

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the research, formulation of research problem, objectives of the research, the significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

In latest years, an growing use of English as International Language (EIL) has been extensively proved in lots of fields across the world. This is proved through using English standardized checking out hired in businesses and establishments. They rent English Proficiency (TOEFL and IELTS) as one of the necessities withinside the recruitment process, along with scholarship programs. Particularly, in Indonesian instructional establishments, plenty of instructional establishments had been imposing TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) to degree the English-language cappotential of those who do now no longer communicate English as their first language and who plan to take a look at at faculties and universities, both as undergraduate or graduate students (Phillips, 2003: xiii).

Related to this context, many universities consider English to be important as shown through English language skills tests. This test of English Proficiency aims to measure their English proficiency. According

to DEEWR (2009, p.1), proficiency is the ability of students to use the English language to make and communicate meaning in spoken and written contexts while completing their university studies. There are many kinds of English proficiency tests, such as TOEFL (English Foreign Language Test), TOEIC (English Test for International Communication), IELTS (International English Test System). The test commonly used to determine English proficiency for academic purposes is the TOEFL. TOEFL is a test that needs special attention for final year students as one of the requirements for graduation and becoming a qualified bachelor and makes it easy for students who want to continue their studies abroad.

In Indonesia, the English test that is considered standardized is the Test of English Proficiency (TOEP) which has been calibrated and proven to be able to predict the English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (Madya, 2020). TOEP is divided into three sections; Listening Comprehension, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. In the listening section, students are required to be able to hear conversations in English and express the conversation. In the structure section, students are required to be able to work on problems using correct and precise tenses. And in the reading section, students are required to be able to capture stories in English and answer problems related to the story. This test needs special attention for final year students as one of the requirements for graduation and becoming a qualified bachelor and makes it easier for students who

want to continue their studies abroad for example at IAIN Tulungagung. Therefore, students at IAIN Tulungagung are required to take the TOEP test to measure their level of mastery of English, especially before taking the thesis exam. And the results of the TOEP test will be a requirement for applying the thesis exam.

For all adult English learners with different English proficiency needs in this digital age, measuring their learner's English proficiency through standardized online tests has many advantages (Bartram, 2008). One of the benefits is that more people can take the test without time and space restrictions. In the vast areas of the Indonesian archipelago, where transportation is not yet an easy solution due to space constraints, online testing is far more resource efficient than paper and pencil testing. Another advantage is that the test is easy to use, especially in high stakes situations. When it comes to scoring and reporting, online testing allows for easier and faster scoring and reporting than paper and pencil testing.

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Besides the advantages, online testing has some drawbacks. The first is the reliance on the availability of required equipment and reliable technicians. Standard procedures for TOEP management have been established to address this flaw. This is to ensure that the test can securely run well. Another shortcoming is related to security, in a way that test takers might take the test several times until they remember all the questions. There is also a possibility that the different test forms are not equal; hence, possible injustice for test takers. Test administrators and developers have made efforts to overcome the shortcomings by creating different forms of tests and ensuring that the forms are equivalent (Kartowagiran, Munadi, Retnawati, & Apino, 2018).

In IAIN Tulungagung, TOEP was initially carried out offline with a Paper Based Test (PBT). However, now it has been replaced with Computer Based Test (CBT) or online TOEP. This is due to a government regulation that prohibited face-to-face learning. TOEP Online is a series of English proficiency tests which are the same as PBT. The difference is that

in CBT or online, students can take the test anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet. All media for delivering questions were changed from paper-based to computer-based. Questions for listening can be listened to more intensively because students can use headsets/headphones instead of using speakers during PBT.

The minimum TOEP score that must be taken for all students is 400 including students of the Islamic Banking Department. Students of the Islamic Banking Study Program at IAIN Tulungagung should no longer have difficulty in achieving a minimum TOEP score of 400. This is because they have programmed all subjects related to the exam material at TOEP, namely skills subjects such as listening, speaking, reading, writing and materials such as grammar and vocabulary. In addition, in the Islamic Banking department, English courses are a subject that must be mastered. Hayu Dian Yulistanti (2018) states that one of the obstacles in service at the Bank is the ability to speak foreign languages for foreign customers who come. Therefore, the improvement in English should ideally be carried out thoroughly from various parties, not only banking employees, who are no less important are students majoring in Islamic banking.

There are several studies related to the students english proficiency. The first study is conducted by Andam Dewi Putri (2015), entitled “The Proficiency Level of English Language Learners Based on TOEIC Test : A Survey at SMKN 1 Mataram West Nusa Tenggara Academic Year 2014/2015”. The subject of this research was the student’s at SMKN 1 Mataram in

academic year 2014/2015. The population of this research was 240 students in 4 major programs, i. e, Accounting, Office Administration, Marketing, and Banking. The proficiency level of the students was identified by using TOEIC listening and reading test. According to the research finding, the average of students of SMKN 1 Mataram proficiency result shows that 27 out of 35 students belong to the novice level and 8 other students belong to the elementary level. This research indicates that the target of curriculum 2006 failed to be achieved since it required students to be able to achieve intermediate level of proficiency.

The second study is conducted by Liyeni Pratiwi (2017), entitled “An Analysis of the Difficulties Encountered by Non-English Departments Students”. The result of this research indicates that the students' recapitulation score of TOEFL test was poor, by percentage 60% of students include 9 students of fifteen participants are very low understanding, and 40% of students' include 6 students are low understanding. It means that the students are unfamiliar to do the TOEFL test.

The third study is conducted by Raquel S. Cachuela (2017), entitled “English Proficiency of First Year College Students : A Case of Collegio Del Sagrado Corazon De Jesus”. The findings of the study revealed that the English proficiency of the first year college students when taken as an entire group was good. When classified according to program and sex, the English proficiency of the BSHM and BSSW students is

also good. The Mann-Whitney U test revealed, however, that while there was no significant difference in the English proficiency of first year students when classified according to sex, there was a significant difference when classified according to programs.

The fourth study is conducted by Ignasia Yuyun (2018), entitled “A Study of English Proficiency Test Among the First Year University Students”. The study aims at analyzing the English skills in an English Proficiency Test (EPT) shown by students at tertiary level or university students, particularly the first year university students (freshmen). This study revealed reading skill was the major problems faced by the first year of university students, particularly, in reviewing overall reading text. To solve this problem, the cognitive strategies, particularly the top-down reading strategies are suggested to anticipate the author’s purpose, preview the text, think about what one already knows about the topic, skim for main points, etc. An effective reading strategies training which is more focused and explicit should be regularly practiced and enhanced since it can significantly boost reading proficiency and language acquisition.

The most level of students’ english proficiency are low. Most of students failed passing TOEP test. In addition the students that failed had good score in grammar, listening, and reading subjects but still fail to pass the TOEP exam. Based on this reason, the researcher was interested in investigating the english proficiency of Islamic Banking Students. So, this

research is given title **“THE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY OF THE ISLAMIC BANKING STUDENTS OF IAIN TULUNGAGUNG”**.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates research problems as follows : How is the English Proficiency of the Islamic Banking Students of IAIN Tulungagung?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of research problem above, the purpose of the research is to know the English Proficiency of the Islamic Banking Students of IAIN Tulungagung.

D. The Significance of the Research

This research was conducted to provide some benefits. As for the benefits that can be described from this research includes:

1. The Students

With this study, students are expected to more improve their good preparation for taking the TOEP test, in order to overcome their difficulties in the TOEP test so that they can get high scores.

2. The Lecturers

With the results of this study, it is hoped that the lecturers can participate in overcoming the low score of students in the TOEP test by improving or changing the teaching method to students so that it

becomes even more effective, so that students can get good TOEP scores.

3. The Researcher

This study is very useful because the researcher can increase some knowledge and can motivate the researcher to better analyze in other studies.

4. The Future Researchers

The result of this study can be secondary data and a reference to the other researcher who interest to conduct similar studies or to find deeper and more detailed results and can correct the shortcomings of the previous study.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

The scope of this research is only focus on the factors that cause them to got the low score on the TOEP test. While the limitation of this research is 7th semester Islamic Banking students in UIN Sayyid Ali Ramhatullah Tulungagung who have taken and passed the TOEP test online.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. English Proficiency

English proficiency is the ability to understand and produce English, including reading and writing. Assessing language

communication skills typically includes reading, writing, listening, and language production exercises.

2. TOEP test

TOEP is a test or device used to collect information about a candidate's English proficiency. TOEP is temporarily limited to the measurement of receptive English proficiency. i.e listening and reading. The instrument divided into two category that are listening (50 questions) with 50 minutes and reading (structure and reading) (100 questions) with 100 minutes. In this research the TOEP test is online based-test that was held to measure 7th semester students of IAIN Tulungagung.

3. Score

Score is the number that expresses accomplishment (as in a game or test) or excellence (as in quality) either absolutely in points gained or by comparison to a standard.