

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication includes one of the human's needs in life because by using it we can interact with other people easily. In communicating, language plays an important role. There are a lot of languages in the world but the most popular one is English. People around the world using it to communicate, even to one who comes from another country that does not use English in daily. Not all countries using English as their first language. For instance, India, Singapore, Malaysia, and Pakistan use it as their second language. In contrary, other countries use English as a foreign language.

In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language. Since it becomes International language and scientific knowledge so English has to be taught at school from kindergarten to university level. English is not only spoken but also practiced, so it deals with participation. In the teaching learning process, students' participation is very crucial. Moreover, nowadays, teacher should use Students-Centered Learning in teaching method. It is because in curriculum 2013, the focus is on the students. It means that the students' participation has an important role because they have to solve the problem, discovery something, create a product of learning and other active learning processes. Unlike the previous curriculum that only the teacher should be active, they have to explain all of the material, they talk more, and they give

the theory more than practice. Now, the students are forced to be active in learning process, they have to talk more, they have to think critically, and sometimes they also should learn independently.

Making the students active in learning process is not easy, sometimes the teacher should find out the best teaching method that focus in increasing students' participation. Especially, in teaching English as a foreign language. Some students are passive in the class, they tend to be silent. Moreover, they just sitting on the chair, listening the teacher when explaining the material, writing the material, so on and so forth. Even if they do not understand the material, they do not ask question. Actually, asking question includes students' participation because it means they are paying attention to the teacher, they are curious and want to learn English deeply. Students' participation also includes answering the teacher's questions, doing teacher's instructions, giving comment or feedback in learning process, even if they only paying attention to the teacher it also belongs to participation. In addition, there are other types of students' participation. Brenner in Namini (2008: 1) described participation as the student being present in the learning situation. He also added that participation in classroom can also be identified in a students' body language or action, and even if they thinking quietly in their own minds, etc.

Knowing the students' participation means the teacher can know whether the students can understand the material that is given by the teacher or not. It is strongly believed that the students who actively participate in the

learning process learn more than those who do not (Weaver and Qi in Khojasteh at al, (2015: 3198). It means that students' participation is very needed in learning process. One of the biggest problems of English teacher is to attract students' participation. Due to English is not the national language or the second language but it is only the foreign language.

Considering the importance of students' participation during the English learning process, a research entitled "The Students' Participation in EFL Classes" is needed to conduct.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

English is the international language and it becomes one of the primary subjects in Indonesia so it is very crucial to learn. When we talk about English, it is not only about understanding the theory but also speaking and practicing. In practicing English, participation plays an important role. It will create active learning atmosphere. From that, students can master the language skills well.

C. Research Problems

1. What is the level of students' oral participation?
2. What are types of students' participation?
3. What are the students' problems in participating?

D. Aims of the Study

According to the research topic above, the aims of this research are to know the level of students' participation, to know the types of students' participation, and also to find out the problems of students in EFL classes.

E. Research Contribution

The contribution of research is given for the English teachers. Hopefully, from this, they know the importance of students' participation in EFL classes, they know types of participation, and also the students' problems, especially those who are passive in learning process.

