information about language, are creative, and try to feel the language by experimenting its grammar and words, and so on (Zare, 2012, p. 162). Good language learner seems to have better management of self-efficiency in which they can manage their time, place, even schedule towards their confidence zone in learning English.

Teacher's role is essential in teaching-learning English at school. A professional English teacher will create a lighter, enjoyable, and conducive environment for teaching and learning activities. A good teacher knows about

the diversity of the students' characteristics, she looks students as pluralistic individual which need a help to develop their potential by using learning strategies.

As in al Qur'an surah Saba verse 46 mentioned one example of learning strategies:

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَعْظُمُكُمْ بِوَاحِدَةٍ ۖ أَنْ تَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ مِثْلَ ثَمَرٍ مُطْرَقٍ ۚ وَمَنْ يَفْكَرْ مَا بِصَاحِبِكُمْ مِنْ جَنَّةٍ ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ لَكُمْ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ عَذَابٍ شَدِيدٍ

This verse is about God's invitation to think in pair and individually that what Muhammad said is true. Quraisy often thought that Muhammad was crazy, magician, and liar, but that was wrong. Quraisy know Muhammad for long time and he is well-known as *ash-shidiq* (a man who always tell he truth) (Shihab, 2002, p. 644). The diction of thinking in pair before individually can be interpreted also as example of language learning strategies. This verse mentioned that a good language learner comprehend English in both independent and dependent learning. Independent learning means learning creatively by looking as many sources as possible. Learning with others means learning with teacher, tutors, or friends in order to share the knowledge. Teachers as a partner of a language can be one of students learning strategies in comprehending English.

Learning strategies affect students' successfully in learning English. Some students like studying in the night; some other prefers study by music, and the other learning simultaneously watching TV. Those examples indicate every student has their own learning strategies. Learning strategies are defined as individual own learning-way to comprehend their task. Language learning has six categories including: cognitive, metacognitive, memory, compensation, affective, and social strategy (Oxford, 2003 p .2). Good learners are students which know their characteristic so that they can find appropriate learning strategies. They will be confident while learning English and have good achievement in English.

One strategy can be appropriate or not appropriate to another. Therefore, students have to find their appropriate learning strategies. Al Qur'an since long ago provided a number ways in acquiring knowledge faster, better, and more enjoyable. Such in Surah al Muzzamil verse 6 mentioned about learning strategies as follows:

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْئًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلًا

This verse is about waking up in the night for doing *tahajud* and reading Qur'an will be more impressed than other times. It can be interpreted also as another example of learning strategies which is about reading in the night after sleeping will make someone more understand about the lesson. Some learners may study at the night because of their confidence's area in

which a person's feel the fresh air and quietly situation. It should be noticed that learning strategy is individualistic; it depends on the confidences of each person to maximize their potential in learning English.

Knowing learning strategies is important to improve student performance, especially for students who has poor achievement and lack motivation. By knowing learning strategies they can enjoy learning so that it can motivate students to learn better and seriously. The goal is to get good English skill that they can use to communicate and reach academic purposes.

Nurse is defined as a profession in health care and works for caring injured or sick people. Recently, nursing is the fastest-growing occupation around the world. According to World Health Organization (WHO), there is less than 2 nursing and midwifery personnel per-1000 population. Those indicate that every country is lack of professional nurse, especially for developed country in United States, Europe, and Mid-East Asia, the need of professional nurse is about 500.000 nurses (kompasiana.com).

The writer conducted research on Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin or UMB. UMB is one of universities in Banjarmasin that provides health and nursing faculty that profit oriented by Muhammadiyah Organization. It is located behind Rumah Sakit Islam Banjarmasin. Muhammadiyah University's vision is making quality assurance as a culture in Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin accomplishment with Tri Darma

college to become the best health college in Kalimantan region (ICNHome.web.2015).

In 2008, Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin has opened International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing. It is based on the fact that world is still lacks of professional nurse. There are three factors affecting professional international nursing job. Firstly, a nurse should have English competency. Some countries such as England and United States required the international nurse should acquire minimum score in both IELTS (6) and TOEFL (540). To answer the needs of English, all health college in Indonesia provide English as the main course for nurse. This is known as English for nurse in which a course that specifically include all nursing material in both material and practicality. Second, the health institution, college, or university should be registered as RN (Registered Nurse) and required to have BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). The third is NCLEX-RN (National Council License Examination-Registered Nurse) which is a test to measure nurses' skill and competence.

International Class of Nursing (ICN) is the only one international diploma program of nursing in Kalimantan Selatan so that this program becomes popular among students who want to enter nursery program. It also provides teaching-learning system that different with another regular nurse program so that it really fulfills the need of candidate of international nurse. Alumni of this course will be prepared to work as a professional nurse to

others countries. The course uses English as an introductory language. Students are required to master their English ability. They learn English intensively on English Intensive Program. A special dormitory provides by the institution in order to help students practice their communication skill. Another program such as visiting English village at Batola held regularly to fulfill students' needs in practicing English.

As previous study held by Antika (2013, p. 23) who conducts research entitled "A Study on Language Learning Strategies of XI Grade Students in Advanced and Regular Class of Natural Science Program at SMAN 1 DAMPIT". The result revealed that the application of language learning strategies in advanced class and regular class are different. Advanced class use cognitive strategies in most preferred strategies while regular class use compensation as the most commonly used strategies. The similarities with Maulida's study is adopting Rebecca Oxford's theory about language learning strategies. The differences with that study rely on: 1) subject of this research in which in this study, the subject is ICN students, 2) This aim of this study is not to compare between two groups of subject, but merely investigate deeply about ICN students without compared to other groups.

Other previous studies conducted by Rachmawati (2013, p. 23) entitled "The Application of Language Learning Strategies and Their Correlation with Students' Achievement (A Study on Ten Grades Students of Acceleration Class, Senior High School 5, Malang)". The finding revealed

that the use of overall language learning strategies falls into medium level. Students prefer to use social strategies as the most-commonly used strategies. That study also adopts Oxford's theory about language learning strategies. The differences rely on subjects of the research and objectives of the research.

The writer's has interviewed an ICN student. She said that almost all subjects in course using English as introductory language. There is a requirement to speak English intensively at special dormitory. She adds that all assignments must be written in English. The writer also observed ICN and found that all subject matter is sometimes taught in English and sometimes not. Some lecturers used English material and explain in both English and Indonesia, but another lecturer has explained in full-English. Then, the writer is interested in how they improving their English ability within English teaching instruction.

Based on the assumption that students of International class use appropriate learning strategies so that they can improve their English mastery better, then the writer conducts a research entitled STUDENTS' STRATEGIES IN LEARNING ENGLISH AT INTERNATIONAL CLASS OF DIPLOMA PROGRAM OF NURSING OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY BANJARMASIN IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016. It will explore what strategies are used by the students in order to improve their English ability in both instructional and communicating function. What the most strategies are used by the students in improving their English skill will

be analyzed deeply in order to get valid data as many as possible. What are their reasons towards the learning strategies that they used to comprehend English will be explained clearly in this paper. Hopefully this research will be beneficial in both knowledge contribution and English teaching and learning's area.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background of study above, the writer formulated the statement of the problems below:

1. What are strategies in learning English at International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing of Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin?
2. What is the most-common used strategy of the students International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing of Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin?
3. What are the factors that affect the language learning strategies' preference?

C. Objectives of Study

The purposes of the study are to inform:

1. The learning strategies used by the students International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing of Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin.
2. The most used learning strategy used by the students International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing of Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin.
3. Some factors that affect language learning strategies' preference.

D. Significances of Study

The result of this research hopefully can give a great contribution in theoretical and practical as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research hopefully can give a great contribution for knowledge development especially in teaching-learning English. It also give next researcher general knowledge to conduct deep research about learning strategies.

2. Practicality

This result of research hopefully can be beneficial for the students to know their language strategies so that they can use it to improve their

English. It also can give the teacher a general description about students third semester of International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing learning strategies so that the teacher can suit their teaching method to students' learning style.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation of the title, the writer explains the technical terms such as below:

1. Learning Strategies

Learning strategies are individual own learning-way to comprehend their task. Language learning has six categories including: cognitive, metacognitive, memory-related, compensation, affective, and social strategy

2. Learning English

Learning English is the process of practicing, seeking, reading, or getting knowledge about English in all skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Learning English can be done in various way based on person's pleasure such as listening music or in school and course.

3. International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing

International Class of Diploma Program of Nursing is a course program provides by Muhammadiyah University Banjarmasin for students who

want to be professional international nurses. This course uses English as the introductory language