CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about a brief description of the whole content of the research. It covers background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Many foreign languages have developed in Indonesia where people need those languages because of the importance of language skills in this globalization era. English is one of foreign languages in Indonesia accepted by Indonesians to learn the language and they know that language has already globalized in worldwide because English has become international language in this world. The need to master English is very crucial thing for Indonesian people. According to Mahmud (2014), English is important not only in education, but also other public sectors in which people are interacting. Therefore, Indonesia also set the important roles of English education that should be taught from junior high schools to universities.

To develop someone’s English capabilities, many efforts are required in teaching English. The success in teaching English might be influence from several factors, such as teachers, materials, and methods. Teachers or educators in the classroom can integrate good materials and methods. In addition, the factors also come from the student that is teacher can organize teaching materials and methods which are suitable with the needs and the interest of the student. One way to know
whether students understand or not with the English teaching are by giving a test to them. The function of a language test is as an instrument to measure students’ English proficiency (Mahmud, 2014). For that reason, it is necessary to create reliable testing for the language proficiency of the students in order to evaluate students’ achievement.

For example, many institutions in Indonesia have decided some types of testing for undergraduate students to exit from universities as requirement for graduation. One of the types of language testing is the TOEFL test. TOEFL is a test to measure the level of English proficiency of nonnative speakers of English where it is required by English-language colleges and universities (Phillip, 2000). This test has been “internationally recognized and respected” (Warfield et al., 2013). The grade of the TOEFL is mostly used as indicator in academic life around the world.

As English students of University of Jambi, TOEFL has been introduced since the third-semester of lecture and they have taught what is in the TOEFL test and how the way to pass that test with the high score. Medical Students, who do not have major in English, also required to pass from the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination. They have to have a minimum 450 TOEFL score by certificate of TOEFL (Darmawan & Aryanty, 2011). Meanwhile, non-English students learn English at the first semester as their first introduction of learning for their major course. Therefore, for non-English students probably will get difficulties when they face the TOEFL test because they have no basic to learn it. They might think that TOEFL test become one of big problems when they finished all subjects of the course at their department. One of requirements before thesis examination that is TOEFL
test, not only makes them afraid to pass from the TOEFL test, but also from university.

However, in their daily lives, non-English students probably will not use English at their workplace if they get a job. They are more likely to use Indonesia or even mother tongue as their tool of communication with other people. According to the Regulation of Rector of Jambi University No. 1223/2013, a student is passed from Bachelor degree if he has been passed with 400 TOEFL score. By implementing proficiency test such as TOEFL, almost all universities in Indonesia use this test to measure someone’s ability in using English and Medical study program in University of Jambi has used this test for this requirement. In this study, researcher tries to find out whether this implementation gives any impact for non-English students in their social life.

From those descriptions, the study about this issue is rarely and limited. That is why the researcher is interested to conduct the study about “Students’ Perception toward the Implementation of the TOEFL Test as a Requirement before Thesis Examination” where the researcher focuses on the students’ perception about the TOEFL test and their readiness toward the test. It is expected to offer a reference and solution for institutions to decide TOEFL test as one of the requirements before thesis examination.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, researcher was conducting the research to answer the following questions:
1. What is the students’ perception toward the implementation of the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination at University of Jambi?
2. How is the students’ readiness toward the implementation of the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination at University of Jambi?

1.3 Objectives of the study

To achieve the result from the research questions above, objectives of the study are:
1. To explore students’ perception toward the implementation of the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination at University of Jambi
2. To find out students’ readiness toward the implementation of the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination at University of Jambi

1.4 Limitation of the study

Based on the background above, the participants of this study were limited on Medical students’ opinion toward the implementation of the TOEFL test. Researcher chooses students that will be participant for this study from Medical students who are not graduated yet at University of Jambi. Researcher hopes that this study will give a clear explanation by using technique of data collection which related to the topic.

1.5 Significance of the study

It is hoped that the result of this study will help to contribute theoretical and practical significances to institution as the following way: Theoretically, this study aims to enrich the literature of this study regarding to the students’ perception toward
the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination. Practically, this study provides some information and suggestions for institution to place the TOEFL test as requirement before thesis examination for Medical students.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, there are definitions of terms which involved in this study as follows:

*Perception* is a process that related to acceptance of messages or information by human brain from the sense of organ. During the process, a person continually interacts with his or her environment (Slameto, 2010: 102) as cited in (Rizky, 2015).

*TOEFL* is a proficiency test which is used to measure someone’s ability to use and understand English at the university level and it evaluates how well someone combines its listening, reading, speaking, and writing skill to perform academic tasks (ETS, 2016).