CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents some points related to this research. Those include background of the study, research problem, research objective, research hypothesis, significance of the study and definition of key term.

A. Background of the Study

English is the international language in the world but not all countries use English as the first language. Indonesia is one of the countries that make English as a second language. Therefore students in Indonesia need to master English to support other abilities such as literacy and numeracy.

Literacy skills are considered important in improving students' English proficiency. According to UNESCO literacy is a set of real skills, specifically cognitive skills of reading and writing, which is independent of the context in which those skills are obtained from whom and how to obtain them. As English students the need to improve literation so that they can more easily understand the general courses presented in the form of literacy. Literacy itself is an ability that needs to be trained, without continued training the ability of literacy itself will not increase either. In this study the researchers used TOEP scores to see the English proficiency

of English students. The researcher used TOEP scores because in TOEP questions many problems are presented in the form of literacy. Therefore, if students are accustomed to literacy activities, they will not face many difficulties in understanding TOEP questions.

Students learn second languages through five predictable stages: Pre-Production, Initial Production, Speech Emergence, Intermediate Fluency, and Advanced Fluency (Krashen & Terrell, 1983). How fast students' progress through stages depends on many factors, including the level of formal education, family background, and length of time spent in this country. It is also important for you to tie instruction to each student at a certain stage in language acquisition. Knowing this information about each student allows you to work in a zone of proximal development - the gap between what students can do themselves and what they can do with the help of more knowledgeable individuals (Vygotsky, 1978).

In addition, researcher also used statistical scores to find out the numeracy competencies of English students. According to researchers numeracy is needed not just to be used as a basic ability to count. But numeracy needs to be understood and needs to be trained like literacy. English language students often find numeracy less important to learn because they are majoring in English so they only need to master English.

Statistics are part of numeracy as well as courses that are presented to English students in sixth semester. Even though statistics are not general English courses, student handbooks are printed in English. Therefore

literacy skills are very necessary so that English students have no difficulty in understanding statistics courses.

Therefore, researcher used English department students at IAIN Tulungagung as a sample to look for correlations between English proficiency and statistical or mathematical competencies. As English learners, language skills are a very efficient tool to equip students. Because some courses such as statistics use handbooks that are in English and also explanations from lecturers also used English. Therefore, it is important to analyze English language proficiency in academic performance. The level of development through each level of English language proficiency varies according to the individual characteristics of each English learner (Bailey, 2013). In this paper, the TOEP value is used to measure the level of English proficiency while research or mathematical statistics are used to measure numerical ability.

In addition, several researchers have tried to find a correlation between TOEFL and GPA. Some researchers found a positive correlation between student TOEFL scores and GPA (Wait, 2009; Sahragad, 2011), while others found no or very little relationship between student TOEFL scores and GPA (Arcuino, 2013; Lan & Phu, 2013). This difference in results occurs due to differences in the elements of each study. Similarly, Nillas (2002) study indicated that there is a significant but weak relationship between students' self -concept of language and Mathematics proficiency and their achievement. Also the result of, Grant, Gary Cook,

and Phakiti (2011) study suggested that success in Mathematics is influenced by English language proficiency. The Arcuino Study (2013) is an example of the absence of a relationship between TOEFL scores and student GPA.

The researcher chose TOEP to predict English proficiency and research statistics or mathematics is used to measure academic ability. Although a lot of research has been done on the correlation between students 'TOEFL scores and GPA, no one has yet tried to do research on the correlation of students' English proficiency with their statistical competencies are specifically for the English department itself. Therefore, this study focuses on the statistical value of current English Department students as a measure of their academic success. Also, the TOEFL score is used to assess their English proficiency. So the researcher chose the title **"The Correlation between Students' English Proficiency and Their Statistics Competence at IAIN Tulungagung"**.

B. Research Question

On the basis of the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follow:

1. Is there any significant correlation between students' English Proficiency and their Statistics Competence?

C. Research Objectives

The purpose of this study is mainly to make prediction of the relation between students' English proficiency and their statistical competence. This research was made not to predict academic success but to see students' English proficiency with their academic achievement relationships as measured by scores of scores and statistics. Also, this study wants to find out the factors that influence student success in statistical and TOEP scores. This can be seen if there are students who score high on TOEP scores and statistics. This can be useful for readers and future studies to examine and improve skills.

D. Research Hypothesis

Based on the research question and objective, the hypothesis for this research is:

1. H_0 (null hypothesis)

   There is no significant correlation between students' English proficiency and their statistics competence

2. H_a (alternative hypothesis)

   There is a significant correlation between students' English proficiency and their statistics competence

E. Significance of the Study

This study is useful for further studies in the future and as a source for improvement English department. The findings of this study can hopefully make the reader aware the importance of English language proficiency and academic success in the English department. Also, this study will hopefully help the reader to learn something to be successful in both TOEFL and statistics, because in this rapidly developing era of globalization it is very important to use it to further education in the future.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Correlation

Based on Adi Bhat as sales and marketing of Question Pro, correlation is measures two variables, understands and assesses the statistical relationship between them with no influence from any extraneous variable.

2. English Proficiency

English Proficiency is one's ability to understand and produce English, including reading and writing if applicable. Normally linguistic communication proficiency appraisals should incorporate reading, composing, hearing, and speech production exercising. For this survey, merely the basic reading and analytic accomplishments in English will be assessed.

3. TOEP

    TOEP is a test which measures people's English language skills to see if they are good enough to take a course at university or graduate school in English-speaking countries.

4. Statistics

    Statistics is a form of mathematical analysis that uses quantified models, representations and synopses for a given set of experimental data or real-life studies.