

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the researcher presents about background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, scope of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Humans are creatures that cannot live on their own. Humans are created by God as social beings that need each other. Zoon Politicon is a term used by Aristotle to refer to social beings. Aristotle explained that humanity is meant to live in a society and interact with each other, something that distinguishes humans from animals. In their lives, humans have the desire to socialize with each other so that social intellect is created. According to Gilin, social interactions are social relationships that are dynamic between individuals and other individuals or with groups or relationships between groups. This relationship is created because basically humans cannot live without others.

The school world is a place to interact and communicate. The school is also a world that holds a lot of potential where students can exploit these potential while struggling in them. Interacting with fellow students, students with teachers, or other academics can create positive interactions and intellectual progress. Xu (2006) consider learners' participation in classroom as one of the aspects of interaction. Thus, Xu pointed out that it was opportunity for learners to practice the second

language and to produce output. Students can learn better the correct usage of English language if they practice in daily life. Hence, English language classrooms actually create opportunity for students to participate in the lesson and learn the language. Besides that, Zolten and Long (2006) stated that participating in classroom activities provides a critical opportunity for learning new skills. Participation helps students to make deep, meaningful connections in the mind that are important in learning. Kodralewski (1999) also indicated that when students exercise their voices in classrooms, they practice and develop a range of advanced thinking skills.

To face the twenty-first century, the students will need the survival skills. Tony Wagner (2015) stated there are 7 survival skills and two of them are Collaboration Across Networks and Leading By Influence and Effective Oral and Written Communication. Currently a student centered learning approach is being developed. Student-centered is an approach in which students influence the content, activities, materials, and pace of learning. This learning model places the student (learner) in the center of the learning process. The instructor provides students with opportunities to learn independently and from one another and coaches them in the skills they need to do so effectively (Collins & O'Brien, 2003). One of the cores of the student centered method is the small group discussion. According to Slavin (2008), small group discussion is a discussion conducted in groups of four to six students working to discuss a particular topic. The students are able to exchange the ideas, students also can enhance cooperation and togetherness in solving the problem they encountered

during the processing task. For example, each small group is designed to read the material of the text, after that the students are expected to be able to answer the questions and discuss about the information of the text, finding the meaning of difficult words, and finally they can present their work in public. Thus, this study has two objectives. First, the study wants to analyze the students' participation in small group discussion. Second objective is to find out the students' opinions toward small group discussion implementation.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background above, the reserach questions are:

- a. How is the students' participation in small group discussion in Automotive Major SMKN 26 Jakarta?
- b. What are their opinions toward small group discussion implementation?

1.3 Purpose of the study

Based on the research questions above, the researchers set purposes of this research as:

- a. To analyze the students' participation in small group discussion applied in English class in Automotive Major SMKN 26 Jakarta.
- b. To find out the students' opinions toward small group discussion implementation

1.4 Scope of The Study

This research focuses on the students' participation and the implementation of small group discussion in Automotive Major SMKN 26 Jakarta. The researcher analyzed a few discussions meetings in six small group discussions from four classes and also analyzed their opinions toward small group discussion implementation.

1.5 Significance of The Study

This study is expected to prove whether the small group discussion method is effectively used in the classroom and gives an influence in increasing students' understanding of the material. Students' participation in the small group discussion techniques is very important, because they are the ones who play the role. It hopes that the students can optimize their skills and more motivate in learning English. The teacher understanding and the implementation of the small group discussion techniques are also important, because they play a role in developing students' mindsets to be more oriented towards solving common problems.

We hope that this research can trigger research and development of learning methods that are appropriate to the needs of the times and can develop the mindset of students, especially in Indonesia.