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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Problem

English is an international language that is used by almost all of the countries in the world. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language which is taught from kindergarten until university. Therefore, the mastery of English is imperative for Indonesian students. However, most students do not master English yet. They cannot absorb the knowledge from the book or other media without mastering English. This is proven by the low level of students' scores. According to Paul Roberts (1985: p.17), "Understanding English, or any language, is not easy. Language problems are very complicated and unlike any other problems we meet. They are also, for everybody, unavoidable problem."

Motivation is an important key in success and failure on English learning. According to Harmer (1991: p.3), "Motivation is an energy of students which come from inside or outside encouraging themselves to do something." It will give encouragement to students in learning English. Students who have motivation will do everything to supports their performance. They will do the big effort to get the big result.

The students' motivation in learning English affects their English learning score. It means that the students who have high motivation in learning English will show effort to learn more than the students who have low motivation in learning English. The more motivation the students have, the

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easier the students achieve the high score. To get a high score students not only need intelligences, but also need motivation in learning to maximize their potencies.

Students' motivation in learning is related to students' success in learning, students' success in learning can be defined as students' achievement. It can be summed up that motivation in learning will affect learning achievement. It means that a student with high motivation in learning English will be more successful than the student with low motivation. According to Harmer (2001: p.51), "The motivation which the students bring to class is the biggest single factor affecting their success."

According to Dornyei (1994: p.273), one of main determinants of second or foreign language learning achievement is motivation. It means that the students' motivation in learning English is related to students' English learning achievement. Motivation seems having an important role in increasing students' English learning achievement.

In State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku, English is being taught 4 times for 45 minutes in a week. Then, students at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku taught the lesson into 2 meetings so that the students learn English for 90 minutes each meeting in a week. The passing grade (KKM) of English subject is 75. Basically, the students at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku have done the process of teaching English that follows the

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indicators and aspects of the curriculum. This school uses School based curriculum (KTSP) which integrates the four skills of English.

According to School-Based Curriculum, the teaching of English emphasizes strongly upon three essential aspects, as follows:

1. Developing students' communicative competence in form of spoken and written in the efforts of literal functional degree.
2. Having awareness concerning the essence and importance of English for national competitive enhancement in global community.
3. Developing the students' learning comprehension about inter relation between language and culture.

Based on researchers' preliminary observation on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 by interviewing some of the students and the English teacher of State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku, there are some problems faced related to the students' English learning motivation and their English learning achievement. It can be seen as in the following symptoms:

1. Some of the students do not pay attention in learning English.
2. Some of the students' English learning achievement is categorized into fair level.
3. Some of the students are lazy to do the English assignment.
4. Some of the students do not ask the teacher about the problem found in learning English.

Based on the explanation and the problem above, the researcher is interested in observing the problems above into a research project entitled:

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## **“The Correlation between Students’ Motivation in Learning English and Their English Learning Achievement at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku, Indragiri Hulu Regency”**

### **B. The Problem**

Based on the phenomena above, it is very clear that students of the second year of State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku have some problems in learning process.

#### **1. The Identification of the Problem**

Based on the problems depicted in the background of the problems, it can be identified as follows:

- a. Why do some of the students not pay attention in learning English?
- b. Why is some of the students’ English learning achievement categorized into fair level?
- c. Why are some of the students lazy to do the assignment?
- d. Why do some of the students not ask the teacher about the problem found in learning English?

#### **2. The Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problems stated above, the writer limits the problem on the correlation between the students’ motivation in learning English and students’ English learning achievement.



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### 3. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problem limited above, this research is formulated in the following questions:

- a. How is the students' motivation in learning English of the second year at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku?
- b. How is the students' English learning achievement of the second year at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' motivation in learning English and their English learning achievement of the second year at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku?

### C. The Objectives and the Significance of the Research

#### 1. The Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions formulated above, thus, the objectives of this research are as follows:

- a. To find out the students' motivation in learning English at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku.
- b. To find out the students' English learning achievement at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku.
- c. To find out the correlation between students' motivation in learning English and their English learning achievement at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku.

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**2. The Significance of the Research**

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significance of the research is as follows:

- a. The research finding is to give information about the correlation between students' motivation in learning English and their English learning achievement of second year at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku.
- b. The research finding is to give benefit to the students at State Senior High School 1 Batang Cenaku in learning process.

**D. The Definition of the Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding in this research report, the writer feels necessary to define some specific terms.

**1. Correlation**

According to Longman (2002: p.99), correlation is a measure of the strength of the relationship between two sets of data. In this study, correlation means the relationship between students' motivation in learning English and their English learning achievement.

**2. Motivation**

According to Woolfolk (2007: p.372), motivation is usually defined as an internal state that arouses, directs, and maintains behavior. It means that motivation can direct a person's behavior to achieve his/ her goals.

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### 3. Achievement

Collins & O'brien (2003 : p.4) stated that achievement is the attainment of knowledge, competencies, and higher level status, may be reflected in grades, degrees, and other forms of certification or public acknowledgement. It means that achievement is an acquisition of knowledge, and to obtain a higher status for public recognition.

## E. Reasons for Choosing the Title

These are several reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research:

1. The problems of the research are very interesting to be investigated in teaching and learning English.
2. The researcher has ability to carry out this research.
3. The researcher wants to find out the significance correlation between students' motivation in learning English and their English learning achievement.