

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Every human being has a right to education. Various kinds of educational institutions have been established and can be reached by anyone. Various schools were built to be a place or means of education for children, without exception, children with special needs. Various curriculum was also developed for schools to help children in the learning process.

Every child, including the children with special needs, is the gift of The Almighty God which within them there is an inherent dignity as human beings wholly. Children with special needs are children who have a deficiency in the form of physical disability, mental, and social. They have the same rights as normal children in general and all aspects of life, including the aspect of education. It has been stated in the Indonesian Republic Regulation (UU RI) no. 20 year 2003 about National Educational System (Sisdiknas) chapter 5 verse 1 “ Every citizen has the same rights to get qualified education”.¹ It means there is no exceptional treatment to children with special needs. They have rights to get education. It also stated in Sisdiknas chapter 5, verse 2 that citizen

¹ Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003, *Sistem Pendidikan Nasional*, Chapter 5, Verse (1).

with emotional, physical, mental, intellectual and/or social disorder has rights to get special education.²

We all know that Allah SWT creates language as a tool for communication in order to make people understand each other, and in this world there are many language that used for communication in every social group. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an surah ar-Room: 22

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَالْوَالِدَاتُ إِذَا حَمَلْنَ فِي
ذَلِكَ لَأَيَّدَنَّ لِلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And of His signs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors: surely there are signs in this for all mankind.³

One of the lesson needed by students is English lesson. English as a foreign language is not a new thing for Indonesian students. English is taught in almost educational level, from elementary school (SD) until university. For the students with special needs, including retarded students, English lesson is also very importante to face the globalization era.

Sisdiknas stated that every school has to teach three languages. They are Indonesian language as national language, regional language as mother tongue of students and foreign

² Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003, *Sistem Pendidikan Nasional*, Chapter 5, Verse (2).

³ Ali, A. Yusuf, *The Holy Qur'an: Text, Translation and Commentary* (USA: Amana Corp, 1983), p.1056.

language, especially English as international language that very important in facing globalization era. English is official language of international aviation, and unofficially is the first language of international sport and pop scene.⁴

Mental retardation (MR), as Bregman stated is a genetic disorder manifested in significantly below average overall intellectual functioning and deficits in adaptive behaviour. Mental retardation is a particular state of functioning that begins in childhood and is characterized by decrease intelligence and adaptive skills and also is the most common developmental disorder.⁵

Children with mental retardation have limitations in language acquisition. They are not having trouble in articulation, but the processing centre (vocabulary) does not work properly. In addition, they lack of skill to consider something, distinguish between good and bad, and distinguish between right and wrong.⁶

A great challenge will be faced by student with mental retardation on their use of English. Their mentally retarded may have a significant affect such as the difficulty to understand well

⁴Broughton, Geoffrey et.al., *Teaching English as A Foreign Language*, (New York: Taylor& Francis e-Library, 2003), p. 1

⁵ V, Armatas, *Journal of Sport and Health, Mental Retardation; Definition, Etiology, Epidemiology and Diagnosis*, (Greece: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 2009), p. 114.

⁶ Soemantri, T. Sutjihati, "*Psikologi Anak Luar Biasa*", (Bandung: PT Refika Aditama, 2007), p. 106.

the material given in their English class. However, English as a foreign language is truly important for them and every student including students with mental retardation are attempting to master English. Considering it, every educational institution must provide special treatment is needed in teaching English to them, including the material and the appropriate method.

The method is a procedure used to achieve the purpose of the lesson. In addition, to support the success of a lesson, the media is an important component that complements teaching methods. Both the role of method and media in teaching students with mental retardation would greatly assist the teacher. In the application and the use, both the method and media for retarded students' class is different from other normal students. Thus, schools or institutions should apply methods and media that adjust to students with special needs, especially students with mental retardation.

Asnawir and Basyiruddin Usman explained that one important factor that must be considered in the use of media is students' intelligence.⁷ Educating students with mental retardation is a challenge for teachers. They have to select and use the media as good as possible.

Often, methods and media becomes a serious problem that could impede the course of learning, such as inaccuracy of use,

⁷ Asnawir and M. Basyiruddin Usman, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta: Ciputat Pers, 2002), p. 15.

availability, and others. Like one side of a coin that cannot be separated from another side, obstacle is inseparable from the implementation of learning for students with mental retardation. But the obstacles are not merely a gray cloud that discourage teacher to guide their students, but as a reference for improvements to be made by a teacher.

Based on the circumstances above, the researcher is going to investigate the English teaching and learning for student with mental retardation at YPAC. This research entitled **A Study on EFL Teaching and Learning of Student with Mental Retardation (MR) in The Centre of The Child Rehabilitation, YPAC Semarang (A Study at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang).**

B. Research Questions

1. What methods are used in teaching English for mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang?
2. What media are used in teaching English for mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang?
3. What are the obstacles factors in EFL teaching and learning process of mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions, these are the objectives of the study:

1. To know the methods used in teaching English for mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang.
2. To know the media used in teaching English for mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang.
3. To know the obstacles factors in EFL teaching and learning process of mentally retarded students at SMALB-C YPAC Semarang.

D. Significance of The Study

The researcher expected that this study would be able to give advantages as follows:

1. Theoretically: the result of the study could give larger knowledge about English Language teaching and learning for students with mental retardation (MR) for writer, readers and teachers.
2. Practically: the result of the study were expected to be as follows:
 - a. English Teacher

This research was expected to be kind of evaluation and reference for English teacher in creating or developing interesting methods to support the EFL teaching and learning process in the classroom.

b. Mentally Retarded Students

The students with mental retardation were expected to have high motivation on learning English, so English teaching and learning process will run successfully.

c. Reader

This research could give some knowledge and at least the result of the study is expected to be a reference for the next researcher.

d. Researcher

The researcher got some knowledge and experiences about EFL teaching and learning, especially teaching and learning for mentally retarded students.