

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter reviews the underlying theories of the study; they are learning difficulties included definition of learning difficulties and kinds of difficulties in learning English, and English.

#### A. Learning Difficulties

##### 1. Definition of Learning Difficulties

According to Brown (2008: 8) learning is mastery or acquisition of knowledge about an object or a skill with learning, experience, or instruction.<sup>1</sup>

According to Arthur W. Chickering and Zelda F. Gamson, learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just by sitting in class listening to teachers, memorizing prepackage assignments and propose the answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write about it and relate it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Fuad Anis, et al, *Learning English in SMPIT Raudhatul Jannah Cilegon City* , Loquen English Studies Journal, Vol 11, No 2, (2018), 87.

<sup>2</sup> Euis Uswatun Hasanah, *Teaching Speaking Skill Using Active Learning Method*, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah. (2007), 7.

From the statement above, learning by doing is one of active learning way that makes the students must be engage in an active quest for learning and new ideas. It is emphasized that experience is always necessary for intellectual development of the students. It indicates that the students as the subject of learning must be active in teaching learning process.

While the learning principles are very important things must be present in the process of learning. If this is ignored, it can be ascertained that learning outcomes are not optimal. These learning principles contain readiness for learning, attention, motivation, active students, self-improvement, repetition, challenging subject matter, feedback and reinforcement, and individual differences (Max Darsono).<sup>3</sup>

Learning difficulties is conditions in which children with average or above average intelligence abilities, but have learning disabilities or failures related to obstacles in the process of perception, conceptualization, language, memory and concentration, self-mastery, and integration functions sensory motor (Clement, in Weiner, 2003).<sup>4</sup>

Basically, learning difficulties comes from two factors based on Westwood (2008:15), namely: First is internal factor which comprises of affective factors as motivation, self confidence, self esteem, and attitude.

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<sup>3</sup> Budi, Hasaruddin dkk, journal- *analysis learning difficulties*. Program Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Makassar. p.6.

<sup>4</sup> Makalah-kesulitan-belajar,10/2014. <http://diasdiari.blogspot.com>

Second is external factors which come from sociocultural elements like teacher, teaching learning aids, and culture in the classroom.

Learning difficulties are conditions in which students cannot learn naturally, due to threats, obstacles or disturbances in learning. According to The United States Office of Education (USOE) in Mulyono Abdurrahman (2003) learning difficulties are a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes that include understanding and using teaching or writing language. Whereas, according to Sunarta (1985) learning difficulties are difficulties experienced by students in their learning activities, resulting in low learning achievement and changes in behavior that occur is not in accordance with the participation obtained as classmates.

It can be concluded that learning difficulties is a condition in which students cannot learn as they should due to threats, obstacles or disturbances as well as factors that cause them to not be able to learn properly.

## **2. The kinds of Difficulties in Learning English**

The difficulty of learning English until now is still experienced by many students, not only students who are not majoring in English sometimes students majoring in English themselves also still feel difficulties. Based on the results of the researcher observation at State

Islamic University of SMH Banten in Islamic Education Department (PAI), it showed that their initial capital of their English is very low.

In learning English, the students are required to master four basic skills of English, namely: listening, speaking, writing and reading. According to Rebecca Hughes namely “Speaking is the most difficult language skill to assess reliably. A person’s speaking ability is usually judged during a face to face interaction, in real time, between an interlocutor and a candidate”.<sup>5</sup> Wallace at all (2004: 13)<sup>6</sup> write that listening skills are proficiency important because these skills make humans gain insight, understanding, knowledge, information and achieve success in communicate with other people. Therefore, listening skills is a very important skill in language. However, listening is not a simple process. Someone who listens must distinguish between sounds, capture, and understand vocabulary and grammatical structure, interpreting stresses and intentions, remembering and interpreting all at the same time.

Many students especially university students assume that writing is one of the most difficult skill in English. In the book *Introduction to Academic Writing 3<sup>th</sup> Edition* explained that “The process of writing has roughly four steps. In the first step, you creat ideas. In the second step, you organize the

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<sup>5</sup> Rebecca Hughes, *Teaching and Researching Speaking*. (London: Pearson Education, 2011), 92.

<sup>6</sup>Dewi Kurniawati, “*Studi Tentang Faktor-faktor Penyebab Kesulitan Belajar Menyimak Bahasa Inggris pada Mahasiswa Semester III IAIN Raden Intan Lampung*”, 2015.

ideas. In the third step, you write a rough draft. In the final step, you polish your rough draft by editing it and making revisions".<sup>7</sup> Fikri Asih Wigati explained in her research study that difficulties in writing were categorized into three problems.<sup>8</sup> Which is cited by Bryne (1988), namely three problems that made writing skills difficult to master, namely linguistic, cognitive and content problems. The first problem is linguistic. This relates to our shrewdness in writing structure correct and hence the sentences formed will be able to coalasce with one another other. The result is that the text that is created can be well replicated by the reader. The second problem is cognitive problems related to mastery we are on forms of language, structure, grammar that are useful for communication effective in writing. According to Caroline, et.al 2003, one of the key aspects of the success in writing, especially in the process approach is the importance of seeking and responding to the feedback of others while a text is under development.<sup>9</sup>

Reading is one of important academic skills needed by students as source of knowledge and enjoyment. Fatel and Praveen states that "Reading is most useful and important skill for people. Reading is a source of joys.

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<sup>7</sup>Alice Oshima & Ann Hogue,*Introduction to Academic Writing 3<sup>th</sup> Edition The Longman Academic Writing Series*,(Copyright, 2017 ), by Pearson Education, Inc.

<sup>8</sup> Fikri Asih Wigati, "Jurnal Ilmiah Solusi", Vol. I No. 3, (September-November 2014), 46-41.

<sup>9</sup> Ila Amalia, *Fostering Studests' Writing Skill Through Peer Feedback Activity:A Case Study at UIN SMH Banten* , Loquen English Studies Journal, Vol. 11, No. 01, (June 2018), 2.

Good reading is that which keeps students regular in reading which provide him both pleasure and profit".<sup>10</sup>

From the definition it can be concluded that the students will be get pleasure and profit if they many read books because they get more many knowledge.

Every individual has different levels of difficulty, including difficulties in communication, understanding grammar, or laack of vocabulary. Basically everyone experiences the same thing when learning English, starting from memorizing vocabulary, understanding grammar and other language structures. The problems above are actually not due to the mistakes of the learner, but could be mistakes in the learning methods that are not interesting or too rigid, therefore effective learning activities are needed. In learning English students must be able to master four aspects of skill. In this skill aspect students learn about how to pronounce or pronounce words correctly, write sentences correctly according to grammar and listen to foreign language sentences correctly and throughly so that what is heard matches what is said.

According to Barbara Dykes in his book *Grammar for Everyone* mentions that the simplest understanding of grammar, according to him,

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<sup>10</sup> Farah Yunita, et al, *The Effectiveness of Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) Technique in Teaching Reading on Narrative Text*, Loquen English Studies Journal, Vol. 11, No. 01, (Juni 2017), 44.

“grammar is a language to talk about language”.<sup>11</sup> It means because from grammar can learn how to communicate with language that cannot be separated by learning grammar, starting from the vocabulary, sentence patterns, expression and meanings, grammar can also be used as an excuse to not speak English for fear of being wrong.

Pronunciation is the act of manner of Pronouncing of words, utterance of speech. In other words, it can also be said that is way of speaking a word, especially a way that is accepted or general understood. In the sense Pronunciation entails the production and reception of sound of speech and the achievement of the meaning.<sup>12</sup>

Brown (2002:142) added that there also some variables influencing the student's abilities in learning second language, he defined it into two facets of affective domain of second language acquisition. The first of these is the intrinsic side. This is the internal factor that comes within a person in learning a language. Furthermore, the second is the extrinsic factors. This is the factors which arrive from sociocultural variable around the learners. It socially requires learners in the same way of learning second language along with culture.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Barbara Dykes, *Grammar for Everyone* (Australia: ACER Press, 2007), 5.

<sup>12</sup> Kristina, Diah and Rarasteja, Zita. *Pronunciation 1*, (Surakarta : Sebelas Maret University Press, 2006), p.1

<sup>13</sup> H. Douglas Brown, *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching 4<sup>th</sup> edition*, (Copyright, 2000), by Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

According to Hermayawati in his research analysis learning English difficulties. Actually learning difficulties are based on:

1. Learning motivation

Learning motivation is encouragement that arises from within students (intrinsic) and from outside students (extrinsic) to do something. Intrinsic motivation includes desires to succeed, encouragement of the need to learn, and expectations of students' ideals. While extrinsic motivation includes the existence of awards, a conducive learning environment, interesting learning activities, and the teacher's efforts to teach students.

2. The role of lecturers and students in learning

In learning the lecturer acts as a motivator so students want and are able to learn according to the objectives of the course, the curriculum objectives, the internal goals and the objectives of national education. In teaching the lecturer's task is to realize students in order to understand, and be able to carry out what he said and governed. As well as students as educators are required to understand, and to be willing and able to carry out the things the lecturer explained or convey to them.

3. Infrastructure

Facilities and infrastructure are facilities that are absolutely fulfilled to provide convenience in carrying out an activity even



though they have not been able to fulfill the facilities and infrastructure properly. Educational facilities are all facilities needed in the teaching and learning process, both movable and immobile so that the achievement of educational goals and runs smoothly, regularly, effectively and efficiently. Educational infrastructure is a facility that indirectly supports the course of the educational process, such as: yard, garden or School Park, road to school, school discipline, and etc.

#### 4. Learning material

Learning material is a form of material or a set of learning substances to help teachers/instructors in teaching and learning activities that are systematically arranged in order to meet established competency standards. Learning material is information, tools and text needed for planning and reviewing the implementation of learning and to assist in teaching and learning activities in the classroom so that it is structured systematically to display a complete figure of competencies that students will master in the learning process.

#### 5. Learning environment

Learning environment is everything that exists in the environment that affects the process and results of student learning.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Hermayawati, "Analisis Kesulitan Belajar Bahasa Inggris Mahasiswa", *Jurnal Sosio-Humaniora*, Vol.1, No.1, (September 2010), ISSN: 2087-1899. 2.

Based on the description above it can be concluded that the difficulties learning is anything that makes it smooth (slow) or deter someone from learning understanding and master something to be able to reach the goal. There are difficulties learning can be characterized by achievement that is low or below the average achieved by the class group, the results achieved are not balanced with the work done and slow in doing learning assignments. Students who experience learning difficulties will be difficult in absorbing the subject matter delivered by the teacher so he will be lazy in learning and unable to master material, avoid lesson and ignore tasks that are given the teacher. So, improving the quality of learning English can be achieved if it is known the background of learning difficulties.

## **B. English**

English is one of international languages, widely used and studied all over the world. Nowadays, English has been important in international interaction. There are many aspects, such as: education, economy, and politics. Mastering international language is something that needs to be developed at this time. By establishing Indonesia as a member of the AEC (ASEAN Economic Community). Then it is fitting for the nation's generation to advance in terms of science and technology that is supported by the mastery of good and correct language of instruction. English is an important international language that can connect people with the world in various

aspects including aspects of education. This has been demonstrated by government regulations that make English as a compulsory subject for students to study from elementary school to senior high school level. Even at higher education or university level, all study programs must provide English as in the Islamic Education Department (PAI). It shows how important mastery of foreign languages, especially English as an introduction to the success of one's academic field and to support a career in the world of work.

According to Brumfit (2001:35) English is an international language that is the most widespread medium of international communication. As an international language, English is used as a means of communication between nations that have different languages. First language differences will not prevent people from communicating like English. English is one of the communication tools used both orally and in writing. English is an foreign language that is often used in Indonesia and has been taught in schools.

English language is seen in terms of its current role in the world, according to Hornby stating that "English is the language of the English, now spoken in many countries and used as a language of international communication through the world" because English is the native language of the United Kingdom.

English is the Mexican's everyday life as mentioned before, English is used daily in communication. It is impossible to spend one day in Mexico without hearing English on the TV, reading it in the newspapers and advertisements, or seeing it on business shop windows.<sup>15</sup>

Based on theories and explanations about the nature of English above the researcher conclude that language has a very important role in human life, language is one of the factors supporting the intertwining of communication between humans that brings a lot of impact changes in the development of human life.

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<sup>15</sup> Despaigne, Colette, "*The Difficulties of Learning English: Perceptions and Attitudes in Mexico*", Canadian and International Education/ Education Canadienne et Internationale: Vol.39: ISS. 2, (June, 2010), Article 5.