

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The language that is most often learned in this world is English because learning English is very important nowadays, even in countries that do not use English as their first or second language. Since English is very useful for a modern life that happens now, the curriculum in Indonesia has already made English as a compulsory subject in every school starting from Elementary until Senior High School. In English subject, there are four skills that have to be learned by the students that are speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Most of the students in schools will get these materials. Those skills are related to each other and cannot be independent. Therefore, students need to master all of the four skills.

Learning a foreign language is difficult for some Indonesian students because it is not their mother language, in this case, that foreign language is English. Not all of the students can learn it easily even though it has been studied since elementary school. According to River (1981:291), many students who have studied for six or more years of second or foreign language are still unable to express themselves in a clear, correct and comprehensible manner in the target language through the four skills. Whereas, English is one of the subjects that are tested in the final examination and it is also a subject that is used to enter a university.

There are many problems faced by them. One of the reasons why Indonesian students' achievement is low because most of them have difficulty in learning English. For example, they lack vocabulary, lack of awareness about the importance of learning English, and they do not have the willingness to improve their skills in English. However, on the other side, many students have high scores/achievement in English subject. One of the factors that make students study hard in English is a students' personal factor. It can involve many factors such as their goals to make their parents proud, they want to enter a good university, or they want to get a good score in TOEFL, etc. It depends on the students' motivation in learning English. The fact that students' scores is different from one student and other students is related to the strategies in the learning process. From that difference, it becomes interesting to be searched because in general students want to have high scores/achievement.

In teaching and learning processes, students have different abilities in mastering the four skills of English. So they must have their learning strategies in improving their English skills. According to Suwartono and Priyantini (2006:120) that it is likely, that they have "special things" used to help themselves learn the language effectively. In the literature on language research, this study refers to "learning strategies". Therefore, the writer is interested to discuss this topic. As a result, the purpose of this study is to find out the learning strategies of EFL students achieving high academic scores.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the study, the researcher focuses her attention on the following problem:

What are the learning strategies used by EFL students achieving high academic scores?

## **C. The Aim of the Research**

The aim of the study is to find out what the learning strategies used by EFL students achieving high academic scores.

## **D. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The reason why the researcher decides to bring up this topic is because learning strategies determine the students' achievement.

## **E. The Significant of the Study**

The significant of the study are:

1. This research is hoped will give meaningful information and contribution in learning process, especially in the learning strategies to achieve high academic scores.
2. This research is hoped will be a good reference and it gives more information about the learning strategies used by EFL students achieving high academic scores to the readers.