

CHAPTER 1

INTROUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, research question, research objectives, and research significances. Each part is represented as follow :

1.1 Background of The Study

A test is a tool or procedure that is used to measure or know something in a prescribed way and rules (Arikunto : 2010). In education, a test is very important to be administered in order to find out the student's understanding related to the subjects tested and to know whether the aims of education have been achieved. However, teachers are required to make use of qualified test items. Test items should meet several criteria in order to become a qualified measuring tool. It is stated by Arikunto (2010) that test item can be considered a good measuring tool if it possesses validity, reliability, objectivities, practicability, and economic values. According to Yohana (2009), a good test can be constructed with such factors, as relevance, balance, efficiency, difficulty, variability, and reliability. (Arlin&Gunadi : 2017).

Test can be classified based on the purposes of the test. Proficiency test has function to measure the global competence in language. This test is usually held in multiplied choices form and the material is about grammar, reading, and listening comprehension. TOEFL and EPT (English Proficiency Test) are the examples of this test type. Other test is placement test, this type has a purpose to

place students into a particular level or class. The test question usually use sample material to be covered in the various courses in a curriculum. The common example of this type test is the test for admission of new students. Then, diagnosis test is a test which has a purpose to identify the problems in the language. Diagnosis test will show the problems faced by students, it usually focuses only on one subject. As an example, a writing test is held in other to know students' ability in writing the text. Another type of test is achievement test. This type aims to determine whether course objectives have been met with skills acquired by the end of a period of instruction. For example, mid-term test, final semester examination, national examination.

Tests are held periodically In Indonesia as a tool to evaluate students' progress and achievement. One major test is final national examination, which is conducted at the end of the period at each level of education. In addition, final semester examination is usually held in every semester to review student's progress within 6 months and midterm test is held every half of one semester.

As one of the compulsory which is taught in our education, the tests of English are always held in every level of education from elementary school until college. English test is an indicator that shows student's ability in understanding English material. There are several kinds of English test such as IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and TOEFL (Test of English As A Foreign Language) which aims to test overall ability regardless of any training they previously had in the language, as well as English national

examination that has purpose to qualify the requirement for continuing to higher level of education. The test is usually constructed in multiple choice types.

Knowing the importance of English tests especially final semester examination, it is necessary to investigate test items quality through analysis. It should cover the term of validity, difficulty level, and discrimination power. This analysis can be used as hopefully be a reference to improve the quality of the future tests.

1.2 Reason For Choosing The Topic

The topic of this research is selected due to following reason:

- 1) A test is an important part of learning process. It acts to measure student's comprehension and investigate students' progress
- 2) Final semester test is regularly held at the end of every semester to figure out student's understanding to the material.
- 3) A test should have good quality in order to make the result of test valid.

1.3 Research Question

This research is conducted to answer the following research questions;

- 1) Is the English final semester examination administered in middle school of Banyumas regency valid?
- 2) Does the English final examination that is administered in middle school of Banyumas regency have discrimination power?

- 3) Does the English final semester examination administered in middle school of Banyumas regency have an adequate difficulty level?

1.4 Research Objective

The objective of this research is to figure out whether

1. The English final semester examination that administered in middle school of Banyumas regency is valid.
2. The English final semester examination has discrimination power.
3. The English final semester examination has adequate difficulty level.

1.5 Research Significance

It is expected that this research gives contribution to education practitioners of the common readers. The followings are the expected advantages of this research:

- a. Theoretically

This research can be a reference for research in the same field. It provides the analysis of a test whose format is commonly used in every semester.

- b. Practically

This research functions as a reference to develop the next test. This research shows the analysis of test items and eventually it leads to the quality of the test. Therefore, this research can be used an evaluation to find the strengths and weaknesses for the development of the next test.