

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Research

The Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) program was officially launched for the first time by the Minister of Education and Culture on January 24, 2020 (Apriliyani, 2022). This Program is one of the significant innovations in the world of education within the scope of higher education, both public and private. The Program, launched by Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarim, is expected to answer the challenges of universities to produce graduates by the times, the demands of the business world, and the increasingly rapid development of technology (Apriliyani, 2022).

The Ministry of Education and Culture of Technology Research, which plays a role in this field, has introduced various programs and performance results. From the beginning until now, *Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka* (MBKM) activities have nine exciting programs that can be followed by students throughout Indonesia, including (1) Magang Bersertifikat, (2) Studi Independen, (3) Kampus Mengajar (KM), (4) Indonesia International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA), (5) Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM), (6) Membangun Desa (KKN Tematik), (7) Proyek Kemanusiaan, (8) Riset atau Penelitian, and (9) Wirausaha. The government encourages students to master any sciences to prepare for entering the world of work by launching the MBKM program (Aldo, 2021). KM program allows students to seek experience and learn outside their home study program (Directorate

General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, 2020). Nadiem Makariem, Minister of Education of Indonesia, created a step from this statement by triggering the MBKM program in the hope of improving the quality of learning so that it can provide the development of thinking abilities and response both in the classroom and outside the classroom (Al Anshori, 2021).

PMM is one of the activities of the KM program. PMM program is an activity of exchanging students between one cluster to another for one semester. PMM organized from several student attitudes that are included in the regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture (*Permendikbud*) number 3 of 2020, namely respecting cultural diversity, views, religions, and beliefs, as well as opinions or original findings of others, as well as working together and having social sensitivity and concern for society and the environment. The system used in this program for taking classes is done by conversion and must be appropriately considered by students. It is allowed for students to take classes from outside their study program; this is expected so that students can better explore new things they want to know and learn.

MBKM Program is expected to improve the character and ability of students who are strong and better. By running this program, students are expected to have more comprehensive experience and knowledge and become more competitive graduates. MBKM provides contextual field opportunities to strengthen students' abilities, prepare them for work, or build a new career. In MBKM, the learning process emphasizes student-centered learning. Learning provides challenges and opportunities to develop innovation, creativity, capacity, personality, and student

needs. Also, it fosters freedom and independence in seeking and discovering new knowledge in fields such as capability qualifications, real problems, social experiences, partnerships, self-management, targets, and achievement of success. This learning aims to form students' hard and soft skills highly influenced by the individual learning curriculum planned and implemented well (Lhutfi & Mardiani, 2020).

The PMM program has several goals and targets for students from the academic side that are expected to be during and when completing the program. As stated in the standard operational book (POB) of the PMM program, in point 5, namely “improving the quality of higher education through strengthening the comparative advantages (academic excellence) of each university,” students, universities, and organizers have become subjects involved in the implementation of this goal.

One of the reasons the researcher took the theme of this study is because of the personal experience of participating in the PMM batch 2 at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo. For one semester, the researcher conducted lectures offline and online in 3 different study programs at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo. 80 % of lectures are conducted offline, and online if the lecturer cannot attend the class. By doing offline learning, students get excited and excited after a long time of online lectures. The emergence of various problems during online learning makes students welcome the application of face-to-face learning (Firman, 2023).

Students are more excited and motivated to learn when face-to-face teaching is implemented. Like general lectures, students continue to lecture on campus as usual and are given several tasks several times a week. In lectures, students are required to compete in obtaining academic achievement, which, in this case, is the achievement index. The better the student's academic mastery, the more exemplary the achievements. Student academic achievement is influenced by both factors from within the student (internal factors) and outside the student (external factors). Factors that come from within students are interest, readiness, motivation, effort, spirit, and perception. At the same time, the factors that come from outside the students include social environment, family environment, and campus environment. The campus environment has a vital role in improving student academic achievement compared to other environments. The campus must establish a learning strategy that can improve the quality of graduates. In lectures, students are required to compete in obtaining academic achievement, which, in this case, is the achievement index. The better the student's academic mastery, the better the achievements obtained will also be. Student academic achievement is influenced by both factors from within the student (internal factors) and outside the student (external factors). Factors that come from within students are interest, readiness, motivation, effort, spirit and perception. The factors that come from outside the students include social environment, family environment and campus environment. The campus environment has a vital role in improving student academic achievement compared to other settings. The campus must establish a learning strategy that can improve the quality of graduates.

This study focuses on students' academic achievement during and after participating in PMM activities. The impact of students' academic side is why researchers chose this degree. This study is an exciting topic because researchers will examine the influence of what students feel from the academic side. Researchers explain and calculate how much impact from the academic side felt by students. The researchers' findings can be used for students who want to follow the program.

In a study by Kristina et al. (2021), the PMM-related problems studied there focused on various valuable experiences for improving their capacity and competence. There is also an analysis of the constraints experienced by students in terms of academics, but the explanation needs to be detailed. While in this study, researcher focus more on the positive and negative impacts experienced by students on the academic side.

From the previous study, the researcher was interested in conducting a study entitled “The Impact of the *Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM)* Program on English Department Student’s Academic Performance.” Researcher focused on what students from the academic side feel about the impacts of PMM program.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the reasons for students to follow the *Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM)* program?
2. What is the impact on student’s academic side when participating in the *Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM)* program?

1.3 Research Purpose

This study aims to determine the impact on the academic side of students during PMM activities. In addition, research was also conducted to assess how much influence student experience has on academic achievement while attending this program. By looking at the impact on the academic side of students, researchers can see whether the program has achieved its goals: improving national insight, integrity, solidarity, and racial weakness among students throughout Indonesia through intercultural learning.

1.4 Research Significance

This study will provide benefits to students to find out the impact experienced by students when participating in PMM activities. This research is expected to increase students' enthusiasm to join the PMM program in the next generation. The results of this study are expected to be useful for students and the development of science and add insight to researcher, as well as helpful for other researchers, especially in the field of education.

1.5 Limitations of the Research

This study focuses on the academic impacts experienced by students of English Language Education at the University of Jambi following the MBKM program, especially for the first, second, and third batches of PMM programs. Researcher will take data from all English Language Education University students of Jambi who participated in PMM activities in batches 1, 2. And 3. Any factors that affect the academic side of students can be known and analyzed on the positive and negative sides. Based on the author's experience, several factors affect students'

academic results. Therefore, researcher want to examine further what these factors are.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

a. Impact

The force of impression of one thing on another: a significant or major effect.

b. Student Exchange

Student exchange is a program in which students study at another university in the country or abroad. Students register at the destination university and attend lectures and activities there. Student exchanges allow students to learn about new cultures, improve foreign languages, and expand their knowledge. In addition, they can also acquire social skills and learn to adapt to different environments. It is a rewarding experience for students' personal and academic development.

c. Kampus Merdeka

Kampus Merdeka is a policy issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture and Technology that gives the right to students to take courses outside the study program for one semester and activities outside the University for two semesters.

d. Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM)

Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka (PMM) Program is a student mobility program for one semester to gain learning experience in universities in Indonesia while strengthening unity in diversity.

e. Academic Performance

Academic performance results from an institution or school's learning and teaching process that teachers, students, or students follow. In higher education, academic achievement is measured through the cumulative grade point average (GPA) obtained by students in each semester by the courses they participate in.