

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter intends to explain the research background, problems, objectives, significance, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. The sections is presented below.

### 1.1 Research Background

English has long been considered an essential subject in Indonesia. However, It is regarded as a challenging subject. Despite being an important subject, many students need help to learn English in school. Lack of awareness and enthusiasm are other possible explanations for the students' disinterest. Several factors make it challenging for students to learn English. The sources of the factors can be the environment, the teachers, or the students. Sundari (2018) stated that English is a global language used and studied by both native speakers and non-native speakers. As a result, learning English will be challenging for beginners.

According to Mappiasse, S.S & Sihes, A.J (2014), English has become a higher education language. It also has become a social status enhancer. This statement shows us that English has been a big part of Indonesian social life and higher education language. It has a reputation for becoming a sound measurement system for someone's education. Some English teaching issues are discussed, such as students' lack of motivation to learn, a negative attitude toward learning a new language, overcrowded classes, unqualified teachers, and a cultural gap in teachers to assist students, etc. (Sahirudin, 2013)

International languages have different configurations, rules, and other elements. (Sultra, E. D., & Baharudin, 2020) This statement shows that linguistic problems are also one of the issues that Indonesian students face, especially in Sampit. The difference in grammar has to be the most problematic issue to solve because it has nothing to do with the student's ability. Instead, it is just a misfortune for them. Indonesian students still consider English unimportant because it is not their mother tongue. As a result, many students are afraid to learn English in school, especially elementary students. Ironically, English is a scary subject for some students despite being a measurement of one's education. The Indonesian government is also aware of this problem.

Shen and Chiu (2019) found that psychological issues (such as anxiety, a fear of making mistakes, and a lack of confidence), linguistic issues (such as a lack of vocabulary, grammar, expressions, and sentence organization), and environmental issues were the leading causes of students' difficulties speaking English. Those issues are still a few problems that are faced by the students in Indonesia, especially at Sampit. However, besides those problems, the quality of teachers and schools is also quite significant.

Everyone aspires to be fluent in oral communication, and for most students, this drives them to learn a language (Ihsan, 2016). However, few students can speak English fluently in Indonesia despite how many schools teach it. Many schools use English as their official language at school as well. Despite their hard work, the students still need help mastering English. This study aims to know the difficulties of learning English in Indonesia, especially in SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit. Thus, also determines which factors that make it difficult for them. By conducting this study, it will hopefully be possible to understand better the challenges that elementary school students in

Indonesia face when studying English. In addition, this study will identify the elements that contribute to English being a challenging subject in Indonesia.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the research background, the problems of this study are stated as follows.

1. What are the students' difficulties in learning English in SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit?
2. How do the students solve their problems in learning English in SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the research problems, the objectives of this study are stated as follows:

1. To discover the students' difficulties in learning English at SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit.
2. To know how the students solve the problems of learning English in SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit.

## **1.4 Research Significance**

The result of this research hopefully contributes to the following:

1. For the Teachers

This research is expected to reference English teachers, especially at the elementary level. By looking at this research, English teachers can learn about the student's difficulties in learning English.

## 2. For the Future Researchers

This research also aims to be a reference for future researchers. Since there are still few studies about this topic, this research will be one of some similar research. Thus, many studies will take the difficulties of English as the research subject.

## 3. For the Students

This study aims to motivate some students to learn English. Understanding what their disadvantages are is one of the best ways to learn how to study English. Especially in speaking, which is still the most challenging skill to learn for Indonesian students.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

The scope and limitations are a principal part of the research. Therefore, to conduct this study well, some boundaries were set. The study is conducted at SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit. The scope of this study is for 4th to 6th grader students.

Then, this study's limitation is only focusing on English difficulties. The difficulties of English are the only thing to study. So, to focus and effectively take the information and conduct the study, that is why limitations were set.

This study was also limited to SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir in Sampit. As a subject, there are only a few people. As a result, the study will only be carried out at

SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit. The respondents were then selected from SDN 5 Mentawa Baru Hilir, Sampit.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher wants to clarify the meaning of the key terms included in the research, which must be explained; they are as follows:

### 1. Learning Difficulty

Difficulties with learning may prevent students from achieving their full potential. It is a psychological condition affecting the ability to think, talk, read, write, spell, or perform mathematical calculations. (Cortiella & Horowitz, 2014)

### 2. English Learning

Prabhat (2011) defines learning as acquiring new competencies, information, and values. Every student has a unique learning strategy.