

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Research on learning styles has provided different insights into student learning and how to apply them in the classroom and in life. Educators and researchers have developed several instruments to assess students' learning styles, but the literature on this topic is full of unresolved issues, both theoretical and practical. Learning style is a concept that represents an individual's profile of perceiving, interacting and responding to the learning environment (Dornyei, 2005, p.134).

As a universal language, English in the world of Islamic education is including a communication medium for preaching throughout the world, especially the world west like America and Europe. We still study Islam by using the original language is Arabic, after that we can spread it to non-Muslims. Muslim besides that, another reason why English is also very important

is because this language can be used as a medium to complete understanding (Juriana 2017, p.252).

Learning style refers to individuals' fastest and best way to learn. Every student absolutely has a different way of learning. They have their own way of receiving information from the outside. Learning style is one of the main factors that help determine how well the students learn a second language or foreign language which can influence their comprehension both in reading, writing, listening and speaking (Oxford 2003, p.1).

Learning is a process of individual behavior changing through interaction to the all situation around the individual environment. It can be also called as process of guidance to the objectives and doing through experiences, those are seeing, observing, and comprehending about something. It means that learning is something that people did in their activity and in we have all participated. When learning, people do many things like trying, researching, experiment, trial and error, and others as learning activity. In learning activity, students do many

activities to achieve the learning objectives for example mastering subject as preparation for the test, memorizing new vocabularies and categorizing them, doing assignment, developing material or skill that we mastered ever. Moreover, in learning a language, students try to use language for purposeful communication and learning language involves learning how to use words, rules and knowledge about language and its use in order to communicate with the speaker of the language (Hamalik 2013, p.37). from that definition, researcher can take statement that people need to learn language to express, create, and maintain social and interpersonal relationship in our daily activities.

Learning language activity is to direct students to express their feeling and communicate the feeling, ideas, and thought by using of conventionalized sign, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meaning (Brown 1980, p.5). It means that students use the language actively to communicate and interact with other both in speaking as well as writing. Language that are most used by people in every country is English. In

Indonesia, English roles as a compulsory foreign language that must be learned by students form elementary until senior high school. Besides that, mastering English for students is important, they can learn many knowledges and skills with English.

In learning English, some students perform more successfully than the others for some reasons; those are social, aptitude, affective, personality, biological, and cognitive. All of them can affect the foreign language acquisition capability of learners. Besides that, the important variables in language learning are age, sex, motivation, attitude, aptitude, personality, learning strategies, and learning style (Zafar 2012, p.641). Thus, some students perform different from the other in their learning process which decisive their English learning outcomes.

There are several elements in the learning process, namely: learning motivation, learning materials, learning equipment/tools, learning environment, and learning conditions. Therefore, students and teachers must always

create a good, challenging and enjoyable learning environment including in determining the right learning techniques, strategies or styles to process learning materials (Hamalik 2013, p.51).

Learning styles are different methods of learning or understanding new information, the way a person takes in, understands, expresses, and remembers information Laurier (2008, p.2). Thus, each learner has his own preferred ways in learning. It can be understood that learning styles influence the learning process which also influence students' learning outcomes. Learning style can be used by students to learn language, including English they can select learning style that is suitable for them to learn and practice English by themselves. So, the students will learn best if taught in a method or strategic appropriate for the students' learning style.

Learners are divided into three parts: visual learners, kinesthetic learners and auditory learners. Each type of learner displays some activities inside and outside the classroom. Most students probably have some general ideas about how to study

better. For example, they use visual guides like short cards to memorize some vocabulary and use them as memory cards when they forget. Another example, they like to listen to English songs and look at the lyrics (Jensen and Nickelsen 2011, p.35).

Each student has their own learning style. They use their learning style type to enhance their knowledge and skills in English learning process. They learn through seeing, hearing, or doing something. They do some learning activities in classroom which relate with their learning style, like making a group discussion, grouping for dialogue, and watching video or movie. In this case, students' learning style types help teachers to develop their classroom activity. The teacher can improve a good learning environment; challenging and exciting include deciding appropriate technique, strategy, or learning styles for processing learning materials to overcome students' different learning style in English learning process.

It means that learning styles have a relationship through English skills comprehension. Some researches on learning

styles and language learning performance show that there is a relationship between the learning styles of the students and the success of the students in language learning (Sadeghi et al 2012, p.120). Language learning includes English language skills comprehension such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Learning style based on modalities according to Grinder in Putri (2019, p.2) can be classified into three kinds, namely visual learning style (more sensitive to the sense of sight), auditory learning style (more sensitive against the sense of hearing), and kinesthetic learning style (more sensitive with move, work, and touch). All of the learning styles are basically owned by every individual but there were one more dominant. Every individual have a tendency to one learning style that make it easier to absord the lesson. Every individual who knows the tendency of their learning and able to implement a learning strategy so they will success in learning.

learning style as an individual's preferred or habitual ways of process in the knowledge and transforming the knowledge

into personal knowledge. It was an educational condition under which a student was most likely to learn. Thus learning style was not really concerned with what the learners learn, but rather than they prefer to learn the materials. Furthermore, each person has his or her best way to learn, governing how they prefer to receive and process the knowledge. Some learners may rely on image or presentation, others prefer listening to the music while learning; still others may respond better to hands-on activities (Wang in Putri (2019, p.2)

The individuals that have a tendency of visual learning style more excited to see what had being studied. Picture or visualization will help them who have visual learning style easy to understand the ideas or information better than presented in the form of explanation. Meanwhile, the individuals that have a tendency of an auditory learning style will learn better by listening. They enjoy what others say. The individuals who have a tendency of kinesthetic learning style will learn better when physically involved in direct activities. They will learn very well if they are physically involved in

learning. They will success in learning if they get a chance to manipulate the media to learn new information. Learning styles are also important to be known by teachers who teach, including lecturers. That was because the optimal learning outcomes will be obtained if various differences such as habits, interests, and learning styles in learners accommodated by teachers through the choice of teaching methods and teaching materials that fit the learning style learners (Putri 2019, p.3).

From the observations that the researchers have made, it can be seen that the learning styles of students in terms of visual, auditory and kinesthetic still have many weaknesses such as the lack of seeing, hearing and focusing on the learning delivered by the teacher, the English teacher of SMP N 12 said "when I teach, I apply student center and study group".

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in carrying out a research entitled "EFL Students' Learning Styles Based on Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic Qualitative Study 7th grade at SMP N 12 Bengkulu City (in the Academic Year of 2022/2023)".

B. Identification of The Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, the research identified some problem as follow:

1. Students lack understanding of the actual learning objectives.
2. Students do not have good English skills so they cannot teach English.
3. Which English language learning style is the most dominant used by the seventh grade of SMP N 12 Bengkulu.

C. The Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification that made above, this study focuses on the learning styles of EFL students based on three class types, namely visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. The subject of this research is students in junior high school level of class VII SMP N 12 Bengkulu in learning English.

D. Research Question

Based on the background described above, this thesis will briefly discuss:

1. Which English learning style is most widely used by grade VIII students at SMP N 12 Belngkulu in the 2023/2024 academic year?
2. What are the most dominant student learning styles used by grade VIII students at SMP N 12 Belngkulu in the 2023/2024 academic year?

E. Research Objectives

1. To find out which English learning style is most effectively used by grade VIII students at SMP N 12 Belngkulu in the 2023/2024 academic year.
2. To find out how teachers accommodate students' learning styles based on visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles in learning English at SMP N 12 Bengkulu in the 2023/2024 academic year.

F. Significances of the

Study

The results of this study can contribute to teachers, students, reader, and researcher.

1. For students

This research can help students to relate their learning styles in finding new ways of learning English.

2. For the teacher

The results of this study will make a great contribution to the English language style teacher to consider the strengths of learning style to be one of the considerations in determining various learners' needs in the English learning process, and to determine the suitable methods/strategies and media in English.

3. for the reader

This research aims to provide inspiration in English language learning through English language learning preference.

4. for the researcher

It is expected that the results of this research will provide new knowledge and new inspiration in English language learning.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. EFL Students

Camelinsoln in Lenggono (2019, p.8), who points out that EFL students may stay in a country whose native language is English mainly to communicate collectively and that such students may need to learn English for academic study, to undertake travel activities to an English-speaking country or for business purposes. We also found that EFL students only spend just over two hours learning English, have few opportunities to learn English outside the classroom, have few opportunities to practice their newly acquired English language skills and have a native background in the classroom.

2. Learning Styles

According to Pashler, et. al .in Soflano and Hailey (2015, p.4) learning style was "the concept that individuals differ in regard to what mode of instruction or study is most effective for them". Another definition of learning style by is the strategy preferred by a learner to perceive, interact and respond to the learning environment.

3. Visual, Auditory and kinesthetic (VAK)

De Porter & Hernacki (2012) include characteristics of visual learners, visual learners are neat and orderly, active talkers, good planners and managers, detailed and attentive, good in appearance and presentation, good spellers, good at remembering what they see, good at memorizing by use.

Auditory comes from the word audio which means something related to listening. Auditoria learning style is a learning style by listening. Characteristics of learning style focus on listening as the primary tool of absorbing information or knowledge. That is, must listen, then can remember and understand certain information (De Porter B & Hernacki M (2012, p.118).

Meanwhile, De Porter & Hernacki (2012, p.10) state that the characteristics of kinesthetic learners are speaking slowly, responding to physical movements, touching people to get their attention, standing closer when talking to others. Physically oriented and move a lot, learn through manipulation and practice, memorize by walking while looking, use fingers to point when reading, use body language intensively.