

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented and introduced the background of the study, the research problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, the scope and limitation, hypothesis, and definition of key term.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Larsen (2008:102) describes that language is for communicating. When we communicate we use the language to accomplish some function such as arguing, persuading things or promoting some brands. Language is the principle means for human to communicate, to transmit information or to share idea (Smith, 1982:233). So, language is really important for human life to communicate

One of the well known languages in the world is English. It has become the most widely studied by foreign language on the earth. As an international language, English has an important role in the world. It can be used to communicate with people of other countries and it is also used as an instrument in utilizing modern sciences and technology. In Indonesia, the Ministry National of Education has decided that English as the first foreign languages have to be taught in every school from primary school to university.

In education there is a process of learning activity. Learning is a process of mental/psychic activity takes place in active interactions with environment that produces changes in knowledge, attitudes and skills (Winkle, 1999:53). The process of learning aimed to improve the personality by trying to get a new understanding, new values and new skills. Another goal of education is the desired behavior change that occurs after a person has learned.

There are various factors that influence English proficiency in teaching and learning process. According to Shams (2008) in foreign language learning context, there are various factors that influence the English proficiency such as motivation, attitudes, anxiety, learning achievements, aptitudes, intelligence, age, personalities, etc. Attitude is one of the most important factors that impact on English proficiency or student's achievement. Student's attitude have to influence all of the student's responses to the target, especially student's attitude towards English

Kara (2009) stated that attitudes towards learning besides opinions and beliefs have an obvious influence on students' behaviors and consequently on their performance. It is argued that those students who possess positive beliefs about language learning have a tendency to increase more positive attitudes towards language learning. Attitude towards language learning plays an important role in motivating them to learn that language. Suryabrata also said that another factor affecting

student achievement is attitude. Attitude is something that is learned, and attitude determines how individuals react to the situation and determine what people look for in life.

In the course of the learning process, teachers should pay attention to the attitude, because attitude will affect the responses of students in a materials given. Student's attitude towards learning language plays an important role in motivating them to learn that language. Dalvit and Klerk (2004) said if someone has positive attitude to a language, he or she more likely to learn it well. Thus attitude is one of the factors influence foreign language learning because how much effort students put into language learning depends partly on attitude. In short, achievement in a target language relies not only on intellectual capacity, but also student's attitude which affected in learning English to enhance the language performance.

Based on the background of this study, the researcher analyze the correlation between students' attitude and their English achievement at MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari Tulungagung at the first grade in second semester.

## **B. Formulation of Reserach Question**

Based on the background presented the researcher interested to analyze "Is there any significant correlation between students' attitude and their English achievement in MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari, Tulungagung?"

### **C. Purpose of the Study**

Based on the formulation above the purpose of the study is to find out whether there is significant correlation between student's attitude and student's English achievement at MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari, Tulungagung at the first grade in second semester.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study is adressed for:

#### 1. Student

The study will inform the students about their attitudes which correlate with their English achievement. It is hoped that the students will develop positive attitudes as one of the factors of success in English achievement.

#### 2. Teacher

This study are expected to be useful for teachers by knowing information about the description of students' attitude and students' English achievement. It may provided a better understanding of students' internal factors that can influenced the success in EFL learning. It may support English teacher to develop students positive attitudes in learning English.

#### 3. Other researcher

This study is hopefully to be useful to conduct an educaional research especially related to the correlation between

attituded and English achievement and also make innovation on the research of English achievement by knowing other motivation or can redo this research improving the quality of the students' English achievement.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The researcher conducted the study in MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari, Tulungagung. The researcher only focused on correlation between students' attitude and their English achievement. In this research, the researcher limits the study only investigates the students' attitudes in learning English to know their capabilities and also their English achievement examination result.

### **F. Hypothesis**

There are two kinds of hypothesis, they are alternative hypothesis and null hypothesis:

#### 1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no correlation between students' attitude and their English achievement.

#### 2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

There is correlation between students' attitude and their English achievement.

## **G. Definition of the Key Term**

To give clear information and understanding of the terms and content of this research. It is necessary to clarify the following key terms.

The definition of key terms of the study as follows:

### 1. Attitude

Attitude is a person's reaction or judgement about the likes and dislikes of the person, event, or other aspects of the environment. It is a psychological phenomenon that is usually manifested in the form of behaviour or action. This study will focus to students' attitudes in learning English.

### 2. English Achievement

Achievement is the result of learning activities stated in form of symbols, numbers, letters, or words that may reflect results that have been achieved by students in a given period. In this case student's English achievement measured by the value of the examination given by the teacher.

### 3. Correlational Study

Correlation is defined as a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two or more variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. Correlation in this study will study about the association relationship between students' attitudes and their English achievement.