

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of Research

As Mulyasa (2007) stated that an extracurricular program in a certain program held outside the school regular time for supporting and improving students competences. Extracurricular is a program which is not part of the course that a student is doing at a school, other schools may have different extracurricular program. The main reason of the establishment of extracurricular program is to give spaces for students in developing their talent and interest.

One of the extracurricular program at school is English club. The English club program is aimed to improve the students' assessment in English subject. English club is a place for students to use English in a fun environment. In the English club, the students will have an opportunity to practice many different skills based on the real situation. English club will encourage and support students to help each other to develop their English skills.

English Club could have advantages is give students a chance to improve their English and had more time in learning English because they did not get extra time in regular class. The activities in the English Club also help the students to improve their proficiency in English. It was not only about discussions, but there were many interesting activities that the students could do together, such as games. The teachers can give students more opportunities to express themselves creatively in English. For example, through speech, drama and story telling.

On the other hand English club could be one of the ways for increasing students' English proficiency. Meanwhile, an efficiency of an English club could be seen through how was the students think and feel about it. In another words, it was also important to know how was students' perception toward an English club at their schools. According to Calhoun & Acocella

there were three dimension of perception. First, perception is understands. It means someone has understanding about a phenomenon or something because he/she has experienced it before. Second, someone understand the purpose of something in which he/she has hope after following something. Last, someone evaluates results of something based on his/her experience.

After interviewed one of English teacher at SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi, the researcher found that SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi still held an English club program, it is held once a week on every Monday after school. The program managed by the teacher of that school. English club in SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi is one of active extracurricular in every years and also one of the best program in that school which generate the triumph students in English lesson. By joining English club, the students also often won some English competitions.

From the interviewee information, the SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi English club has quite a lot of participants. The participants are from the seven and eight grade, there are 20 students who join the club.

Based on the preliminary observation, the researcher conducted on July, 25 2018 in learning activities which was done by students in the classroom at SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi. The researcher found students' difficulties in speaking and writing. It came from a simple test given by the researcher. The researcher took some students as sample randomly who tested by the researcher in measuring ability of the students in communicating in oral and written. After that, the researcher found some problems from the students to speak and write. Some students' skill to write and speak by using English were similar with the students who do not join the English club.

Therefore, based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to know students' perception toward English Club program who have joined through some activities which have

been followed by them, and the researcher wanted to know their perception about the result after they have joined English Club program.

1.2 The Research Question

The question of the research formulated as follows:

What are the students' perception towards English club at SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the research was to find out the students' perception towards English Club at SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi.

1.4 The Limitation of the Research

This research was focused on the grade VII and VIII students' perception that joined the English Club in SMP N 6 Muaro Jambi.

1.5 The significance of the Research

The result of this research expected to bring some significance and give contributions for both students and researcher. For the students, the researcher expected this research could push the students that joined the English Club after knowing the advantages. For the researcher, the research hopefully could be used as valuable information about another technique that improve students' English skills at school. For the school, the researcher hopefully expected the school could hold English Club as a facility for the students to develop and increase their English proficiencies.

1.6 The Definition of Key Term

The following was definition of key terms to make the readers had some perception for some terms used in this research to avoid misunderstanding.

1. **English Club Program** is an opportunity for English language learners to practice using English in a relax and friendly setting. English club give students a chance to practice English in a relax, informal environment and to meet new people. English club program is supported by the implementation of games, classroom and pair's discussion, whispering games, story completion, storytelling, conversation and role play as the classroom activities (Kreshen, 1998).
2. **Perception** is the process which people are aware of objects and events in the external world. Perception occurs in five stages: stimulations, organization, interpretation evaluation, memory and recall. People studied perception as the need to solve a particular problems, arise simply from intellectual curiosity about themselves and the world. It is important to know just what kind of perceptual demands can reasonably be placed on human senses without compromising safety and sanity (Russell & Ward, 1982).