

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

As an international language, English has been chosen as the first foreign language to be taught at school in Indonesia. It has been taught in kindergarten, and also as a compulsory subject in Junior and Senior High School. Although English has been taught at schools, some people try to better their English by taking English courses or entering International Schools. Indonesia today has some schools which have the international programs, such as *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* program called RSBI.

Some schools in Indonesia which are pioneers of the international standardized school set some *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* to make sure that the school is ready to have the International standardization. One of the schools is *Kesatrian 1* Senior High School. *Kesatrian 1* Senior High School at this time is one of the being pioneers of the international standardized school which is called as *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional*.

*RSBI* program in *Kesatrian 1* started in 2007 with two classes. The students who want to join this class must have some qualifications. They must have a minimum mark of 7 for the average of the entire subjects, and must have a minimum of 7 in English subject.

*Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* has different facilities from the regular ones, for example, the media for teaching learning process that they use.

The students use bilingual text books, while the teachers use English text book. In this class, both teachers and students use English and Indonesian languages. There are some lessons which use English as their medium of instruction. They are: Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, and Computer.

Besides using bilingual text book, another way to improve their speaking skill is by having a native English speaker. Fromkin and Rodman (1974, p.86) argue that native English speaking friends can help people to speak well. This class also has a native speaker from Canada who comes once every semester. Moreover, the teachers who teach this class must join the English course for six months to improve their abilities before teaching students in English.

This research is to analyze students' perception on the use of English in Teaching Practices in *RSBI* first year Classes at Kesatrian 1 Senior High School Semarang. The writer chose them as the participants for this study because it is the first time they have lessons in English and they have to adopt with the use of English while in the later years they may perceive differently as they may get used to catching their teachers' English. The teachers of *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* teach the students in two languages (English and Indonesian) because the important thing in the *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* class is the use of the English language. According to Yule (1985, p.153) the fluent use of the language is an essential set of 'habits' which can be developed with a lot of practices. So, the students in that school practice their English to be fluent in it. Although in the beginning, some of the students cannot speak English fluently, but they have to practice it.

This study investigated the students' perception towards the use of English in classroom, in *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional*. This research is conducted to see the perception of *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* class students on the use of English in teaching practices. The reason to choose the first year students is that they are new students who just start trying to use English in all classes and also to listen to their teachers speaking English. Therefore, it is important to know their perception as they will experience English classes in the second and third year. The result of this study will give input to the teachers.

## 1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

Linguistics

## 1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is under Psycholinguistics, and focuses on the students' perception on the use of English in teaching practices in *RSBI* classes at Kesatrian 1 Senior High School Semarang.

## 1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION

The reasons of doing this research lead the writer to the following question:

What are the students' perceptions on the use of English in the teachers' teaching of some subjects (Computer, Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Economics)?

## 1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This research attempts to achieve the following goal:

To analyze the students' perceptions on the use of English in the teachers' teaching of some subjects (Computer, Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Economics).

## 1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

From this research, the writer expects that the result of this research would be useful for English teachers, especially teachers of *RSBI* class. The result provides information about students' perceptions of *RSBI* class, so that the teachers can improve the use of English in their teaching practice. This research is also open for those who want to continue a similar study about the analysis of students' perception on the use of English in teaching practices in *RSBI* Classes or in other school.

## 1.7 DEFINITION OF TERM

### 1. Perception

Keegan (2004, p.213) argues that perception is a process to organize, interpret gestalten (a physical and psychological condition), and past experience.

## 2. *Rintisaan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* or RSBI

RSBI or *Rintisan Sekolah Berbasis Internasional* is a program for schools in Indonesia which use international standard to make the graduates of this program have international capability of education.

## 3. **Kesatrian 1 Senior High School**

*Kesatrian 1* Senior High School is one of the schools in Semarang which has *RSBI* classes.

## 4. **Effective Teaching**

Teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the condition for learning and it is effective when it comprises of nine key factors of effective teaching (Roscenshine and Stevens, 2008, p.20)

