

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Problem**

Achievement is very important in learning process because toward achievement we can know about the ability of students in learning process and we can measure fruitfulness of students in learning process. Teacher is one of the factors that influence students in achieving the learning achievement, the students move forward or backward because teacher does not only teach and give model to them. Because of that reason, teacher should know how to increase student's achievement by considering psychology and situations of students so that the students can be conducive in learning situation and reach the expected achievement. But in the fact, the student's still encounter difficulty in learning process which makes the achievement of some students still low.

The impacts of teacher as one of the factors that influence students' achievement also stimulate the appearance of internal aspect of students which we call as attitude. The students are considered to have positive attitude of learning English. When they indicate good response to it, they have strong motivation to study English, and they have full attention to the English teacher whether teaching and learning process is happening. On the other hand, they are supposed to have negative attitudes of learning English when the students do not have good response, lack of interest of learning English, and less attention to the English teacher.

Both phenomena can be caused by the students' perception of learning English. Many students perceive that English is a very difficult subject, and it is deemed as a boring subject to be studied.

Furthermore, there is one thing that is also very influential toward students' successfulness in learning English as foreign language, it is students' attitude. Chandrasegaran states: "attitude and motivation are related to achievement in second language learning."<sup>1</sup> Based on the theory, the writer concludes that attitude and motivation of the students are very influential to achievement and successfulness. On the contrary, many students failed in learning English caused by their negative attitude of learning English. Each student has his or her own ways and characteristic in learning. The existence of his or her characteristic differences may affect his or her attitude in everyday life.

Based on the school based curriculum, the purpose of studying English in Senior High School is that the students are able to achieve the informational level that is accessing the knowledge by using the English language<sup>2</sup>. It means that the students can develop the competence to communicate in oral and written form to reach the level of informational literacy that was divide into four kinds there are speaking, listening, reading and writing. MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 in Pelalawan Regency is one the senior Islamic high schools in which English should be studied as an obligatory subject. The English subjects are taught twice a week, two

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<sup>1</sup> Antonia Chandrasegaran. *Problems of learning English as a Second Language*.(Malaysia: Monograph Series, 1995) , p.12

<sup>2</sup> Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan. *Standar Isi Untuk Satuan Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah Standar Kompetensi dan Kompetensi Dasar SMA/MA*. Jakarta: BSNP.2006. p. 126

learning hours in one meeting. The English teacher of that school, graduated from English department, and then he used methods in teaching. As information, in this school, the Standard Minimum Score (KKM) for English Lesson is 70 point.

Moreover, the students used media in learning English in order to improve their achievements, but some of students receive low score in English examination. It can be seen from 38 of the second year students, only 8 students received 8, 10 students received 7, 10 students received 6, and 10 students received lower than 6.<sup>3</sup> It means that the minimum passing grade (KKM) of school based curriculum (KTSP) in English subject is not achieved yet.

Based on the writer observation at MA Al-Qasimiyah sorek 1 in Pelalawan Regency, the students' achievement of learning English seems still in problematic; it can be seen from the phenomena as follows:

1. Some of the students still do not reach the minimum passing grade (KKM) in learning English.
2. Some of the students are not yet able to express their opinion fluently.
3. Some of the students are not interested in writing activities.
4. Some of the students still feel difficult to understand the native conversation.
5. Some of the students have limited vocabularies which cause difficulties in understanding the text.

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<sup>3</sup> *The recapitulation of the students' scores in semester test*

6. Some of the students are not yet able to use the correct grammatical rules and punctuation.

Based on the phenomena stated above, it can be concluded that some of the second year students are still problematic in term of English achievement. So, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: “The Correlation between Attitude in Learning English and English Achievement of the Second Year Students at MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency”.

## **B. Definition of the Term**

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation, it is necessary to define the operational definition terms comprised in this research as follows:

### **1. Correlation**

Correlation is connection between two things in which one thing changes as the other does.<sup>4</sup> Ricard says that correlation is a measure of strength of relationship between two sets of data.<sup>5</sup> Correlation can be used in different ways : for example, to test a relationship between or among variables, and to make prediction. Prediction is dependent on the outcome of a strong relationship between or among variables.<sup>6</sup> It means that correlation is relationship between two or more things that have value. In

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<sup>4</sup> AS. Hornby. *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974), p. 15

<sup>5</sup> Richards, jack C, et al. *Longman dictionary of applied linguistic*. Third edition . (New york: pearson education,2002), P.89

<sup>6</sup>Mackey, Alison and Susan M. Grass. *Second Language Research*. ( New York: Routledge, 2005), p. 145

this research, correlation refers to determining the relationship between attitude in learning English and English achievement.

### **1. Attitude**

Attitude refers specifically to states of emotions and thought relating to the English language, to the learning of English, and to the culture of English-speaking peoples.<sup>7</sup> It means that attitude is psychological tendency that is expressed in learning English process.

### **2. Achievement**

Achievement as a test which measures how much of a language that someone has learned with references to particular study or programed instruction.<sup>8</sup> Meaning that achievement is result of an English test given by the teacher.

## **C. Problems**

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

Based on the background of the problems stated above, it is clear that some of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency are still encountering the difficulties in learning English, especially in terms of English achievement. Concerning to the students difficulties, there are many problems that can be investigated as follows:

- a. The students get low score for English subject.

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<sup>7</sup> Chandrasegaran. Op.Cit., p.5

<sup>8</sup> Underwood.M, *TeachingListening: Longman Handbook for Language Teacher*, (Longman: New York,1989)p.3

- b. There are some factors influencing the students' English achievement such as low motivation and interest.
- c. The students mastery of vocabulary and grammar is still low.
- d. The students have good attitude, but their English achievement is still low.

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

In this research, it is necessary to limit the problems. Based on identification of the problems, the writer needs to limit the attitude in learning English and English achievement of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency.

## **3. The Formulation of the Problem**

- a. Is there any significant correlation between attitude in learning English and English achievement of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency?
- b. To what extent is correlation between attitude in learning English and English achievement of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency?

## **D. The Objective and Significance of the Research**

### **1. Objective of the Research**

- a. To find out whether there is any significant correlation between attitude in learning English and English achievement of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency.

- b. To find out to what extent correlation between attitude in learning English and English achievement of the second year students of MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek 1 Pelalawan Regency is.

## **2. Significance of the Research**

Hopefully, these research findings are as follows:

- a. It is very meaningful, especially for the writer as a novice researcher in term of learning how to conduct or carry out research.
- b. This research findings are expected to be valuable inputs for both students and teachers of English of the second year at MA Al-Qasimiyah Sorek Satu in Pelalawan Regency.
- c. Besides, this research findings are also expected to be meaningful, especially for those who are concerned with teaching and learning of English.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be meaningful inputs for both practical and theoretical development of TEFL and TESOL.