

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present the information of research background, research questions, scope of the problems, purposes of the research, significance of the study, and organizations of the thesis. Each aspect will be presented below:

1.1 Background of Study

In Indonesia most students of non English department are required to follow one or two semester English course (even more, depend on its institution) and it has been compulsory subject to be attended by students of any fields. However, the main goal of English course are various, besides they are required to read English textbooks, they also have to search the current sources from the internet, which are mostly written in English, in order to help their academic studies and a broader knowledge of their major subjects. That is why, English is very important to be learned and taught as it is able to explore through multinational and reveal multitude of English textbook.

Due to its importance, the minister of education has issued and applied regulation that English should be taught beginning from the primary schools to university. The 1989 Education law No. 2 and the 1999 Government Regulation on Higher Education No. 60 have accommodated the guarantee that foreign languages, especially English, are tools functioning not only as effective and efficient means of interaction but also as the medium of instruction. Moreover, English is also included to develop and disseminate

the technology and arts that would uplift the quality of life enhanced by the national cultures.

In connection with its importance, English is compulsory subjects for university undergraduate students in Indonesia. Moreover, Ermawan (1997) observes, the students in Indonesia have already been studying English for at least six years at the secondary level. As the first foreign language, it is not used as the medium of instruction in non-English departments. In most universities the emphasis of English teaching and learning is on reading ability, in order to equip students with the ability to read English textbooks for educational purposes. However, according to Alwasilah in Nurrohmi (2006:2) in Indonesia universities or colleges, English is included in the curriculum as a mandatory subject and given to the students at all departments. He states that College English that is popularly called *Mata Kuliah Umum Bahasa Inggris* (General English course) is commonly offered to freshmen in the first two semesters with two credit hours

In most universities, including Higher Education Institution of Computer Science (HECS) in Bandung where this current study was conducted, English is taught in two semesters (the first and the second semester). As HECS is a non-English department college, thus, the English materials should be treated as ESP where students' needs to be able to comprehend English textbook, computer's instructions, and the like. In this context, lecturer hold the responsibility to design the syllabus and materials.

Up to now, there has not been a lot of study in the relevance and the appropriateness of the syllabus and materials provided to the students in HECS. This has led to the researcher's interest in investigating appropriateness and relevance of the syllabus and materials of English subject to students' needs in the research site.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background above, this study attempted to address the issue of appropriateness and relevance of the syllabus and materials of English subject to students' need at a HECS in Bandung. The main issue of this study is, then, broken down into the following research questions:

1. What do students need in learning English at Higher Education Institution of Computer Science in Bandung?
2. Are syllabus and materials used at Higher Education Institution of Computer Science in Bandung relevant to the need of the students?

1.3. Scope of the Study

This study attempts to investigate the needs of students which are focused on the priority of four language skills to be learnt, learners' needs on grammar, learners' needs on reading, and learners' needs on speaking. In addition, this study tries to reveal the syllabus and materials provided, as well as their relevance to the needs of students at HECS.

1.4 Purposes of the Research

There are two major purposes in which the writer expects to find out in relation with the previous research questions:

1. To find out the needs of students in learning English at HECS.

2. To investigate the relevance of syllabus and materials to the students' needs at HECS.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to contribute and give some informative input to those who concerns in teaching learning process for non English department at higher education, especially in ESP context. The findings are hopefully able to give contribution to the English teacher and another researcher.

1. This information can be used as a basic for the improvement in the English teaching program in ESP, particularly at the research site and generally in other context.
2. This research can give information to those who want to carry on another research in the same field.

1.6 Organization of Thesis

The organization of thesis writing followed “ Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah: Laporan Buku, Makalah, Skripsi, Tesis dan Desertasi” published by Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI) Bandung.

In accordance with the guideline above, this thesis is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction. Chapter two describes as far as theoretical foundation related to the study is concerned. Chapter three deals with research site, participants, research method, stage of the research, techniques for collecting data, and

techniques for analysing data. Chapter four presents the data finding and discussion.

Chapter five presents conclusions and recommendations.

