

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

Communication is one of important parts in our life. As the members of the social community, we need a means of communication. Communication is understanding and conveying information, thought, feeling, and develop science, technology, and culture. The ability of communication is the ability to understand and produce oral and written text. In line with this, one thing which is needed in communication is language, which has been defined by Carroll as quoted by Ramelan as follows: Language is an arbitrary system of speech sounds of sequences of speech sounds, which is used or can be used in interpersonal communication by an aggregation of human beings, and which rather exhaustively catalogue thing, processes, as events in the human environment.<sup>1</sup>

Many people also have different ideas about the meaning of language. For example, Finocchiaro states that “language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols which permits all people who have learnt the system of that culture and other people who have learnt the system of that culture to communicate or to interact”.<sup>2</sup> Still more, Mackey

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<sup>1</sup> Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistics 4H*, (Semarang: UNNES Press, 1992), p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Finocchiaro, Mary, *The Foreign Language Learner*, (New York: Regent Publishing Company, 1974), p.3

also explains: To the philosopher, language may be instrument of thought; to the sociologist, a form of behavior; to the psychologist, a cloudy window through which he glimpses the working of mind; to the logician it may be a calculus; to the engineer, a series of physical events; to the statistician, a selection choice and chance; to the linguist, a system of arbitrary signs.<sup>3</sup>

As the conclusion, by using language people can convey their ideas, feelings, arguments, and wishes both oral and written. People also can share messages and information with others. Without language, it is hard to imagine how people can cooperate and get along with another. That is why, language has important role in people's life. Yap mentions the important role of language as follows: Language was originally and essentially a means of communication. It provides the opportunity for engaging in social intercourse and is a vehicle that integrates one into a culture. Through a common language the common experiences, wisdom, cultural values, and beliefs of a given society are gradually embedded.<sup>4</sup>

In the era of globalization, English acts as global language and plays a big role in many aspects in our life including communication, economics, politics, cultural, and education. Crystal argues that a language can be defined as a global language when it is

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<sup>3</sup> Mackey, W.F, *Language Teaching Analysis*, (Hongkong: Wilture Enterprises Ltd, 1985), p.3.

<sup>4</sup> Yap, Arthur, *Language Education in Multilingual Societies : Anthology Series 4*, (Singapore: Seameo Regional Language Centre, 1978), p.1.

recognized in many countries around the world.<sup>5</sup> Crystal also states that: English is a global language because it is spoken as a first language, a second language or third language by people around the world. In order to gain a global status, two things should be considered. First, the language must be recognized as an official language and it is widely used. Second, although the language does not have any official status, it is widely and popularly taught as a foreign subject.<sup>6</sup>

Not only acts as global language, English also acts as international language. Brumfit says that “English is an international language in that it is the most widespread medium of international communication, both because of geographical spread of its speaker and because of the large number of non-native speakers who use it for at least part of their international contact”.<sup>7</sup> In other words, English is stated as global and international language because the majority of people in this world are English speaking.

In Indonesia, English also has been chosen as the first foreign language in local content subject at school. In the Competence Based Curriculum, it states that the objective of English subject is developing ability of communication in language, both spoken and

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<sup>5</sup> Crystal, D, *English as a Global Language*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), p.2.

<sup>6</sup>Crystal, D, *English as a Global Language*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), p.2.

<sup>7</sup> Brumfit, C, *The Integration of Theory and Practice*, In J. Alatis, H. Stern, & P. Stevens (Eds.) (Georgetown University Press, 1983), p.1.

written.<sup>8</sup> Though the status of English in Indonesia as a foreign language, however English is one of the most favorite foreign languages used and taught at schools.

Halim argues that English has official function in Indonesia. They are: English as a means of communication among Nations, English as a means of development supporter of Indonesian language to become modern language, and English as a means of science and technology transfer for national development.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, English has been taught in Indonesia since elementary school until some semesters in university.

Referring to the functions above, the Indonesian government has already made English as a compulsory subject in its educational system for junior and senior high school. By providing English in the curriculum, the government is likely to prepare the students to be familiar with English.

With regard to the aforementioned reasons, Indonesia begins to use English in every aspect of life, including education field. . Indonesian government made law No. 20 of 2003 on National Education System, “Government and/ or local government carry out at least one education unit in all educational level to be developed into

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<sup>8</sup> Pusat Kurikulum, *Standar Kompetensi Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*, (Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2003), p.7.

<sup>9</sup> Halim, A, *Indonesian Language by 2000: A paper presented in Indonesian Language Conference VI*, (Jakarta: Centre for Language Development, Departement of Education and Culture, 1998).

internationally standard education unit.”<sup>10</sup> The government made this policy because high school leavers in Indonesia have poor ability in English. National Education Service of Central Java stated that “high school leavers have poor English ability because English language learning can not provide good support to the students mastering in English. Because of this reason, Central Java Government conducted *Immersion program*; a class that uses English as a means of instruction in its teaching learning process, as the realization of law No.20 of 2003 on National Education Systems. Immersion class program was introduced by the government of Central Java in the year of 2004.<sup>11</sup> It is a special class program intended for Junior and Senior High Schools in which seven subjects (Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, History and Geography) are delivered to the students in English. Until now, there are some junior and senior high schools in Central Java implement it at their schools with the purpose to improve the educational quality and to produce good quality of human resources in facing globalization era. Shortly, an Immersion Class can also be defined as a special class in which English is used as a medium of interaction both between the teacher students and students – students. Immersion classes are expected to be

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<sup>10</sup> Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, *Buku Pedoman: Penyelenggaraan Kelas Imersi Propinsi Jawa Tengah*, (Semarang: Propinsi Jawa tengah, 2004), p. 13

<sup>11</sup> Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, *Buku Pedoman: Penyelenggaraan Kelas Imersi Propinsi Jawa Tengah*, (Semarang: Propinsi Jawa tengah, 2004), p.15

the answer to the key issues to improve competitiveness in the international world. This class will equip the students with the ability to communicate in English both oral and written. skills, which will become the gate of science and technology mastery.

## **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

According to the explanation above, it is clear that teachers and students in immersion class program have to use English in teaching-learning process. In fact, teacher is an important part and plays a big role in the education of the students. Teaching subjects to the students in bilingual classes of Immersion class program is not an easy job because it highly requires a good skill of the teachers, especially for physics teachers.

Physics, one of important subject taught in school, has its own characteristics; physics has special terminologies that different from other subjects. Thus, the physics teacher at the classes of Immersion program should not only teach the subject but also deliver and introduce its specific and scientific terminology using English as the medium of instruction. Since they are physics teachers who do not have proper English proficiency, they may find some problems dealing with their teaching using English. In line with this, the physics teachers should master English well in order to deliver a good and understandable explanation to their students. From the pre-research the researcher concluded that, physics teacher had the lowest English

proficiency than the other teacher's subject. So, the researcher take physics teacher as an object of study.

In addition, MAN 1 Semarang is one of senior high school in Semarang regency that have immersion class program. Those reasons made me brave to choose physics teachers' problems in teaching the subject using English as the medium of instruction in bilingual classes of immersion class program of MAN 1 Semarang as the topic of my final project.

### **C. Question of The Research**

This study was conducted to deal with the following problems:

1. What problems did the physics teacher face in teaching the subject using English as a medium of instruction in bilingual classes of Immersion Class program?
2. How did the physics teacher solve his problem in teaching his subject using English as the medium of instruction in bilingual classes of Immersion program?

### **D. Objective of The Research**

Based on the problems have stated above the objective of the study are as follow:

1. To describe the physics teacher's problems in teaching the subject using English as the medium of instruction in bilingual classes of Immersion program.
2. To describe the ways the teacher solve his problem in teaching learning activities.

## **E. Benefit of the Research**

The benefits of the research can be stated as follows:

1. For the students

Hopefully this research can give useful knowledge and motivate the students to study English.

2. For the reader

The writer hopes that the result of the study would be worth consideration when people try to improve their English learning and it would become reference for researchers of similar study.

3. For the writer

It gives knowledge for the writer everything about this research.

4. For school

This study gives many information about immersion program and hopefully the other school can apply it.

## **F. Scope of the Research**

This study analyzes based only on the teachers' problems in teaching the subject using English as the medium of instruction in bilingual classes of Immersion program. The limitation of this study is only in physics teacher's problems at MAN 1 Semarang.



## **G. Significance of the Research**

After doing the research, the writer hopes that the result will be valuable tool for improving the teaching competence in teaching in bilingual classes of Immersion program for non-English teachers especially physics teacher in MAN 1 Semarang and physics teachers who teach in bilingual classes of Immersion program in general. In other words, the writer hopes that the research can provide better solutions to solve the problems which the physics teacher met in teaching at the classes of Immersion program so he can give good and understandable explanation to the students.