

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents about research context, research focus, research objective, significance of study, definition of key term and previous study.

A. Research Context

English skill is needed to master all fields of science and knowledge, extensive technology and information, as well as worldwide association. Another thing that comes from English skills is having a good career in the future. This motivates people from all walks of life to be able to master English fluently. The tendency of the community to master English makes causes them to be excited so that their children can study English in formal educational institutions so that they can learn English as one of the skills that needs to be developed.

According to David Nunan "young learners" covers a large chronological age range, from about 3 years to 15 years.¹ And Montessori states that the most sensitive period to language in a child's life is between the ages of 2-7 years. All kinds of language aspects must be introduced and taught to children before the sensitive period ends.² In this sensitive period, it is very important to introduce good and correct language, because this skill is very useful for communicating with the environment.

¹ David Nunan, *Teaching English to Young Learners*, 1st ed. (Anaheim CA: Anaheim University Press, 2011), 4.

² Maria Montessori, *The Discovery of the Child* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1991), 35.

Therefore, young learners' English language skills need to be pursued and stimulated from an early age. The assumption that learning foreign languages from an early age is better than adult learners, encourages language teaching experts to give English early because it is easier to attract the attention and interest of young learners than adults. This is in line with the statement of Santrock that children learn foreign languages faster than adults.³

Young learners' language development is not mastered by children, but will be obtained through a learning process, mentoring and requires creative development power and maximum effort, therefore competent teachers are needed in teaching to young learners.

Then teaching to young learners is not easy. In addition to having to be extra patient, the teacher must be an example for his students. They must also be able to protect parents to create a conducive atmosphere, both at school and at home. So, the challenges of teachers in teaching English to young learners are many. One of them is the teacher must be able to make students learn in a fun way. In this case, the teacher must be creative and innovative in teaching the subject.

Based on research written by Rany Sylvia Pertiwi entitled "The Teacher's Perspectives about Challenges of Teaching English for Young Learners: A Case Study at English Course for Young Learners," it is stated that teachers have challenges in teaching English to young learners. There is a teaching approach in the classroom, using monotonous media, different class sizes, different student characteristics, difficult language skills. The hardest

³ Santrock John W., *Child Development* (Texas: McGraw-Hill, 2007), 313.

part is managing the class.⁴ The similarity of this research with the research that researcher will do is about the teacher challenges in teaching English to young learners. While the difference is the setting, in Rany Sylvia Dewi focused on English course of young learners but the research that will be carried out by the researcher is not at institution that are specially focused on English, but it is about the challenges in educational institution for young learners where there are various kinds of lessons not only focused on English.

The researcher also found the study written by Pelin Erdogan entitled “Teach Me All over Again: Discovering the Challenges on the Path of Teaching English to Young Learners”.⁵ This research describe the challenges faced by English teachers when teaching English to young learners can be identified from various aspect including literary skills, parental roles and school involvement, teaching materials and characteristics of young learners. It is similar with the research that will be conducted by the researcher, it is about the challenges in teaching English to young learners. And the differentiate of them is the teachers who will be studied are teachers who teach young Learners who have not studied English, while the research conducted by Pelin Erdogan when teaching students who have attended international schools for two years of kindergarten and students who have been taught English by native speakers or caregivers in English language.

⁴ Rany Sylvia Pertiwi et al., “The Teacher’s Perspectives About Challenges of Teaching English for Young Learners: A Case Study at English Course for Young Learners,” vol. 39, 1 (3rd International Conference on Learning Innovation and Quality Education (ICLIQE 2019), Atlantis Press, 2020), 65–74, <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.200129.009>.

⁵ PELİN Erdoğan, “Teach Me All Over Again: Discovering the Challenges on the Path of Teaching English to a Young Learner,” *Journal of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JLAH) (Free of Charge)* 2, no. 10 (2021).

Then to accommodate early childhood education, in 1840, Friedrich Wilhelm August Frobel in Blankenburg, Germany founded a kindergarten known as the Frobel school. Besides that, Maria Montessori also *founded Casa dei Bambini* which means children's house in San Lorenzo, Italy. Furthermore, early childhood education continued to grow until it reached in Indonesia, which became known as PAUD and playgroups.⁶

One of the early childhood education that offers English language learning for young learners as local context at Blumbungan is PAUD Al Mujtahidin. PAUD Al Mujtahidin is early childhood education institution consists of pre-school children aged 3-4 years. It aims to provide the right stimulus for children growth and prepare them to be able in entering the next school level. The headmaster of PAUD Al Mujtahidin choose English as local context because the headmaster wants her students to know English as early as possible. English is important for life but their students' parents cannot introduce them to English. The headmaster also considers that learning from an early age is the best, especially in language learning. However, the teacher who teach English at PAUD Al Mujtahidin is not teacher that have graduated from English education program.⁷ So, the researcher considers that introducing and teaching to young learners will definitely have challenges.

Based on the description above, researcher is interested to identify the challenges of teachers in teaching English to young learners, especially at

⁶ Bram Setiawan, “Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini Bermula di Jerman, Berkembang di Berbagai Negara” Tempo, diakses dari <https://gaya.tempo.co/read/1561660/pendidikan-anak-usia-dini-bermula-di-jerman-berkembang-di-berbagai-negara>, pada tanggal 15 Desember 2022 pukul 08.16 WIB.

⁷ Interview with Fadilah, The teacher at PAUD Al Mujtahidin

one of the early childhood education institutions (PAUD) Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan. Therefore, the researcher is interested in finding out about it by raising the title “The Teacher Challenges in Teaching English to Young Learners at PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan Laragan Pamekasan”.

B. Research Focus

Research focus discusses the focus on research related to research problem. Spradley stated that a focused refer to a single cultural domain or a few related domains.⁸ This research based on research context as describe above focus on the formulation of the problem as follow:

1. What does the teacher challenge in teaching English to young learners at PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan Larangan Pamekasan?
2. How does the teacher effort to overcome the challenges in teaching English to young learners at PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan Larangan Pamekasan?

C. Research Objective

John W. Creswell stated that a purpose is the major intent or objective of the study used to address the problem.⁹ Research objective is a brief statement to indicate the purpose of the research. Based on the research problem above, the researcher would like to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify the teacher challenges in teaching English to young learners at PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan Larangan Pamekasan.

⁸ Sugiyono, *Metodologi Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif Dan R&D*. (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2009), 240.

⁹ John W. Creswell, *Educational Research Planning, Conducting and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*, 4th ed. (Boston: Pearson, 2012), 60.

2. To identify the teacher efforts to overcome the challenges in teaching English to young learners at PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan Larangan Pamekasan.

D. Significance of Study

The significance of research means the usefulness or urgency of research, both scientific (theoretically) and social (practical) uses.¹⁰ So, the significant of study is an explanation about the advantages of research, especially the advantages for education, teachers, and researcher itself. Researcher determine the significance of the research as follows:

1. For English teachers

The purpose of this study is to find out directly about the teacher challenges in teaching English to young learners so the teachers can anticipate and find a solution for it.

2. For researcher

As prospective teacher, the result of this study will be one of the experiences and knowledge of the challenges in teaching English to young learners.

3. For further researcher

This research will be an additional reference for future research on the challenges in teaching English to young learners.

E. Definition of Key Term

Definition of key terms are required for avoid differences in meaning or lack of clarity of meaning.¹¹ To avoid misunderstanding and word difficulty

¹⁰ *Pedoman Karya Tulis Ilmiah* (Pamekasan: Institut Agama Islam Negeri Madura, 2020), 19.

¹¹ *Pedoman Karya Tulis Ilmiah*, 19.

for readers, the researcher would like to provide an explanation of the term, as follow:

1. Teacher challenges

Teacher challenges are things or objects that need to be addressed, overcome by a teacher because it becomes obstacles in the learning process.

2. Teaching English to young learners

Teaching English to young learners means that teachers teach English to children at preschool between 3-4 aged. It is specifically for students in early childhood education (PAUD).

F. Previous Study

Actually, the researcher found the study written by Rani Sylvia Pertiwi et al. entitled “The Teacher Perspective about Challenges of Teaching English for Young Learners: A Case Study at English Course for Young Learners”.¹² This research told about the teacher perspective about challenges of teaching English to young learners. It also stated that teacher have challenges in teaching English to young learners in English course for young learners, namely the teaching approach in the class, using monotone media, the different characteristics of the student, the difficulties language skills and the most difficult is managing the class.

Another researcher, Natalia Anggraini in “Exploring Young Learners Teachers Competency and Challenges in Teaching English” stated that challenges in teaching English to young learners were from students’ behavior

¹² Pertiwi et al., “The Teacher’s Perspectives about Challenges of Teaching English for Young Learners,” 65.

such as students' unawareness, unwillingness and laziness to study. It makes the teacher needs more effort in teaching English, the teacher must have competency.¹³

The last the researcher also found the study written by Pelin Erdogan entitled "Teach Me All over Again: Discovering the Challenges on the Path of Teaching English to Young Learners".¹⁴ This research describes the challenges faced by English teachers when teaching English to young learners can be identified from various aspect including literary skills, parental roles and school involvement, teaching materials and characteristics of young learners.

This research also identify the challanges of teaching English to young learners in PAUD Al Mujtahidin Blumbungan. The difference between those research with this researh is based on the phenomenon in this school, they try to make the students knowing English but the teacher that teach English does not graduate from English program and they took English as local content.

¹³ Natalia Anggraini, "Exploring Young Learners Teachers Competency and Challenges in Teaching English," *WEJ* 3, no. 1 (February 2019).

¹⁴ Erdoğan, "Teach Me All Over Again," 41.