

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is undeniable that until now the first international language that is widely used is English. As a global language, English is used as a means of communication between countries that have different languages. According to Hornby (2005: 506), “English is the language originally of England, now spoken in many other countries and used as a language of international communication throughout the world”. This is in line with the statement of Brumfit (2001:35) which states that “English is an international language that it is the most widespread medium of international communication”. Even in Indonesia, English is one of the foreign languages that must be learned. Learning and understanding English is an inevitable need.

By learning English, someone will open their horizons and knowledge internationally. According to Richard & Rodger (1986), the use of English is very important because almost all global information in every aspect of life uses English. In Dwihartanti & Faizah (2018), Ahmad Izzan & Mahfuddin explain the reason why English is important to master, which is basically first, English is the international language that is most often used by speakers around the world. Second, mastery of English can increase "value" and a career that will be more valued in the international world of work. Third, all gadgets and technology tools are equipped with English as the language of instruction to provide instructions for their users. And lastly, many learning resources use English.

Realizing the importance of English, the government of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) issued the NTT Governor's Regulation no. 56 of 2018 concerning “English Language Day”. The purpose of the issuance of this regulation is to make English a medium of communication in office activities and daily life throughout the East Nusa Tenggara region. The regulation was also issued to support tourism as a leading sector in the province of East Nusa Tenggara. English Day can be the right program to practice and familiarize the use of English in daily activities. The im-

plementation of English Day can also help build the confidence of the NTT community, especially students in speaking English. Moreover, students' confidence in English is still lacking, this is proven when the learning process is ongoing. Many students are afraid, do not dare, or are indifferent to both the learning material and when the teacher teaches. However, for various reasons, the implementation of English Day in the NTT community, especially in the Town of Kupang, has its pros and cons. The NTT Language Office also gave a serious response by asking the NTT government to review the Governor's Regulation because it was worried that the use of foreign languages would become more important. The pros and cons that occur are a form of people's perception as well as attitude towards language. The language attitude of the implementation of English Day is inseparable from the views of the NTT community towards English itself.

Regarding the pros and cons of the policy, this study will be conducted to determine and analyze the perception of university students in Kupang toward its implementation. This research is important because of the younger generation, college students also have an important role in society so they also have significantly influenced the implementation of the English day in East Nusa Tenggara as proposed by the Governor. Then, college students can motivate other parties to be able to learn English itself.

1.2 Research Problems

The problem that the writer wants to solve is: What is the perception of university students on the implementation of the English day policy in East Nusa Tenggara?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is: To find out the perception of university students on the implementation of the English day policy in East Nusa Tenggara.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

In general, this study aims to provide information about the implementation of the English Day policy, and specifically, this research can provide:

1. For Students.

This research is important to help them understand their own views on English so that they can wisely decide how to treat the language they are learning and apply it in their daily lives, and impact on their future.

2. For the Government.

This research can help in increasing the stability of the application of government regulations regarding English Day so that it continues to be applied in everyday life.

3. For English Teachers.

The results of this study are intended to provide a reference for teachers to plan to teach. Thus, the quality of students will be better.

4. For Writers.

The results of the research will be used to answer available questions based on research data and gain new knowledge and experience to improve the writer's English language skills.