

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the background of the research, statement and limitation of the problem, research question, purpose of the research, and significance of the research.

Background of the Research

Facilities as a tool in supporting the learning process for students can be access in many places including at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta provides some facilities such as the library, laboratory, digital repository, mini hospital, Self-Access Center (SAC), Waroeng Perancis, and American Corner.

Those facilities that have been mentioned earlier, especially American Corner will benefit in learning process. Based on researcher experience as a student of English Education Department, the researcher felt the facilities in the American Corner are useful in education. All of the facilities in American Corner can help to finish the assignment, find information, and get relaxed through the games.

American Corner is established through the relation between the US Embassy and many Universities in Indonesia (U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia, 2017). American Corner is a place to support learning process that provides learning activities. Besides, American Corner provides accurate and reliable information about the political, sciences, economic, cultural, educational and social life in both books and journal article. Thus, visitors of American Corner can access that information freely (U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia, 2017).

US Embassy also pointed out that the primary priority of US Embassy in Indonesia is to promote the education (U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia, 2017). Moreover, the United States and Indonesia have identified education as a priority for both of them. It would help the students to understand or to know well about American, especially in the process of learning.

Based on the data monthly statistics report of American Corner on June 2017, the number of visitor American Corner is very a lot. Nearly 100 students visited the American Corner. Even though on June 2017, most of students have not been active in classroom learning because it is the end of the semester and time to start the holiday before Eid Al-Fitr.

Most of the students are not only students of English Education Department. On a list of American Corner visitors, it has been recorded that the visitors were from various majors although most were students of English Education Department. Even they come to American Corner not for a moment. They often use American Corner facilities for a long time, whether it is resources facilities or equipment facilities.

There are some benefits when using facilities in American Corner for students such as book, journal, and internet access. According to the researcher's experience, when there was a lecture asked the students to find and discuss some journals or articles, they would find easily in American Corner. Books and journals that provided in American Corner were useful in supporting students' learning process. According to Moon (2006, p.17), there are many areas of theory about learning that can inform understanding of how the students learn from learning journals. The researcher thought American Corner was a good choice of the facility with its collection of journals and books to support students' need in learning.

American Corner has many facilities that are useful for learning. However, students do not maximally utilize those facilities. Even, many students did not know about American

Corner facilities. Unfortunately, the useful facilities are unknown to students. Even though these facilities can help them in learning.

Based on some issues that have been mentioned, the researcher was curious to reveal students' perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting learning. So far, the Researcher has not been found the similar research, so the researcher wanted to do this research under the title "Students perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting learning process at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta".

Statement and Limitation of the Problem

Wicaksono (2012) stated that Environment including facilities has many important roles to support the learning process. Asiabaka (2008) mentioned that the school facilities consist of all types of buildings for academic and non-academic activities, equipment for academic and non-academic activities, areas for sports and games, landscape, farms and gardens including trees, roads, and paths.

From experience, the researcher identified that most students face some problems about American Corner, especially in facilities. Some students' did not know about American Corner facilities such as the collections and activities. Based on the data monthly statistics report of American Corner, the number of visitor in American Corner did not worth the entire number of students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Besides that, students lacked of information about American Corner. As a result, students did not know the collections and activities of American Corner.

American Corner has some facilities that can be accessed for the visitors American Corner. Based on the data I have obtained, facilities in American Corner not only for academic. American Corner also provides non-academic facilities. Since American Corner

has academic and non-academic, the researcher is curious in investigating student perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting the learning process. Hence, this research will only focus on American Corner facilities that related to academic facilities, so it will be a more specific area to be studied.

Research Question

The research is aimed to investigate:

1. What are the benefits of American Corner facilities in supporting their learning process?
2. What aspects need to be improved in American Corner Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta?

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the research is:

1. To explore the benefit of American Corner facilities in supporting the learning process.
2. To identify the aspects need to be improved in American Corner Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give some benefits:

Students. This research is expected to give information about American Corner facilities, so they can be maximizing facilities of American Corner to support their learning process.

Teachers. This research is expected to give solution for a teacher to using various facilities in the teaching process, especially facilities in American Corner.

Other researchers. This research can be referenced for other researchers that would carry out the same research.

American Corner. The Researcher hopes that whatever the results of this research, American Corner can know what needs to be improved to maximize its services.