

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Knowledge is very important for human being. Through knowledge, people can get information and improve their abilities to live their life. People can work and survive in the world which is full of obstacles. Searching knowledge will have no the end, began from the infant until they close to the death. Considering the importance of knowledge, Allah SWT. revealed the first surah for prophet Muhammad SAW. about knowledge, that is surah Al Alaq verse 1 up to 5:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ
الْإِنسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ
الَّذِي لَا يَلْمُزُ
وَلَا يُلْمَأُ
وَلَا يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا
شَيْئًا
اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ
الَّذِي لَا يَلْمُزُ
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وَلَا يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا
شَيْئًا

“Proclaim! (or read!) In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, who created, Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful, He who taught (the use of) the pen, Taught man that which he knew not”.¹

¹ Mahmud Y. Zayid, *The Quran: An English Translation of The Meaning of The Quran*, (Beirut: Dar Al – Chouro, 1980), p. 457. And also taken from Departemen Agama RI., *Al Quran dan Terjemahannya*, (Jakarta: PT. Intermasa, 1986) p. 1079. And see also [Http://www.khayma.com/librarians/call2islam/quran/pickthall.html](http://www.khayma.com/librarians/call2islam/quran/pickthall.html).

People can get knowledge through education or learning in many aspects of knowledge, such as science, technology, culture, religion, art, and also language. Language is one of the important aspects to be studied. Because of learning language, people can learn any other subject easily. English, for instance, is the one of languages used by most people in the world.

In this global era, communication becomes`urgent. English as an international language, have a great role play. Because it is used in worldwide. So to make it easier, people that use English as their mother tongue are pretained to have enough knowledge about English.

As Ramelan says:

“Language is an arbitrary system of speech sound which used or can be used in interpersonal communication by an aggregation of human being and which rather exhaustively catalogues things, processes, and events in the human environment.”²

As what Ramelan said, language is the most fundamental mean of communications. It is used and needed every day. Language can express everything in people mind by using it. Language follows every human works and activities. If people live in society without knowing their language, a lot of difficulties in communication may appear because of dissimilarity of aspect

² Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.10.

because they are from different language educational background.

3. For institution

By knowing this research result, it is hoped that the institution will provide any additional program to improve the students' ability especially those from traditional *pesantren* in order that they can develop their skills so that the students' ability will reach the equal of achievement as those who are from modern *pesantren*.

Finally, it is hoped that this thesis will help other researchers to do some related researches in deeper, further and better techniques.

of culture and behavior. Language is considered as a social phenomenon because all human being communicate with their respective speech communities using the language they speak. Through language, day-to-day interactions are possible, and with the help of language interpersonal relations are possible as well. After all, language shapes the society and culture.

Recently, modern people do not only learn a language; their mother tongue. In order to socialize in the society they have to learn another language whether as second or foreign language. Language as a tool for interaction becomes the key point while people want to get wider community/ society. By language, they can socialize with others even they come from different region or country.

English is a tool used to communicate with other people who do not speak the same language, and obviously the spread of English is continuing. Nowadays, in a great number of countries people are keen to learn English because they realize the importance of English. They not only just regard English as a language which can be used in commerce, science, medical and technology, but also a language which could also be used for international communication. Moreover, it is crucial to use English to do trading with other people who cannot speak the same language. English has become a universal language, and people know its functions and the necessity to learn it. The

students should learn English as well as possible in order to take the superiority and to stand confidently in the world stage.

English is the international language in the world and people cannot let their next generations leave behind in International competitions just because they are not capable in using English in their conversation. Nowadays parents are already aware of that and they use English to their daily conversation with their kids so they are naturally in English conversation. Today and future, the skill in English language is the most important for the future life, because of many science and knowledge which use it. Everyone can get much information from the strange literature through the English translation ability. Nowadays, many products of technology use English language. For example, the man can operate the computer easily when they have skills in English language.

The most important function of language is for communication. Under different situation, different kinds of language are being used. Mastering English is not easy task.³ Thus language plays a very important role in human life. As one of foreign language in Indonesia, English is taught in every grade of educational institution from elementary, junior and senior high school until university. As a result, the Indonesian government always makes effort to improve quality of English teaching by

³<http://blog.nus.edu.sg/theringatmountdoomeg1417/2009/11/14/English-a-necessary-tool-of-communication/> (retrieved on April 2012)

2. To identify the achievement of students from traditional *pesantren* in English I class.
3. To compare between achievement of students from modern and traditional *pesantren* in English I class.

F. Limitation of the Study

The writer will identify the English ability of modern and traditional *pesantren* in English Achievement and then compare them. That will be investigated in English 1 class of Arabic Department in IAIN Walisongo Semarang.

G. Pedagogical Significance

This study is expected to give some positive outcome as follow:

1. For students
 - a. Realizing the pre requisite is one of the factors which contribute in the success of learning.
 - b. Improving the students' awareness for more involvement communication and classroom interaction in language learning.
2. For lecturer
 - a. Motivating the lectures to improve the quality of the teaching and learning ability, because the lectures are important factor in English students' achievement.
 - b. Improving the lectures' awareness in understanding the differences among their students' ability in English class,

1. The earlier a second language may have interpersonal change in second language acquisition process.
2. Most of the students of Arabic program are the graduate from *pesantren*.
3. There are some differences in language educational system both in modern and traditional *pesantren* that may give different effect in language ability.
4. The lack of research which concerning in this topic.

D. Research Questions

Based on the problem that has been stated above, there are some problems that will be investigated through this study. The problems are:

1. How is the achievement of the students which were graduated from modern *pesantren* at English I class?
2. How is the achievement of the students which were graduated from traditional *pesantren* at English I class?
3. How is the comparison between students ability from modern and traditional *pesantren* in English achievement in English I class?

E. Objectives of Study

The objectives study of this study are:

1. To identify the achievement of students from modern *pesantren* in English I class.

improving the quality of teacher and other components that are involved in educational processes.⁴

English as a formal subject is given to junior high school (SMP) level, which the goals are translated as follows: “The goals of teaching and learning English for this level are improving the four English skills. They are the mastery of the receptive skills (reading and listening) and the mastery of the productive skills (speaking and writing), within a specified word level and relevant grammatical structures and notions, in the context of the specified themes which are enclosed for junior high school (SMP) students” (Balitbang Depdiknas, 2002:42).

The fact shows that the result of teaching learning English is still low. Somantri said (2003) that there can be a wonder about the condition of the student’s English ability. The students have learned English from the first-grade of junior high school until senior high school, but most of them still cannot use English as tool of communication. Zamroni in Somantri (2003) found that it not only happened to the students who have score under five, but the students who have score upper eight in junior high school can not use English in real communication in their level. Besides, their receptive skills are also below the expectation. For example, the fresh graduated students from senior high school, they still find

⁴ Kasihani K.E. Suyanto, *English for Young Learner*, (Jakarta: PT. Bumi Aksara, 2007), p. 2

difficulty in reading English literatures (Balitbang Depdiknas, 2002:1).

These failures are influenced by many factors. According to Zamroni in Somantri (2003), it happens because of the education system at school just transfer the dead knowledge where the knowledge is separated from the application. Teachers teach materials that will be tested. The goal is that the students get good score in the final test. While Ali in Ant-O2 (2005) argues that the low of the students' quality in teaching and learning English happens because the students are used to memorizing and doing multiple choice assignment. Both of arguments above show that the process of teaching and learning English is not so support the improvement of life skills. Students can get good score in the final test and they can memorize the theory well but they cannot use English in real communication.

As a foreign language that not commonly used by Indonesian students. There are some difficulties that they face in order to master English. Considering that, the government of Indonesia state a policy that English must be learned beginning from elementary school institution until university. in the other place, *pesantren* as Islamic education consider the importance of English to their student.

Pesantren is an Islamic education comprises kiai, *santri*, pondok, masjid and *kitab kuning* (traditional books) as main text books of *pesantren*. At the present time, *pesantren* has to be

The word 'traditional' comes from tradition means a customs, beliefs and practices, accumulated through the history of development, which form the views and ways of a society or a religion.¹¹

Zamachsari Dhofier defines traditional *pesantren* as an institution that uses teaching-learning process through structure, method and traditional literatures, both formal school and madrasah¹²

In conclusion, traditional *pesantren* here is an Islamic institution where *santris* live to understand, and practice Islamic teaching (*tafaqquh fi ad din*) by emphasizing the importance of Islamic morality as life guidance and uses a traditional teaching-learning system both the method and the books.

5. Arabic Program

A study program in IAIN Walisongo that focused in studying Arabic language. This program is aimed for the students of senior high school that want to become Arabic teacher or expert.

C. Reason of Choosing The Topic

In this study, the writer choose the topic based on the following reasons:

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p 152.

¹² Zamachsyari Dhofier, *Tradisi Pesantren: Studi tentang Pandangan Hidup Kyai*, (Jakarta: LP3ES, 1994), p.18.

Pesantren is a dormitory and a place of *pesantren*'s students or *santris* who study Islamic teaching.⁸ *Pesantren* is one of Indonesian Islamic institutions aimed to create Islamic teaching as daily life guidance by emphasizing a morality in a society life.⁹

On the other word, *pesantren* is an Islamic educational institution to understand, practice Islamic teaching and emphasize a morality held in dormitory. It leads by *kyai* and assisted by *ustadz* (teacher assistant) who live collectively in a dormitory. Masjid (mosque) or *surau* is as a center of Islamic activities. From time to time, they live together among *kiai*, *ustadz*, *santri* and the other as a big family.¹⁰

3. Modern *Pesantren*

Pesantrens that use modern system in their educational system. They use bilingual system in their daily life. There are some modern *pesantren* in Indonesia like Darussalam Gontor Darul Amanah Kendal, etc.

4. Traditional *Pesantren*

comprehended as an intellectual cultural property. Furthermore, in certain aspects, it is also a cultural fortress. In this term, *pesantren* plays a historical role, emphasizing *pesantren* as a cultural broker.⁵

In addition to be a centre of knowledge and cultural development, *pesantren* functions as a mover for society. One of the most interesting points is a development from local community. As a result of cultural struggle among traditions, educational system, and society, *pesantren* has had a specific pattern that becomes a sub culture.

Pesantren is an educational institution developing from society. The founders of *pesantren* interact with a society, and society is also part of *pesantren* community. By the unique pattern, *pesantren* has survived for centuries in applying Islamic values.

Since the establishment of *pesantren*, which is as old as the arrival of Islam in Indonesia, *pesantren* has been living together with a huge society. *Pesantren* experiences to face tendencies in the society. According to Husni Rahim, *pesantren* grows because of demand and society needs.⁶

However, *pesantren* has had many changes in both its goals and points of view. Previously, *pesantren* is functioned as the centre of education and Islamic proliferation. Afterwards,

⁸ WJS. Poerwodarminto, *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, (Jakarta, Balai Pustaka, 2003), p

⁹ Haidar Putra Daulay, *Historitas Dan Eksistensi Pesantren, Sekolah dan Madrasah* (Yogyakarta: PT. Tiara Wacana, 2001), p. 8.

¹⁰ Mastuhu, *Dinamika Sistem Pendidikan Pesantren : Suatu kajian Tentang Unsur dan Nilai Sistem Pendidikan Pesantren*,(Jakarta; INIS, 1994), p. 6.

⁵ Husni Rahim, *Arah Baru Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia*, (Jakarta: Logos, Wacana Ilmu, 2001) p.150

⁶*Ibid.*, p 152.

pesantren also enlarges the function in fighting against colonization. Kuntowijoyo argued that *pesantren* planted the seedbed to face colonialism.⁷

Considering the global need, some of *pesantren* in Indonesia have modified their curriculum in order to make their students be able to survive and compete in global life.

So, based on this, *pesantren* is specified into two models. First is traditional *pesantren* and the second is modern *pesantren*.

Traditional *pesantrens* are *pesantrens* that use traditional method in their social interaction among the people in their circumstance. They still use traditional method in their teaching and learning like *bandongan* and *sorogan*. *Bandongan* means that there is *kyai* who reads *kitab kuning* to their *santri* and *santri* just listens to what *kyai* reads. *Sorogan* means that *santri* reads *kitab kuning* to *kyai* and *kyai* listens what *santri* reads and gives correction in their mistakes.

Modern *pesantrens* are *pesantrens* which use modern method in their teaching and learning. It can be seen for example, they use bilingual system both Arabic and English language in their teaching and learning. So they have more turn in improving their language skill.

⁷ Kuntowijoyo, *Paradigma Islam: Interpretasi Untuk Aksi*, (Bandung: Mizan, 1991), p 150.

In both of them, traditional and modern *pesantrens* have same turn to continue their study to the high institution in order to enlarge and enrich their knowledge.

As high institution like IAIN Walisongo, there are several programs that the students of senior high school can take. One of the programs is Arabic program. The unique of this program is there are not only senior high students that take this, but also students of *pesantrens* both from traditional and modern *pesantren* are interested to take this program.

So, in this study, the researcher tries to investigate the students ability and conduct a research entitled **The English Ability of Modern and Traditional *Pesantrens*' Graduate** (a Comparative Study at English I Class in Arabic Department of IAIN Walisongo). Through this research, the researcher tries to find out the comparison the ability between students from modern and traditional *pesantren* in English achievement.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Ability

The quality or state of being able; power to perform, whether physical, moral, intellectual, conventional, or legal; capacity; skill or competence in doing sufficiency of strength, skill, resources, etc. in the plural, faculty, talent.

2. *Pesantren*