

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Research Background**

Teaching Assistance Program (TAP) is one of the programs from Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM). Activities in this program are teaching practice at the elementary/madrasah level or secondary education level for a certain time. In this case, the location of the target school is in the city or countryside. According to Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi (2020), students can develop and improve their teaching competencies and help solve educational problems in schools through this program. Through Teaching Assistance Program (TAP) activities, students can develop a broad perspective by providing opportunities for students to see, feel, and solve educational problems using their scientific knowledge. This activity can provide benefits to both students and the school. MA Al-Mujtahid is one of the locations to implement the Teaching Assistance Program.

Teaching Assistance Program activities were carried out for eight weeks at MA Al-Mujtahid. During the first week, the researcher and team observed student learning activities in class and found that most students found English is difficult. To solve this problem, the researcher provide idea to foster students' motivation or interest in English. Jayne (as cited in Maharantau, 2015) said that “If the pupils enjoy the learning activity, they will be more involved to increase their desire to continue.” After discussing, the researcher, team, and teacher made an additional activity outside the class schedule named the English Club.

English Club is a program with the aims to improve students' basic English skills and fulfill one of the assessment indicators for the Teaching Assistance Program. According to Malu and Smedley (2016), the primary goals of English Club are communicating and practicing English with activities that may incorporate reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking; however, the focus of community based English Club is on practicing oral language skills—speaking and listening to English. According to Yuliasari and Kusriandi (2018), students who join English Club can get some benefits in their ability mastering English skill. There are students will be able to participate in the various activities based on the club objectives, students will have an opportunity to take the part in the national and international English competition, students will be able to develop their listening and speaking skills through

both formal and informal situations and the finally is students will have a chance to go aboard and learn different cultures.

Several researchers have already practiced English Club as an extracurricular in schools. For example, Marfuah (2020) shows the implementation of the English Club at SMKN 1 Teluk Kuantan to find out students' problems and their responses to the activity. Unfortunately, the researcher slightly hampered this activity due to inadequate facilities. A similar study shows the students' perception of English Club extracurricular in practicing speaking at SMA N 02 Kaur, Bengkulu (Rohani and Zulfah, 2021) and the impact of English Club on students speaking skills (Khikmiah, 2011). The two studies went smoothly and affected increasing student grades. However, many students still complain because they think that English is tough to understand. This is not in line with the researcher's expectations because the researcher hopes this activity will be a solution for students to like English through English Club activities.

The previous studies inspired the researcher to determine the student perceptions towards English Club. The difference is that this study was conducted during the Teaching Assistance Program, one of the programs from Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) with the purpose to find out the students' perceptions towards the English Club in MA Al-Mujtahid Pontianak.

## **B. Research Question**

What are the students' perceptions toward English Club during Teaching Assistance Program at MA Al-Mujtahid in the Academic Year of 2021/2022?

## **C. Research Purpose**

This study aims to find out what are the students' perceptions toward English Club during Teaching Assistance Program at MA Al-Mujtahid in the Academic Year of 2021/2022.

## **D. Scope of The Research**

### **1. Research Variable**

A variable has two or more categories. Hatch and Farhady (1981), as cited in Sugiyono (2017), "variable is defined as an attribute of a person or object that has variations from one person to another or from one object to another." The variable in this study is student perceptions towards English Club as a single variable.

### **2. Research Terminology**

#### **a. Evaluation**

Evaluation is collecting, assessing, or calculating the quality, method, importance, amount, value, or information used to determine the best alternative in making decisions.

#### **b. Teaching**

Teaching is an activity to channel one's knowledge, experience, and skills to students. Teaching can also be interpreted as an attempt to pass on society's culture to students.

#### **c. Assistance Program**

The Assistance Program is the language used in the company. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a job-based voluntary program. EAP addresses broad and complex issues, including offering free evaluations, short-term advising, referrals, and follow-up administrations to employees who have individual or work-related problems.

#### **d. Teaching Assistance Program**

Teaching assistance is a collaborative learning activity carried out by students under the guidance of teachers and supervisors in formal education units. Students who consist of a team create activities that can be useful at

school, with the hope that the actions that have been carried out can be carried out continuously.

e. English Club

English Club is an extracurricular created by researcher and the school during the Teaching Assistance Program. This program aims to improve students' basic English skills and fulfill one of the assessment indicators for the Teaching Assistance Program. Due to the time constraints, the English Club activity is only held every Saturday after school. This activity equips students with basic English skills, such as teaching vocabulary, daily conversations, and interspersed with exciting games.

f. Perception

According to Sequeira (2012), perception is the most frame of human cognitive contact with the world around him. All knowledge is based on or inferred from this basic shape of awareness. The study of perception has always had a unique meaning for logic and science. According to Rohani and Zulfah (2021), there are four aspects of perception. They are (1) feelings of pleasure, (2) student interest, (3) student attention, and (4) student involvement. The four aspects mentioned will be used in this study.

## **E. Significance of Study**

The significance of this study can be seen from both theoretical and practical aspects, as described below:

### **4. Theoretical Aspect**

This study is expected to be a reference and study material to find out students' perceptions of the English Club or other English programs that have similar activities with different names. Since there are certainly a lot of people doing English learning activities, this study can be an example for evaluating activities to make them even better.

### **5. Practical Aspect**

a. For IKIP PGRI Pontianak

This study can be used as a reference and development for the English Club during the implementation of the next Teaching Assistance Program. This research can help the next generation in creating and running English learning activities such as the English Club at school.

b. For Schools

This study can make schools aware that English learning activities other than school hours are important. This study can also be a good reference and example for schools to improve students' English skills through extracurricular English activities at school.

c. For Students

This activity can make students aware of the importance of learning English and can also be an example for students who will join the English Club in the Teaching Assistance Program activities later.

d. For Researcher

This study can increase knowledge as input and reference material in further studies, especially in the implementation of the English Club during the Teaching Assistance Program.