

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the discussion on the context of the study, formulation of the research question, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope, and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

#### **A. Context of the Study**

Early childhood is often referred to as the "golden age. Early childhood is a child who has an age ranging from 0 to 6 years. At this time, almost all children's potential experiences sensitive period to grow and develop rapidly and greatly. At this time children also have a critical period in life in which this is very influential in determining the development of children in the future. The child is a human figure that has a lot of potentials that still needs to be polished and developed by the abilities acquired from the environment. Their strengths are commonly in the form of social, emotional, intellectual, moral and physical, and also language potential (Andini at all, 2017:134).

Early Childhood Education - commonly known as PAUD in Indonesia -is a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of 6 years which is carried out by providing educational stimuli for children to help the growth and development of children both physically and spiritually, so that children are ready to get into higher levels of education (Setiadi, 2016:27). Maria Montessori states that the

development in preschool children is a continuous process, and education is a self-activity that leads to the formation of independence, self-discipline and self-direction. Montessori also emphasizes the importance of a free and loving environment, so that the children's strengths or potentials can be developed optimally (Setiadi: 28-29).

There are 6 aspects of early childhood development, namely religious and moral values, physical-motor, cognitive, language, socio-emotional, and art. Aspects of language development are a means of communication, either through words and writings arranged in various rules variations and combinations. A child has developed his language since they were babies. They communicate through their cries as a form of expression of what he wants. Then child start to be able to express language by speaking but can't yet easily understood what he was saying. As growth and development, then the child is able to string words and sentences well.

Children can use language as a tool to convey information about anything. Language skill is very important to develop, especially in early childhood stage. Language skill is human feeling or ability produced through articulated sounds which have a function as a way to understand one's thoughts through interaction or conversation. By language, people can convey a message that they want to tell others, so that they understand what we are talking about. (Titin, 2018:22).

Language skills in children are affected from the surrounding environment in which the language functions as a means of socialization with other people. Bromley in Farid (2016; 93) also states that language is a form of an orderly symbol system for transferring various kinds of ideas or information consisting of visual and verbal symbols. Visual symbols are something that can usually be seen, read, and written, while verbal symbols are usually spoken and can be heard.

Nowadays, English has not only become international language which is used in international communication, but also the language of science and technology. English has important role in the world. The different growth of language makes it the most popular among the other international languages. Nowadays, there are no part of the world affairs know nothing without English. Through the language, people gain a better insight into human relations. English learning need to be applied from an early age, because it can make it easier to understand English when children enter elementary school, junior high school or to a higher level. The English taught by the teacher during kindergarten can stick in his memory and are difficult to forget compared to children who are not taught English language (First, 2019). Language education in early childhood is very important in their development and growth. With language they can talk, tell stories, even sing. Because language education in early childhood is easier than giving education related to logic. With this, English education too included in language education

which must be given to young children.

Teaching English in early age is to learn other cultures and to get maximum learning time. It means that the best time to learn language is the early age. Kindergarten is the best place to start teaching and learning English. Another reason for starting to learn a foreign language early is indisputable fact that young children have a greater facility for understanding and imitating what they hear than adolescents, not to mention adults (Benigno and English, 2016). Teaching English for young learner was very much different from teaching adults in a way that they were often more enthusiastic, active and easily adapted than adults. Early childhood were children who still like playing, so the teacher is expected to be imaginative and creative in developing their teaching strategy to make the English lesson more exiting.

Most of young EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners will be very depend on explicit or direct instructions. In direct instructions, teacher's role is very crucial because they introduce material to the learners using some appropriate techniques. Techniques employed by teachers depend on some factors, such as the content, time availability, and its value for the learners. This makes teachers have some certain reasons in employing certain strategies in the classroom (Pinter, 2006).

Strategies are needed when teaching foreign languages. Various strategies undertaken by the teacher can make students enjoy reading,

speaking, listening, and writing material. A teacher should be able to boost students' spirit in learning English and find effective strategies to make the students interested. Therefore, the goals of the learning process can be achieved (Larsen & Freeman, 2000).

The teacher's strategies gives a lot of influence on the students' mastery, teacher needs to use appropriate learning strategies so the students are engaged and motivated in teaching and learning process. Teacher can teach young learners in various ways, including: singing, playing, or with pictures. So that they can speak English even if only introduction but English is very important to them. And very helpful them in studying English before they are in elementary school (Jazuli; 2016, 34).

Based on pre research at school that has implemented English learning from an early age. The school began to apply English to small things such as everyday vocabulary that is easily understood by children, as well as introducing objects that are close to children so that children are able to remember well. School that has a vision that is so that children can have global insight, so that learning English in children must be implemented.

Based on previous research by Andini Dwi Arumsari, Bustomi Arifin, Zulidyana Dwi Rusnalasari (2021) stated that learning English in children in kindergarten is an interesting and challenging discussion. The use of learning methods for PAUD is very important in the

delivery of English. The use of methods is also very much needed, the methods used include singing, playing, telling stories, and so on. In addition, the research of Widya and Erika Agustiana (2021) stated that strategies for teaching English which include teaching methods and media that increased students' motivation and enthusiasm to learn English. The learning media used in the form of songs, short stories, worksheets, flash cards, games, etc. The media used gave students a new experience in learning English with more fun. Games such as scavenger hunt and flashcard games make students more enthusiastic about participating in each learning activity and encourage students to think creatively.

This research is expected to be an insight into teachers strategies implemented in teaching English. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled "Teachers' Strategies implemented in teaching English for Young Learners at RA AL AMIN Tarik Sidoarjo".

## **B. Formulation of the Research Question**

Based on the above background, the main research problems can be stated as follows, that is:

1. What are the teachers' strategies implemented in teaching English at RAAL AMIN, Tarik Sidoarjo District?
2. What are the factors that support and hinder the teachers implementing the strategy in teaching English at RA AL AMIN

Tarik Sidoarjo District?

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

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives to be achieved in this study are:

1. To find out the teachers' strategies implemented in teaching English at RA AL AMIN, Tarik Sidoarjo District
2. To find out the factors that support and hinder the teachers' strategies implemented in teaching English at RA AL AMIN, Tarik Sidoarjo District

### **D. Significant of the Study**

The results of this study are expected to provide benefits, both for researchers and for related parties, especially teachers and students at RA AL AMIN Sidoarjo. The benefits can be described as follows:

1. Theoretical (scientific) aspects

In this aspect, it is expected to be able to provide information about the methods used in developing children's English skills, besides being able to find various new methods that are best for early childhood in learning English. In addition, the research can also contribute to the theory of foreign language learning in early childhood

2. Practical (applied) Aspects

- a. For educators

The benefit of the research for educators is that they can upgrade their knowledge about English learning in an

interesting and fun way and it can be used as a reference for other researchers. In addition, educators can also apply methods in English learning.

b. For Reader

As a reference material in conducting research further information on teacher strategies in teaching English to early childhood. In addition, it can also provide motivation and an overview general to the reader in determining the research topic

c. For writers

The benefit for the author is that the author can apply the methods used as teaching supplies and can update the old ones that have been used previously.

d. For next researcher

As a discourse and reference to solve cases further and can complement if there are deficiencies in the results this research.

### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

There are many kinds of approach, method, and strategy to teach English. so that research is more focused and does not expand from the discussion intended, then this thesis limits the scope of research to teacher's strategies implemented in teaching English to early childhood at RA AL AMIN Tarik Sidoarjo.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms.**

### **1. Teacher Strategy**

A strategy is the procedure used in learning which serves as a way to reach a goal conscious or unconscious processes that language learners make use of in learning and using a language. Based on the definition above, strategy means a plan, step, or conscious action toward the goal of learning that makes the learning process more enjoyable, more effective, and more transferrable to the situation. In this research, the strategy is a step used by the teacher to teach English at the Kindergarten.

### **2. Young Learners**

Young learners are young learners from 0 to eight years of age. Since there are great differences between pupils at the beginning of their schooling and older children, for the purposes of this research, the researcher work with a group of young learners between the ages of six to seven. This age group is commonly represented in the kindergarten.