

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter reviews the background of the study, the problem of the study, the scope of the study, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study and elaborates some key terms in the study.

### **1.1 The Background of the Study**

Education in aviation safety grounds is essential to support the prospect of air transportation services in advancing promising human resources in aviation. Aviation English is one of the fundamental components of the aviation education. Designing the syllabus as part of the curriculum development is one of the ways in constructing a good education practice including in language teaching and learning. As English is the major language used by aviation personnel to connect each other all over the world, it is important for an aviation personnel to master English comprehensively. English Language learned by aviation students is specified English called ESP. ESP is understood as preparing learners to use English within academic, professional, or workplace environments. A key feature of ESP course design is that the syllabus developed based on the analysis of the needs of the students (Basturkmen, 2008).

The syllabus used in ESP teaching is normally based on the analysis of the student needs. Needs analysis is the cyclical procedure of curriculum development. The results of needs analysis will be very useful for a program to evaluate how good the program has done. The current needs can give information for a better program development. One of the results of need assessment is the re-construction of curriculum (for the whole program) and syllabus (for the specific course). Therefore, need analysis is important to be conducted in evaluating a program.

The term of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has gained interest in the study of English as a foreign language. Specific English has been widely learnt by the ESP learners in many countries, including Indonesia. In addition, research on

ESP is also widely conducted in many different countries and areas. The study of ESP covers English for medical (specified English for medical students), English for business (specified English for business students), English for management ((specified English for management students), English for aviation (specified English for aviation students), English for tourism (specified English for tourism students), English for engineering (specified English for engineering students), and so on.

Need analysis can result a specific syllabus by collecting information from various sources. The specific syllabus helps the teachers/facilitators in preparing the materials. In addition, by a clear language syllabus, the institution has a clear description of the certain course. Preparing a need-based syllabus initiated by need analysis in ESP teaching is an important part of the language teaching itself. As the syllabus is a pre-course procedure, students, teachers, and other stake holders have to be involved in the process. Therefore, the present study involved all these elements in need analysis to construct the suitable syllabus for aviation students, in this case, Air Traffic Controller (ATC) students.

There are some research that had been conducted on students' needs analysis. Chen (2006) found that course designers of any ESP courses should firstly explore the potential learners' actual and various needs, wants, short falls and requirements. The designers should also help learners identify their needs since sometimes the learners do not have a clear picture of their own (Alfiyati & Mariana, 2014; Hermayawati, 2014; Fatmawati, 2014; Diyanti, 2014; Petrus, 2014; Muhrofi & Gunadi, 2014; and Makniyah, 2014). Therefore, the present study investigated what type of syllabus that can be constructed from an analysis of aviation student needs of English.

There are some empirical studies conducted to see the effectiveness of ESP teaching and its relevance to learners' workplace. One of which is a study conducted by Kasper (1997) in Basturkmen (2010). The study is an investigation of the effects of academic courses linking the content of intermediate level English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to mainstream courses as

psychology. The study found that content-based instruction impacted positively on the students' academic progress and success. That ESP course focusing on students' needs and wants, it emerges high levels of motivation of the students to learn English. Therefore, it can be referred that ESP teaching is effective on its position as content-based learning rather than general English. In addition, though ESP learners are usually adults in specific disciplines, they still need to improve their General English (GE) or General Technical English before they take English for specific subject area. Therefore, it can be concluded that ESP practitioners need to take part not only as instructors, but also as course designers, material writers, researchers and evaluator.

In relation with aviation English, there are still a few research conducted on English for aviation / airline program especially in Indonesia. In addition, most of the research on aviation is about the influence of L1, aircraft maintenance, and English as a lingua franca in aviation, and so forth. However, syllabus as a starting point to reach the learning outcomes is important to know. Knowing what the student needs and then come to design the need-based syllabus is an effective way to teach ESP. Thus, the present research focuses on students' needs analysis and its relation to the syllabus construction at one of the civil aviation safety and engineering in Indonesia.

## **1.2 The Problem of the Study**

ESP must be able to meet what the present and future goals of the course demanded by the institutions and the students. It is very important to design a content-based (need-based) syllabus for ESP learners. Therefore, the present research will answer the question “what type of syllabus can be constructed from an analysis of aviation student needs of English?”

## **1.3 The Scope of the Study**

Aviation English covers a large domain like English used by airline mechanics, flight attendants, ground service personnel, pilot, and other personnel. The present study is about English needs of Air Traffic Controllers. There are

some institutions that provide education for Air Traffic Controllers in Indonesia, they are Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering of Surabaya, Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering of Makassar, Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering of Medan, Indonesian Civil Aviation of Curug. After some considerations, the researcher chose Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering of Medan as the site of the research. The institution itself provides some study programs that relate to aviation. Based on the problem of the research, students of Air Traffic Controller Study Program (*Program Studi Pemandu Lalu Lintas Udara*) were recruited as the research participants because the research focused English for Air Traffic Controller.

#### **1.4 The Objectives of the Study**

The objective of the study is to investigate what type of English syllabus that can be constructed based on the student needs of English in the context of aviation education program (English for Air Traffic Controller).

#### **1.5 The Significances of the Study**

Before designing the suitable syllabus, it is important to know what the students need that will be useful in their future workplace. The study will give benefits to the Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering itself where the instructors / teachers know what the actual students' needs in their English language learning. By knowing what the students' needs, the practitioners will be able to design a suitable syllabus for the students. An ESP based syllabus will be then formulated to create a specific learning material, in this term, English for Air Traffic Controller students.

#### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

There are some key terms that is needed to elaborate to enhance the understanding of the present study, they are:

1. Need analysis is a pre-course procedure involving analysis of the target situation resulting from an analysis of the communication in the target situation

2. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is English that is learned directly relates to what the learners' needs to do in their workplace.
3. Syllabus is the outline of the course that usually consists of the learning objectives, what are taught, in what order, how they are taught, and how they are evaluated.
4. ESP Based Syllabus is syllabus containing macro level in terms of the four skills expressed by specific functions, for example oral communication between pilot and ATC.
5. Aviation English is English used by aviation personnel (pilot, air traffic controller, flight attendant, ground staff, and so on) in order to communicate well.

### **1.7 Thesis Organization**

The first chapter covers the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, the definition of key terms and gives a brief summary of the thesis organization.

The second chapter elaborates related literature review. The literature review is about reviewing English for Specific Purposes, aviation English, theories of learning, needs analysis, what syllabus is and seeing the previous related research that have been conducted before.

The third chapter reviews about the research design, research instrument, research sites and participants, the data collection process, data collection techniques, and data analysis framework.

The fourth chapter elaborates the findings and discussions of the study and the fifth chapter is about conclusion and recommendation arising from the research.