CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Language is a tool that used by everyone foremost as a means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within all people in group society. This language is used for all forms, either express or implied. Language is a system of communicating with other people using sounds, symbols and words in expressing the meaning, feeling, opinion or thought. Language is the process or set of processes used to ensure there is agreement between the sender and receiver for meanings assigned to the symbols and the schema for combining them used for each communication (Johnston:2008).

English is an international language and is a global language which can be used for communication with nativespeakers and nonnativespeakers in the worldwide. English is not only use as an official language in many nations, but also influence on many different cultures in a large number of countries; it is the central language of communication in the world-wide, especially in the education section, for the students' studies in order to search information and obtain knowledge (Susanna cited in Souriyavongsa 2013:3). English be an important thing that have to learn because English is use in all aspects spoken habitually an as a second language; it is taught and learned in the schools in

almost every country on this earth, for people have found out that knowledge of English, such as for advanced knowledge or education, for business, social and for communication with the entire world.

In Indonesia, English is one of the important subject to learn by the students, in junior school, senior high school, and in the university. In short, English has been widely used in everyday life. For example, English is often used in the writing of magazines, newspapers and educational books. English also has functioned for names of places in Indonesia.

Though English has been widely used by everyone and indirectly into a second language, but now in fact, there are many students in SMPN 4 Siantan who still have difficulties in learning English. This situation makes the students can not master the English language. This may be caused by several factors, namely; they are think that English is not important subject, their mother tongue is more important and by learn English is not supported them to get a great job in the future. Besides that, "there are several factors which affect students' performance, for example in speaking English fluently are they are scared about committing mistakes while they speak, they cannot also express themselves well or adequately because they lack adequate and appropriate vocabulary, they are shy and nervous, they feel fearful to speak English in front of other people because they lack confidence about their own competence in English" (Mueen cited in Zahabia, 2014:1).

Regarding to Mueen's problems, Souriyavongsa (2013:2) also states that students also have problems are the lack of English foundation background, students lack of confidence to use English, the curriculum is inappropriate for helping students to improve their English proficiency, English language is difficult to learn due to students are not well-motivated, encouraged andgained learning strategy. Furthermore, students do not practice speaking English with English native speakers, and class environment is crowded and noisy.

Referring to the problems' above, the writer would analyze the students of SMPN 4 Siantan which the students have difficulties towards learning English in all classes in this school; especially class VIII which became the research subject in this research.

B. Research Problems

Based on the condition above, the writer will limit the discussion on students' difficulties towards learning English in SMPN 4 siantanby practicing the descriptive study method in the classroom. This study will be guided by the research questions is "What is the dominate factor students' difficulties towards learning English to the eighth grade students of SMPN 4 Siantan?"

C.   Research Purpose

In this research, the writer wants to analysis "the dominate factor students' difficulties towards learning English to the eighth grade students of SMPN 4 Siantan?"

D.   Scope of Research

Considering the topic of this research, the writer carried out the scope of research to avoid misinterpretation. The scope of research here consist of two important things, they are variable and terminology.

1. Research Variable

The variable is an object that will be focus on the observation in a research. According to Yigzaw (2006:34),a variable is a characteristic of a person, object, or phenomenon that can take ondifferent values. The variable is used to describe or measure the problem under study to describe or measure the factors that are assumed to influence (or cause) the problem (Yigzaw 2006:35). So, it can be concluded that the variable is anything that will be studied by the writer. Based on this explanation, this research had single variable. The variable of this research were *students' difficulties towards learning English to the eighth grade of SMPN 4 Siantan.*

2. Terminology

    a. Analysis

        Analysis is the process of investigation of the proposed objects comprehensively. Then, the writer analyses the internal and external factors that causes the students' difficulties towards learning English to the eighth grade of SMPN 4 Siantan.

    b. Students' Difficulties

        Students' difficulties are learning that is condition that causes interruption in learning process and also the difficulties faced by the students in learning that influence the development of students' learning.

    c. Students of Eighth Grade of SMPN 4 Siantan.

        Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 4 Siantan means of eight grade students who are still active in school at SMPN 4 Siantan, Parit Kebayan Jungkat.

    d. Learning English

        Learning English means the way of student learning that makes the student feel comfortable and understand to a subject which have a significant impact on student learning outcomes.

E.   Benefit of Research

1. Practical Benefit

   a. For the school

      By knowing the difficulties faced by students, this research is expected to be a guide in minimizing students difficulties in learning English.

   b. For the students

      This research will also have benefits,because through this research is expectedcan improve their skills in the process of learning English and can minimize the difficulties which face by the students.

   c. For the writer

      This research is expected to increase and improve the knowledge of writer about the difficulties faced bystudents which will be a education reference.

2. Theoretical Benefit

   The result of this writer will also theoretically give benefits such as:

   a. Can be a reference for teachers if they want to increase student achievement in learning English.

   b. Can be a reference for institutions IKIP PGRI Pontianak becomes important information for the reader to the subject of the investigation in terms of the improvement of learning English.