

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter describes the introduction of this study. The introduction consists several points: background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, research objectives, and significance of the research.

Background of the Study

In teaching process, there are some obstacles such as unsuitable learning methods used by a teacher and less motivation from students. Students that have less motivation in learning may ignore the teacher when the teacher presents the materials in front of the class. Students who ignored or have no attention to the teacher may have no interest in learning especially in learning English. Students may feel that English is hard to learn.

As we know that in Indonesia, English is a non-compulsory subject at elementary school. Some elementary schools still put English as extracurricular. Indonesian education focuses on *Muatan Lokal* curriculum. *Muatan Lokal* is curriculum activities to develop competencies adapted to regional characteristics and potentials, including regional excellence, whose material cannot be grouped into existing subjects (Haromain, 2009). In some large cities, English has become a compulsory subject in elementary school with an average time allocation of 2x45 minutes per meeting per week. But for some rural areas, there are few schools that make English into compulsory lessons. Some elementary schools in

rural areas have made English as a compulsory subject but the time is still short with an average time allocation of 1x45 minutes per meeting per week.

There are many difficulties faced by English teachers in elementary schools that are in the rural areas because students may have never known English before. Their mother language is also a culture language, so when the teacher gives English material to the students, they feel difficulty and then the students do not have attention. Facing such a condition, teachers have to find the suitable methods for teaching the students by gaining attention and motivating them to learn English. At hand, gaining attention may become a door to the solution in learning English problem.

According to Webster online dictionary, attention is the action or power of carefully thinking about, listening to, or watching someone or something.

Attention also is a concept studied in cognitive psychology that refers to how we actively process specific information in our situation. Every teacher should know how to gain students attention and also can make student engagement. Student engagement refers to level attention, interest, and passion that students show when they are learning. Teachers should have a lot of good ideas and be ready to face any possibility of the classroom situation. The teachers spend most of their time in the classroom to convey the material without giving fun activities.

Robert Gagne (1989) explained that for an effective learning teacher should be able to gain students attention. Gaining attention can use a story, problem, or new circumstances that will grab the learners' attention. The idea is to grab learners' attention so they will become involved in the learning process. In

Gagne's Nine Steps theory, a teacher can use such interesting procedure as storytelling, demonstration, presenting a problem to be solved, and identifying why it's important for the students. Some of teachers usually do activities like showing short videos on the topic of instruction or using another event that brings students' curiosity so that the class becomes conducive. These activities are commonly known by teachers as icebreaking activity.

According to Johnson (2007), ice-breaking activities are important in the learning process to refresh the environment of learning, eliminate the boredom and drowsiness that faced by anyone, including students and to create positive attitudes towards learning process. To achieve a good result, to provoke desire of study and to avoid any uncomfortable feelings of the student in learning English, the teacher should create good condition and interesting ways by using ice-breakers as a pacemaker. Teachers implement icebreaking using many activities to attract and to make student pay attention to the teacher. For example, teachers usually use video as their presentation. Teachers thought that if they were using video in their presentation when giving material, the students will pay more attention to the presentation rather than without using video. But in elementary school, it is only a few of teachers using icebreaking for students. It is important to do icebreaking to elementary school students once or twice because in the elementary school itself, students are learning so many courses and students may feel less motivation in the courses that may make it hard for the students.

In my observation when doing internships, I asked to teachers about how to gain students' attention and some teachers said that they had difficulties in

gaining students' attention. There is a problem found by teachers in gaining students' attention regardless their effort in using various methods like using icebreaking, and media. Teachers were used those methods but sometimes it does not work properly. From this case, the researcher makes a research about teachers' methods in gaining attention, and the data were taken in elementary school in Magelang.

Statement of the Problems

There are some problems in the teaching process, especially in English classroom. One of the problems is that students have lack motivation in learning English. Students have no attention to the teacher because students may feel English is hard to learn. The teachers also have problems in gaining students' attention. Teacher used some methods in gaining students' attention like use icebreaking activities, games or using media like pictures, but sometimes it does not work properly. Teachers should have a lot of good ideas and be ready to face any possibility of the classroom situation including when students do not pay attention to their teaching. As having no attention to the classroom learning process hampers the learning, the researcher feel need to reveal this issue in a scientific study.

Research Questions

The research question of this research is:

1. What are the teachers' methods to gain students' attention in the process of teaching English?
2. What are the challenges in applying the methods in gaining students attention?
3. What are the teachers' favored methods in gaining attention?

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are to investigate the methods used by teachers in gain students' attention in learning process of teaching English, to identify the challenges of the teachers in applying the methods to gain attention and to reveal the teachers' favored method to gaining attention applied by the English teachers at elementary school in Magelang.

Significance of the Research

The benefits of this research are:

Teachers. After teachers read this result of research, the teachers will know the most effective method in gaining student attention and also can be a guideline for the teachers in gaining students attention.

Students Teachers. The result of the research for students teacher is that students can use the teachers' methods in gaining students attention when the students become teachers.

Future Researcher. For the future researchers, the result of this study can be a guideline to improve or develop the result of this research.

Organization of the Research

Chapter one discusses the introduction of the research that consists background of the research, statement of the problem, research goal and objective, research question, research goal and objectives, and signification of the research. This chapter also tells to the readers about how is English subject roles in Indonesia.

Chapter two discusses expert theories from keywords of the research title to support researcher opinion that consists the definition of attention, types of attention, and methods in gaining attention. This chapter also explains about activities in teaching and learning, definition and kind of icebreaking activities.

Chapter three discusses the method that researcher use in collecting data that consists research design, setting and participants, types of data and data sources, data collection methods and procedures, and data analysis.

Chapter four is finding and discussion toward the collected data. This part consists of the data description, findings, and discussion.

Chapter five concludes recommendation of the research. It provides summary of conclusion from the finding and discussion of the research, and recommendation added to obtain the solution.