

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nowadays people's attention on the importance of mastering English has increased. They realize that mastering English language is urgent due to the globalization era. One of the proofs that people realize the important of English is the establishment international and bilingual schools. There are many international schools in Semarang like Bina Bangsa School, Permata Bangsa School, Semarang International school. Besides that there are also national schools which offer immersion program like in Daniel Creative School and Terang Bangsa.

By sending their children to study in the international school, immersion program and bilingual schools, parents may expect their children to be fluent in English and be bilingual people. Bilingual people are those who can speak two languages. People who have an ability to speak more than one language are called bilingualism and they can be called multilingual if they can speak more than two languages. In this era parents like to make their children bilingual although in the past time, bilingualism was associated with a number of negative phenomena such as powerlessness, poverty, and subordinate social positions (Malmberg & Crane,

1981, pp. 66-67). Therefore, parents try to provide opportunities for their children to study English.

A study on parents' attitude has been done by Pardipta(2013). However, she investigated the parents' attitude towards their children's English private tutor. The result of her study shows that parents' attitude are favorable. In this study the writer was to find out the parents' attitude towards their children achievement in bilingual school. Exploring parents' attitudes towards the school system of these children will help us understand how these attitudes influence parents' choices and children's language use (Baker, 1992).

1.1 Field of the Study

This research deals with applied linguistics which focuses on second language acquisition and psycholinguistics.

1.2 Scope of the Study

This study investigated around 50 parents whose children study at Terang Bangsa Primary School, Semarang.

1.3 Problem Formulation

The writer investigated the following questions:

1. What motivated parents to choose bilingual program schools for their children?

2. How do parents feel about their children's educational and linguistic achievements?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are:

1. To find out what motivates parents to choose immersion program schools for their children
2. To investigate how parents feel about their children's educational and linguistic achievements

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to contribute to the study of second language acquisition. It will explore parents' attitude towards their children achievement in a bilingual school. The writer hopes that the findings of this study will be useful toward the understanding of the parental attitude in sending their children to bilingual school regarding to the children achievement.

1.6 Definition of Terms

1 Bilingual children:

Children who are able to use and identify two or more languages in their communities (Malmberg& Crane (Eds.), 1981, p. 90)

2. Attitude

An attitude is a disposition to respond favorably or unfavorably to an object, person, institution or event (Ajzen, 2005).

In this study the attitude is a disposition to respond to bilingual school.

3. Academic achievement represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities in instructional environments, specifically in school, college, and university (Steinmayr, et al. 2015)

