A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS’ INTEREST IN CHOOSING EYL (ENGLISH FOR YOUNG LEARNERS) SUBJECT IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH MALANG

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This study investigated about the factors that made the sixth semester students of English Department interested in choosing EYL subject. Thus, the purposes of this study were to find out the factors and the students’ expectations in following EYL subject. The research design of this study was descriptive qualitative. The populations investigated were the sixth semester students’ academic year 2004-2005 of English Department who took EYL subject. Meanwhile, the instrument used was questionnaire to know the factors and the students’ expectations to the EYL subject. This study used percentage in analyzing the data.

The findings showed that there were six factors which made the sixth semester students were interested in choosing EYL subject. Out of 41 students, 21 students (51.2%) chose EYL subject because they wanted to be the English teacher for children so they expected to have more knowledge about English and education for children, 20 (48.8%) students agreed that teaching English for young age had the important role because psychologically children period was good to be improved both cognitively and linguistically, 17 students (41.5%) said that EYL subject could help them to improve their teaching skills, 20 students (48.8%) stated that their interest in EYL subject arouse because of the difficulties that they faced. It caused by the lack of the explanations about the teaching technique that they got before, 13 (31.7%) students stated that actually they had hard effort to follow EYL subject, and 20 students (48.8%) stated that they were interested in EYL subject because they like to read English books and magazines for children in their spare time.

In addition, related to the answer of the second problem, there were three students’ expectations in following EYL subject. It was found out that 24 students (58.5%) expected that EYL subject could improve their knowledge about the theory and the teaching techniques especially for children, 20 students (48.8%) expected EYL subject could help them preparing themselves to be a good teacher, and 20 students (48.8%) had expectation to their lecturer who taught EYL subject to improve the material that was given in class.