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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

The process of learning a second language is not the same for everyone; some are faster than others, some like visual, other like listen to information, and others prefer some physical involvement. Visual learners would rather learn by watching. Auditory learners would rather learn by listening to teachers and reading. Kinesthetic learners would rather learn by doing. The various ways of learning is call learning styles.

Learning style is a variety of ways in learning. Brown (2000) stated that learning style as the manner in which individuals perceive and process information in learning situations. The learning style preference is one aspect that refers to the choice of learning situation and condition over another. According to MacKeracher (2004), learning style is defined as the characteristic cognitive, affective, social, and psychological behaviors that serve as relatively stable indicators of how learners perceive, interact with, and respond to the learning environment. The learners have different characteristic and learning style, but most learners have a dominant style falling into either the visual, auditory, or kinesthetic categories. There are many advantages in understanding the learning styles, such as maximizing the learning potential, understand how to best study and score better on exam ad test, reduce frustration and stress level, improve self-confidence and self-esteem, learn how to enjoy learning more, and etc.

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The Procedure of English Language lesson at State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru is used school based curriculum 2013. This curriculum is a basic educational component in teaching and learning process. Based on the curriculum, English language at the State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru has criteria of students minimum passing grade with the score is 75. In addition, the basic competences for the second year students of State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru are to master in understanding, explanation, and success make a product from kinds of the text, such as analytical exposition, discussion and descriptive text, and any other of expression and etc (BNSP 2013). Based on the citation above, it is clear that there are kinds of materials that have to master by the students. It means that, if the students did not master all the component of the materials based on the curriculum, the teaching and learning process are runs ineffectively.

Based on the researcher's preliminary observation with the English teachers on November 2017 at the State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru, it was clear that some of the students faced problems and difficulties in optimalizing their learning styles. The problems can be identified as follows:

1. Some of the students were not able to identify the learning styles that they hold.
2. Some of the students only hold visual style in learning English.
3. Some of the students only hold audio style in learning English.
4. Some of the students only hold kinesthetic style in learning English.
5. Some of students had different styles in responding the learning materials.

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6. Some of the students were not able to apply their learning styles that appropriate for them.

Based on the rational above, it can be conclude that some of the second year students at State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru were still problematic in identifying the learning styles preferences that appropriate for them. Thus, the researcher is interested in concluding a research entitled “**Students’ Learning Style Preference in English Language at the State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru**”.

B. Problem

1. Identification of The Problem

Based on the background that the researcher found the preliminary study, the writer identifies some problems of this research as follows:

- a. What makes some of the students were not able to identify the learning styles that they hold?
- b. What makes some of the students only hold visual style in learning English?
- c. What makes some of the students only hold audio style in learning English?
- d. What makes some of the students only hold kinesthetic style in learning English?
- e. What makes some of students had different styles in responding the learning materials?

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- f. What makes some of the students were not able to apply their learning styles that appropriate for them?

2. Limitation of The Problem

After identifying the problems stated above, the researcher is necessary to focus the problem on students' learning styles preferences.

3. Formulation of The Problem

- a. What are learning styles preferences in learning English have been done at the State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru?
- b. How is the students' learning style preferences in learning English at the State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru?

C. Objective and Significant of The Research

1. Objective of The Research

- a. To find out the students learning styles in learning English at the second year of State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru.
- b. To find out students' learning styles preferences in learning English at the visual, audio, and kinesthetic at the second year of State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru.

2. Significant of The Research

- a. This research finding will give information to the students and also teachers dealing with learning styles preferences.
- b. To give some contribution to the students of State Senior High School 12 Pekanbaru in determine the learning styles preference.

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- c. To give information to the teachers about the students learning style preference and provide the appropriate method of teaching to the students' personal learning styles preference.
- d. To increase the students achievement in learning English in the classroom.

D. Reason for Choosing The Title

There are some reasons why the researcher is carrying this research:

- a. The title of the research is relevant with the researcher states as students of English Education Department.
- b. The title of the research is not yet investigated by other previous researcher.
- c. The location of the research facilities the researcher in conducting the research.

E. Definition of The Term

There are some terms involved in this research to avoid misunderstanding to the term used in this research. Thus, the following terms are necessarily defined as follows:

1. Learning Style

Fatt (2000) said that "Kolb saw learning as a circular process where learning is viewed as a series of experiences with cognitive addition: concrete experience, reflection and observation, abstract concept and generalizations, and active experimentation". Brown (2000), also stated that learning style is the manner in which individuals perceive and

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process information in learning situations. Thus, learning styles is a process of individual's mode of gaining knowledge and understanding the information that their received.

a. Visual Learning Style

This learning style learns best through what they are able to see with their own eyes. Fatt (2000) said that people with a visual learning preference see the world by constructing or remembering mental image. Visual learners would prefer reading, observing, and learn by watching movies, film, picture, and graphs which help integrated the subject. Visual learning styles have tendency to describe everything that they see in term of appearances.

b. Auditory Learning Style

This learning style learns best through listening. Fatt (2000) said that auditory learning preference prefer sound and make better decisions on what they have heard or read. Auditory learns would prefer teacher, seminars, discussions, and tapes.

c. Kinesthetic Learning Style

Students who are considered to be kinesthetic learners prefer to learn by doing. Fatt (2000) said that kinesthetic learning preference communicate with the environment by feeling. Kinesthetic learning styles tend to become frustrated when they must sit for long periods. This type of learners would rather learning with hands-on experience which helps them create and develop what they have learned.