

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents about background of the study, formulation of research, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standardized test to measure a student's mastery of English. Phillips (2001) says that the TOEFL is a test for measures the level of English proficiency of non-native English speakers. In addition, Abboud and Hussein (2011) also argue the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) has established itself as the standard for determining whether or not a person can communicate effectively in English even when they are not a native speaker of the language. This test consists of several items including multiple choice on grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, aural comprehension, and writing comprehension. According to (Brown, 2004, p.66) if for almost a century, several institutions have viewed proficiency tests as an economic, reliable, and valid assessment for those who enter, continue, or leave their institutions. There are several types of commercial standard proficiency tests, such as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System), TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication), and many more.

TOEFL has a level of difficulty, demands a good command of English and the students must have good strategies in taking standardized test. The TOEFL has three main parts; Listening Comprehension, Structure & Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. TOEFL is the most popular English proficiency tests, this is evidenced by the many TOEFL tests that are applied in Indonesia. It can be seen from more institutions such as companies use the TOEFL as one of the requirements in recruiting their new employees and universities use it as one of the requirements for graduation. TOEFL in some universities is also used for students who will submit their thesis.

State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung has its own proficiency test to measure students' proficiency in English. This test is commonly called the TOEP Test (Test of English Proficiency). TOEP Test Organized by the Language Development Center (Pusat Pengembangan Bahasa / P2B), which has the main task of developing and exploring the English language skills of all UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung students, the TOEP test conducted by P2B is expected to be able to perform the test correctly. In addition, this TOEP test has a similar instrument with the TOEFL. The TOEP test is carried out in semester 5 as a requirement for their graduation.

The most commonly used type of test is PBT (Paper Based Test). In the test, students are required to master the three main important skills in English, Listening, Grammar and Reading Comprehension. In 2020, P2B of State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung, used a CBT (Computer Based Test) considering the situation in a pandemic condition.

According to the website of P2B, They remove the minimum score to

pass. Previously, English students had to get a score of 400 this is in accordance with the guidelines issued by P2B, but now it is abolished. However, it can be seen from the data obtained from the score results released in the website of P2B (ppb.iain-tulungagung.ac.id). A total of 120 English students from 257 students who took the TOEP Test, got low scores or under 400. It can be said that as many as 47% of English students faced the difficulty to did this TOEP test. Whereas they have passed advanced grammar courses, reading comprehension and listening comprehension. This means that they face difficulties in doing the TOEP Test which is marked by 120 English students who scored under 400.

Based on the pre-research conducted by the authors, the students of English students experienced difficulties and obstacles. According to Oemar (1992) stated that The term "obstacle" can refer to a variety of different things that people face on a day-to-day basis, all of which provide challenges for those trying to accomplish something in life.

Several previous studies that discussed similar things were research by Kristiyanti (2018). This study aims to determine the problems that cause difficulties in TOEFL learning faced by EFL students in the English Department at IAIN Palangka Raya. The results of this research include: (1) the most incorrect answer fields such as Structure and Written Expression; problems with subject-verb agreement, tenses, nouns, and article usage, (2) found several problems related to lack of preparation and low ability of students in understanding several areas of grammar, (3) underestimation of exams and their poor mastery of English were the reasons for the difficulty of English students in answering the TOEFL test.

The second research was conducted by Rezkiani (2019). This study discusses the difficulties faced by EFL students in the TOEFL test. Based on this research, it shows that students of the Department of English and Literature have a fairly high level of TOEFL score with an average score of 441.20. However, students majoring in English and Literature experience difficulties in clustering, redundancy, reduce forms, rate of delivery, incomplete application of rules, determining main ideas, finding references, making inferences, and detailed information.

Further research was conducted by Putri (2020). This study aims to investigate students' difficulties in passing the TOEFL test and their strategies for dealing with them. The results of the questionnaire regarding the students' difficulties in passing the TOEFL test indicated that 14 out of 25 students or 56% agreed that the most difficult test in TOEFL test is reading comprehension, and 8 out of 25 students or 32% strongly agree that the allocating time of TOEFL test is not enough for them; it means they had difficulties in managing their time.

Another research was conducted by Kawachi-Furlan et al. (2017). According to this study, the purpose of this study was to analyze the results of pedagogical interventions to assist participants' performance on the TOEFL ITP test. Students from federal universities in southeastern Brazil receive test-taking skills and language skills instruction as part of this effort. After the pedagogic intervention, there was a statistically significant increase in the participants' test scores, indicating that the treatment was effective. Qualitative data analysis revealed that the participants were aware of their main linguistic challenges. As a result of these findings, it is suggested that the academic content and listening

skills of ITP TOELF test takers be given more concentrated instruction.

From the four studies above, it can be concluded that English students actually experience some difficulties and obstacles in doing the TOEP test. However, all the previous studies only focus on investigating linguistic factors that cause the difficulties. Thus, this research is going to explore not only linguistic factors but also non linguistic factors, such as less motivation, poor planing, technical problem, and poor exam time management. The purpose is to provide more comprehensive picture about the difficulties of english students when they have to do the TOEP test. From this reason, the researcher takes the tittle "*The difficulties Of English Students At State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung In Doing Test of English Proficiency*"

B. Formulation of Research Questions

Based on the context of study on the previous page, the research problems were:

1. What are the classification of difficulties English Students at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of English Proficiency ?
2. How do the English Students of State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung cope with the difficulties in doing Test of English Proficiency?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the research problems, the study were to:

1. To analyze the classification of English Students at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of

English Proficiency

2. To discover the strategies of English Students at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of English Proficiency

D. Significance of the Study

This study can be used for English students who will take the TOEP test as a reference to minimize their difficulties in doing TOEP. The results of this study can also provide some information for English Department lecturers about the abilities of their students, so that students will immediately know the difficulties faced by students taking the TOEP test. In addition, this research is expected to make students aware of strategies to increase their TOEP scores. Because this is the fast growing era of globalization that TOEP is the most important things in every aspect of life.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid misunderstandings about what the authors have described previously, the authors limit the scope of the research to be more detailed and focused. This study only focuses on the difficulties of English students in the 2018 academic year and the test was conducted in 2020. This research is conducted at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung. So the results of this study are applied at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung, especially in the English department of students who are the population of this study.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation in this study, the researcher describes the meaning of the main terms used as follows:

1. Student's Difficulties

Students are a group of people who place the main position in teaching and learning activities. Meanwhile, student difficulty is a condition that causes and inhibits a student to learn well. It can be said that students' difficulties are the lack of students' ability to receive or absorb lessons at school. So that it can be concluded that student difficulties are a situation where students cannot learn well, this can be caused by disturbances, both those originating from students' internal factors, students' external factors and the main factors that can influence it. These factors cause students to not develop properly.

2. TOEP Test

The Test of English Proficiency (TOEP) is an English proficiency test, organized by P2B State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung. This test measures the level of English proficiency, especially the ability to understand the contents of spoken and written texts, both implied and expressed. TOEP can also be interpreted as an English proficiency test which is held offline using the PBT (Paper Based Test) method. However, due to the current pandemic situation, P2B carries out the Toep Test online using the CBT (Computer Based Test) method. P2B of State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung gave a minimum passing score

of 400 this is in accordance with the guidelines issued by P2B. According to P2B the minimum score was abolished due to the current pandemic situation.