

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves as the introduction to the study. More specifically, this chapter presents the background of the study, the reason for selecting the topic, the objectives, and the research questions. Additionally, the chapter explains the significance of the study.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Professionalism must be demonstrated by individuals who pursue success in their careers. According to Usman (2009), professionalism refers to the ability of someone with expertise and knowledge in a particular field to carry out tasks according to their functions. More specifically, professionalism determines how an individual can position himself to work optimally and fulfil his responsibility with integrity (Egok & Sukenda, 2019).

Teachers are expected to work professionally to complete their duties. They must possess various competencies, including personal, social, pedagogical, digital, and academic (Geoff, 2006). Teachers must also maintain professionalism in their work because they are required to achieve national objectives by educating the youth while keeping in touch with the global trends in education. However, professionalism relies heavily on passion; and creating professional teachers means guiding future teachers to achieve competence and possess a high passion for teaching and carrying out their duties.

A teacher's professionalism starts with choosing a career that supports a teacher's performance in carrying out his duties. According to Sharf (2002), a student can choose the right career to know his ability to achieve professionalism at work by his has in carrying out self-understanding and decision-making in choosing a career. choosing the right career has fostered a sense of responsibility and professionalism in carrying out the job.

Developing the passion of future teachers to be sure of their career selection as teachers is a complex matter. These future teachers must first recognize their interest in studying. According to Hurlock (2016), interest is the motivation that encourages someone to choose something to do and want without any coercion from others. Understanding interest might also affect the development of talents and the indication of strengths and weaknesses necessary to select a career path. Those who choose a career based on their interests and abilities will likely be more passionate about their performance and complete their duties professionally.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that teaching professionalism requires intertwined elements such as competence, passion, and interest. Becoming a professional teacher means acquiring the necessary competencies acquired through formal studies in particular fields as well as understanding the educational and teaching tasks. Teacher professionalism can be formed at the beginning of choosing a career, students who choose a career to become a teacher will try to carry out their duties by the competencies obtained while studying. Additionally, professional teachers must have a genuine interest

and passion which might be nurtured during the study or affected by the environment.

## **1.2 Reasons for Topic Selection**

Graduates of English education with backgrounds in teaching and education are guided to acquire the necessary competencies to become future teacher candidates. However, many students of this program have different interests and desires for various reasons and considerations when choosing a career after graduation. The researcher considers that it would be interesting to explore their perspectives and views towards teachers as a profession.

## **1.3 Research Objectives and Questions**

This research aims to investigate students' beliefs about teaching professions as a career choice. This research also aims to reveal why students want to pursue careers as teachers. Based on these objectives, the researcher formulated the following problems:

1. What are the students' beliefs on the teaching profession?
2. What are the influencing factors for students to pursue careers as teachers?

## **1.4 Limitation**

As with previous studies, researcher also provides some research limitations to reduce the level of generalization of results. It means that the results of this study may not be the same as those of other studies with similar schemes due to differences in context and limitations on the number of participants. In line with the problem identification to investigate students' beliefs about teaching

professions as a career choice and this research also to reveal why students want to pursue careers as teachers.

### **1.5 Significances of the Research**

This research is expected to present research and practical significance.

**Research Contributions.** This study describes the factors that influence English Language Education students to choose to become teachers. The findings of this study can be used as a reference for further research and to identify areas that need further investigation.

**Practical Contribution.** This research can also serve as a basis for curriculum development in tertiary institutions to prepare future teacher candidates. Universities offering teacher training programs can gain some insights from this study to develop the programs. Prospective teachers are expected to be more determined to pursue careers as teachers.