

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In today's globalization era, learning English is a must for young learners in Indonesia. The reason why it is a must is because Indonesia is facing globalization that uses English language as the main language. Young learners must learn English language because they need to be fluent in English for their future. In the future they have to face globalization and they will use English language to communicate with foreign people in businesses, in relationships, and in exchanged social or cultural aspects. The learning of English language for young learners should be supported by good mental endurance that makes them have optimism in learning English. Mental endurance is the characteristics of people when they deal with a problem, including self-confidence, independence, optimism, ability to focus, and self-esteem (Yukelson 1). With mental endurance, young learners will have self confidence when they study English language which is a foreign language for them.

For my term paper I choose a topic about student's mental endurance in learning English. Student's mental endurance in learning English is one of the problems at Ace Kids, where I have an internship. In the internship, I was the assistant teacher for four students in Joey class. Joey is the name of the level for kindergarten students. The reason why I choose this topic is because I want Joey students at Ace Kids to have good mental endurance. I found that Joey students whom I taught at Ace Kids are lacking in mental endurance when they learn English. The family backgrounds of the students make them dependent on their parents and insecure. The students' parents always help their children when studying. Some of the parents are strict. They always decide what their children must do when studying. The students' family backgrounds create problems shown in students' negative reactions when they deal with difficulties in the English learning process.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on my internship experience in teaching kindergarten students at Ace Kids, the problem that I face is about some students in Joey class at Ace Kids who are lacking in mental endurance in their English learning process. This term paper discusses the students' mental endurance and its factors. In this paper I analyze the problem using the following questions:

1. What are the advantages of having mental endurance for Joey students?

2. What are the causes of the lack of mental endurance in some students in Joey class in their English learning process?
3. What are the ways to increase the students' mental endurance when studying English?
4. What are the ways to make Joey students be optimistic when studying English?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The goal of writing this term paper is to find the best solution that can help students at Ace Kids to have optimism, good self-esteem, self confidence, independence, ability to focus, and can learn their English lessons well. The problem of the students' lack of mental endurance is their being dependent and insecure. The problem needs a solution for the students in their English learning process.

The benefits of the writing of this term paper for Ace Kids, the readers, and me as the writer are:

a. For Ace Kids

The teachers in Ace Kids can get advantages from reading this term paper. The teachers can give proper support and help for their students. Furthermore, the teachers will know the ways to keep their students optimistic and self confident. Hopefully, the solution that I suggest will increase the enthusiasm of the students and make them learn their English lessons well.

b. For the readers

The readers can understand better about students' mental endurance in the process of learning English. If the readers are parents of kindergarten students, they will get knowledge to solve their children's problems in learning English, especially problems in the lack of mental endurance. Because English language is not the main language for their children, it will be better for the parents not to be over strict when encouraging and helping their children in studying English.

c. For the writer

The advantages for me as the writer from writing this term paper is that I can know about the causes of the problem that I face in my internship when I taught the kindergarten students. Moreover, from analyzing the causes of the problem, I know the effects of the student's lack of mental endurance when learning English. Besides, from my analysis I will find the solution to the problem. This solution will help me if one day I have the same problem in teaching kindergarten students.

D. Description of the Institution

Ace Kids English Course is an independent education institution with the slogan "Ace Kids Start with the End in Mind". The owner of Ace Kids English Course is Dra. Leonny Siswanti Tanama who stays in Jakarta. Dra. Leonny Siswanti Tanama sees that many parents want their children to have English language skills, but the location of

English courses are far from their home. Dra.Leonny Siswanti Tanama also likes teaching English language for children, so she opened her first English course in 1998 in Jakarta and in 2002 in Bandung to help the parents and their children who want to study English. Dra.Leonny Siswanti Tanama arranged the Ace Kids curriculum by herself. The vision is making the students comfortable in learning English. The mission is to develop the students' skills in the English language. Ace Kids English Course in Bandung at the moment has two branches. The first branch was established on April 1st 2002, which was located on Jl.Pajajaran no.87, and then moved to Jl.Astina no 68D in January 2007 because the place was no longer sufficient for all the students. The second branch was established on May 1st 2006, located at Kopo Permai III 47a no.11. The supervisor of Ace Kids English Course in Bandung is Ms.Rhimelda.

E. Limitations and Method of the Study

I will focus on analyzing the problem of the lack of mental endurance in the students of Joey class at Ace Kids in learning English. I will analyze all the data taken from my internship journal. I use theories taken from psychological books, and from an article in *Success* magazine to support my analysis.

F. Organization of the Term Paper

In this term paper there will be four chapters. The first chapter, the introduction, explains the problem that the writer wants to analyze, the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the benefits of writing this term-paper, and the description of the institution. The second chapter discusses the causes, the effects, and the theories that support my analysis of the causes and the effects of the problem. The third chapter discusses the potential solutions to the problem. In this chapter I will suggest three possible solutions. The three possible solutions that I suggest have potential positive and negative effects. The possible solutions that I suggest are also supported by theories. The last chapter is conclusion. In this chapter the best solution that I think can solve the problem will be presented. Then, a bibliography that presented all the sources.