CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

English is an international language which is widely used in all over the world. By using English, we can communicate with other people from different countries without facing any significant problem. Now days, people assume that a person who masters in speaking English regarding as an intelligent person and has high prestige. English becomes one of compulsory subjects that has to be studied by the students. English is a foreign language in Indonesia which is taught at school and also university level.

At University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, studying English is a must for two years long for the students who come from non-English department for example Pharmacy Department. Pharmacy students may use English textbook for supporting their learning. Many terms may also be used in the Pharmacy field, so that the students should learn English in order to understand the terms itself. In addition, they also sometimes may use international journal in some occasions because there is no any research that has not been done by Indonesian researcher yet. Gomleksis (2010) as cited in Abdullah, English has become a dominant language in business, finance and banking, science and technology, popular culture and international relations around the world.
world. It is widely accepted that being fluent in the English language is a key to success in life in this modern era.

English is essential not only for education but also for furthering career so that Pharmacy students need to study English in order to achieve their goal in life. In learning English, there may appear some problems that faced by Pharmacy students as they may feel lazy to study because they think it will be difficult to learn English or they do not have interest in learning English. Those happen because they do not understand the language, value of the learning and get lack of motivation. The lecturer must have interesting learning in order to motivate Pharmacy students in learning English. The lecturer also can motivate the students by explaining how important English is, for their future. For example, in order to get school fee to continue their education in the country or abroad, they have to get high score in English Proficiency Test. Some companies also apply high score of TOEFL as a standard in requiring a new employees. For getting high score in TOEFL, the students need to master some skills like listening, reading and also structure.

Not only motivation which determines the students’ success in learning English but also they must possess positive attitudes to achieve the goal of learning English. Attitude can be defined as a person’s behavior that determines what he wants to do. Attitude can be positive or negative, positive attitudes can be seen as the students follow English class with active participation and enjoy the class, get high score or they may be also willing to learn about the culture of English speaking countries. Negative attitudes were showed as the students easily get bored during
English class or they do not want to learn more about English although English is important for their future. Positive attitudes can lead the students increasing their motivation and easily reaching a goal of the target language while negative attitudes can decrease motivation and they fail to see the value of the learning (Brown, 2000: 181).

Based on the explanation above, motivation and attitude are essential for the students to have in order to achieve the goal of the learning. Regarding the importance of motivation and attitudes in learning English, the researcher wanted to know Pharmacy students’ motivation and attitudes towards English by conducting a research entitled “Motivation and Attitudes towards English among Pharmacy Students”

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Motivation and attitude are the keys for the students in order to achieve the goal of learning foreign language. Without having any motivation and positive attitudes, it will be impossible for the students to success in learning English. The students who do not have interest in English might fail to achieve the goal of the learning but the students who have interest might succeed in learning English. The students’ interest can motivate them to study English and encourage them to possess positive attitudes to get successful learning. As the researcher’s interest in motivation and attitude of Pharmacy students, the researcher conducted this research in order to
know Pharmacy students’ motivation and attitudes towards learning English at the university.

C. Problem of the Research

According to the topic of the research, the researcher has formulated the problem. The question is “What are Pharmacy students’ motivation and attitudes towards English?”

D. Objective of the Research

Considering the problem of this research, the researcher wanted to know motivation and attitudes towards English among Pharmacy students as this research objective.

E. The Clarification of Terms

1. Motivation

Motivation to learn second or foreign language is seen as referring to the extent to which the individual works or strives to learn the language because of a desire to do so and the satisfaction experienced in this activity (Gardner, 1985: 10). There are two kinds of motivation in learning foreign language which proposed by Gardner namely instrumental and integrative motivation. According to Cooper and Fishman (1977) as cited in Abdullah there is the third type of motivation namely personal motivation.
2. Attitude

Brown (2000: 180) stated that attitudes are cognitive and affective. They are related to thoughts as well as feeling and emotions. The development of attitudes begins early and is affected by some factors like parents, peers, and interactive activities with others who have different social and culture. Attitude has three components namely affective, behavioral, and cognitive component.

F. Contribution of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research can give contributions for the lecturers, the students, and for other researchers. The researcher hopes that this research helps the lecturers in understanding the importance of motivation and attitude for the students so that they will always choose various and appropriate methods in teaching which can appear the students’ interest in learning English. It will increase the students’ motivation and they will show positive attitude. Motivation and attitude determine the students to get success in learning English. After knowing this, the researcher hopes that the students have high motivation and they possess positive attitudes towards learning English to achieve the objective of the learning. The researcher also hopes that this research can be a source that useful for other researchers who want to conduct the same research and develop this research especially in education for better future.