

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Problems

Learning is a process of changing behavior, knowledge, skills, understanding, attitudes, and others that have been experienced by someone. These changes occur due to new experiments with the material that has been studied. According to Houwer (2013), learning has been defined functionally as behavior changes resulting from experience.

In education, strategy is one of many important things that can support the learning process. The strategy must be owned by students and teachers in the teaching and learning process to achieve learning objectives. Especially in learning English, which is a foreign language for Indonesians. As in the place where the researcher did the research, in Kerinci, students were still unfamiliar with English and preferred to use local languages rather than foreign ones, even at school or university. This showed that students still have a lack of interest in English.

Although Indonesian students have studied English from junior high school to the university level, many still have low scores in learning the language. Student scores can be defined as the result that has been achieved by students as indicated by the results of tests, examinations, or evaluations that have been conducted by teachers or lecturers in schools or universities.

Based on pre-research data that has been conducted by researchers from the Final Examination of 3rd Semester Nursing Academy Students, the academic year 2020/2021, about 43% of students still got a C (enough), about 46% of students got a B (good), and only about 11% of students got an A (very good). It can be seen in the table below:

Table 1.1

Students' score in Pre-Research Data

Grade	Amount	Percentage	Description
A	8	11%	Very Good
B	33	46%	Good
C	31	43%	Enough

Learning English is certainly not easy for students; they have to learn not only vocabulary but also grammar skills and cultural differences that they have never encountered before. Therefore, students need to know their own learning strategies used to improve their English knowledge and skills.

Strategies are especially important for language learning because they are tools for active, self-directed involvement, which is essential for developing communicative competence. Appropriate language learning strategies result in improved proficiency and greater self-confidence (Oxford, 1990). Learning strategies are the methods students choose and use during their learning process to help them accept and understand a topic. Hardan (2013) stated that every

learning process requires a manner or a strategy to be adapted in order to achieve the main purpose of learning.

Oxford (1990) has classified learning strategies into direct learning strategies and indirect learning strategies. Direct strategies involve direct language use and directly impact language learning. Memory, cognition, and compensation are categorized as direct strategies. Indirect strategies help facilitate language development. Metacognitive, affective, and social strategies are categorized as indirect strategies.

Figuring out the language learning strategy utilized by those students hopes to enable us to understand some of the reasons for their academic weaknesses and consequently raise the awareness of the weak students about the advantages of using these language learning strategies.

A researcher interested in doing research at the Akademi Keperawatan Bina Insani Sakti (AKPER BIS) in Sungai Penuh, Kerinci. The students are expected to use English well. That is because students are trained to be nurses in the future. As a nurse, they should understand and be proficient in English.

AKPER BIS is a place where students learn about English with a specific purpose, namely English for nursing. English for specific purposes (ESP) can be defined as an approach to learning English that refers to the goals or needs of the learners. According to Luo (2017), ESP refers to the teaching and learning of English as a second or foreign language where the goal of the learners is to use English in a particular domain.

English is the language of instruction for nursing students at AKPER BIS Sungai Penuh Kerinci. The students learn English from the 3rd semester until the 5th semester. In English 1 through English 3, students learn all of the English skills (reading, speaking, listening, and writing).

Thus, the researcher interested in describing what kinds of learning strategies are used by students that make them get higher or lower English scores. Then, the researchers conducted research on the students of the Nursing Academy (AKPER BIS) in Sungai Penuh, Kerinci, entitled "Language Learning Strategy Used by Nursing Academy Students in Learning English."

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the description of the research above, the researcher would like to ask some questions about the research. The problems that are discussed in this research can be stated as follows:

- 1.2.1 What are the classifications of language learning strategies used by nursing academy students in learning English?
- 1.2.2 What are the classifications of language learning strategies used by higher and lower score students in learning English?

1.3 Purposes of The Research

Based on the formulations above, the purposes of this research are:

- 1.3.1 To describe the classifications of language learning strategies used by nursing academy students in learning English.

- 1.3.2 To describe the classification of language learning strategies used by higher and lower score students in learning English.

1.4 Significances of The Research

1.4.1 Theoretically

1.4.1.1 The result of the research can be used as input in English learning process especially about the students' learning strategy in English teaching and learning process.

1.4.1.2 The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct the research in English teaching learning process.

1.4.2 Practically

1.4.2.1 For the students

1. Giving the contribution for students in elaborating better learning strategies.
2. Giving the contribution for students to choose the learning strategies that are suitable for them.
3. Giving the description how the way the higher score students in learning English to be imitated by the lower score students.

1.4.2.2 For the lecturers

1. By knowing the learning strategies used by the students, the lecturers can use the appropriate approaches,

materials, and methods to apply in the teaching-learning process so the teaching-learning process can run effectively.

2. By knowing the learning strategies used by the students, the lecturers will be easier to teach the student.
3. By knowing the learning strategies used by the students, can be used as a reference or reflection about lecturers' performance whether they are successful or not in teaching English

1.4.2.3 the researcher

This research can develop the researcher's knowledge about the Language Learning Strategy of nursing academy students in learning English.

1.5 Scope of The Research

The researcher limited the research which only focused on describing the Language Learning strategy by Oxford; Memory, Cognitive, Compensation, Metacognitive, Affective, and Social strategies used by Students in the 5th semester of Akademi Keperawatan Bina Insani Sakti Sungai Penuh, Kerinci using SILL (Strategy Inventory for Language Learning) Questionnaires.

1.6 Definition of The Key Terms

The definition of the key terms is intended to avoid confusion and misunderstanding of the research. The key terms used in this research are defined below:

1.6.2 Learning Strategy

Learning strategies are specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self-directed, more effective, and more transferable to new situations. (Oxford, 1990:8)

1.6.3 SILL (Strategy Inventory for Language Learning)

Oxford (1990) stated that the Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL) is designed to gather information about how a student of a foreign or a second language goes about learning that language.

1.6.4 Higher and Lower Score Students

Amjusfa, Yasin, and Muthalib (2021), the higher students score as students who got $\geq B$. In other words, the ones with higher scores are the ones who managed to score an A or a B. On the other hand, the lower score of students is the ones who got $\leq C$, i.e., C, D, and E.

1.6.5 Nursing students

A person who is enrolled in a professional nursing or vocational nursing education program is referred to as a nursing student. One of the healthcare professions is nursing, which focuses

on providing care to people so they can achieve, maintain, or regain optimal health and quality of life for themselves, their families, and their communities (Shajan & Nisa, 2019)