

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

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standardized test to measure students' knowledge of English. Phillips (2001) stated that the TOEFL is a test that measures the level of English proficiency of non-native speakers. In addition, Abboud and Hussein (2011) set the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as the standard to determine whether native speakers of the language can communicate effectively in English. The test consists of several components including multiple choice questions on grammar, vocabulary, reading, listening and writing. (Brown, 2004, p. 66), for nearly a century, several educational institutions have made proficiency testing an economical, reliable, and effective way for those entering, continuing, or retiring from an institution. I have considered it a valid judgment. There are many types of standardized commercial proficiency tests such as the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication). The TOEFL has a certain level of difficulty, requires a good knowledge of English, and requires students to have a good strategy to pass standardized tests.

The TOEFL consists of three main sections. Listening comprehension, structure, writing, reading comprehension. TOEFL is the most popular English proficiency test as evidenced by the many TOEFL tests used in Indonesia. We can see that the number of institutions adopting TOEFL as a requirement in recruiting new employees and as a requirement for university

degrees is increasing. TOEFL is also used by some colleges and universities for students submitting papers.

Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah State Islamic University Tulungagung has its own proficiency test to measure students' English skills. This test is commonly known as the TOEP (Test of English Proficiency) test. TOEP Test Organized by the Language Development Center (P2B), the TOEP Test has the main mission of developing and researching the English language skills of all UIN Sayyid Ali Ramatullah Tulungagung students. The TOEP test conducted by P2B can then perform the test correctly. The TOEP test also has a size like the TOEFL. The TOEP exam is held every fifth semester as a prerequisite for obtaining a degree.

The most commonly used type of test is the PBT (paper-based test). This test requires students to master the three most important skills of English, listening, grammar, and reading. In 2022, Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung State Islamic University P2B used CBT (Computer Based Test).

Clear the minimum score to pass, according to the P2B website. The P2B policy, which used to require English students to score 400, is no longer in effect. However, this can be seen from the data obtained from the evaluation results published on the P2B website (ppb.iain-tulungagung.ac.id). Of the 257 English students who take the TOEP, 120 English students score below or below 400. Up to 47% of English students struggle to pass the TOEP test. They have passed courses in advanced grammar, reading comprehension and listening comprehension. This means that they find it difficult to take the TOEP test which is assessed by 120 English students with scores below 400.

Based on the preliminary research conducted by the author, English students face difficulties and obstacles. According to Oemar (1992), the term 'disability' can refer to various things that people face on a daily basis, all of Several previous studies discussing similar matters were reviewed by Kristiyaanti (2018).

The purpose of this study is to identify the problems that contribute to the TOEFL learning difficulties faced by EFL students at the English Department of IAIN Palangkaraya. Findings from this survey include:

The most incorrect fields such as structure and descriptive formulas. (2) some problems were found related to poor preparation and students' ability to understand various areas of grammar;) Underestimating the Test and Their Poor English Proficiency The reason English students have difficulty answering the TOEFL test is language.

The second study was conducted by Rezkiani (2019). This study discusses the difficulties faced by EFL students in the TOEFL exam. Based on this research, it shows that students of the Faculty of English and Literature have a fairly high TOEFL score with an average score of 441.20. However, students majoring in English and Literature experienced difficulties in grouping, redundancy, shortening of forms, distribution ratios, incomplete application of rules, identifying main ideas, finding documents, references, conclusions and insights. Further studies were carried out by Putri (2020). This study aims to determine the students' difficulties in passing the TOEFL test and their coping strategies. The results of the questionnaire on students' difficulty in passing the TOEFL showed that 14 of 25 or 56% of students agreed that the most difficult test on the TOEFL test was reading comprehension, and 8 of 25 or 32% strongly agreed that the time given for the TOEFL test was not enough for them; This means they have a hard time managing their time.

Another study conducted by Kawachi-Furlan et al. (2017). According to this study, the purpose of this study was to analyze the results of educational interventions to help participants take the TOEFL ITP test. As part of this effort, students at federal universities in southeastern Brazil are provided with the skills to pass exams and language courses. After the educational

intervention, there was a statistically significant increase in participants' test scores, indicating that the treatment was effective. Qualitative data analysis showed that participants were aware of their main language challenges. As a result of these findings, it is recommended that academic content and listening.

The skills of the TOELF ITP test takers are taught to be more focused. From the four studies above, it can be concluded that English students do experience difficulties and obstacles in passing the TOEP test. However, all previous studies have only focused on investigating the linguistic factors that cause difficulties. So this study will explore not only linguistic factors but also non-verbal factors, such as low motivation, poor planning, technical problems and poor exam time management. The aim is to provide a more complete picture of the difficulties faced by English students while taking the TOEP test. Therefore, the researcher took the title “ *THE DIFFICULTIES encountered by STUDENTS of English Department AT STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SAYYIDALI RAHMATULLAH TULUNGAGUNG IN DOING TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE* “

B. Formulation of Research Questions

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

1. What is linguistic difficulties encountered by English Students of English Department at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of English Proficiency ?
2. What is non linguistic difficulties encountered by English Students of English Department at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of English Proficiency ?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the research problems, the purpose of study were to:

1. To analyze the linguistic difficulties encountered by English Students of English Department at State Islamic University Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung in Doing Test of English Proficiency
2. To analyze the linguistic difficulties encountered by English Students of English Department 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 situation

