

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

According to Oxford Language, education is the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university. Education is needed for a child or an adult to acquire knowledge, experience and skills that are passed on from generation to generation. Without a doubt, education is one of the most important determinants of social life and maintained its role in affecting one's social position for a long time (Kesik, 2022). With the initiatives of various international agencies such as the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), education was reaffirmed as a fundamental right and regarded as “one of the key strategies to address issues of marginalisation and exclusion” (Peters, 2003).

Over the past decade, institutions of higher education (IHE) have incorporated experiential learning courses in liberal arts curricula as a way to help students learn the course concepts, understand the conditions that lead to racial and economic disparities in the community and develop into socially responsible citizens (Simons et al., 2012). In Indonesia, the Minister of Education and Culture created a similar program to produce a higher-quality human resource called *Merdeka Belajar - Kampus Merdeka* also known as the MBKM program.

Officially launched in 2020, MBKM Programs under *Permendikbud* Number 3 of 2020 concerning National Standards for Higher Education Article 18 states the fulfilment of the learning period and burden for undergraduate or applied undergraduate students can be carried out: 1) following the entire learning process in study programs at universities height according to time

and learning load; and 2) following the learning process in the study program to fulfil part of the time and learning load and the rest following the learning process outside the study program. MBKM Programs, students have the opportunity for 1 (one) semester or the equivalent of 20 (twenty) credits to study outside the study program at the same university; and a maximum of 2 (two) semesters or equivalent to 40 (forty) credits of studying in the same study program at different universities, learning in different study programs at different universities; and/or learning outside of Higher Education. In Universitas Ma Chung itself, several MBKM programs are ongoing or have finished, one is specifically done by the 2021 English Letters students, Teaching Assistants in an Educational Unit.

Two educational units in Malang were chosen as the place where students can do their MBKM Program. One is in SDK Yos Sudarso Kepanjen and the other one is MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau. In MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau, students sharpened various skills as English teachers such as learning how to manage a class, making syllabi, class materials, etc. that could help students prepare themselves before entering the real job world in the future.

1.2 The Objective of the Internship

The reason why the writer chose to join Teaching Assistant in an Educational Unit is because the writer wants to gain new experience and skills, sharpen the skills and prepare herself before entering the job world.

The first purpose of this MBKM Program itself is to improve the competency of students, both soft skills and hard skills. In this internship, students learned how to teach elementary school students, how to make the class interesting, make a syllabus, etc. The second purpose is to prepare the students to enter the real workspace in the specific work field. Since students became English teachers in MI Wahid Hasyim, students have more understanding of what working in the education

field looks like. This way students know what to expect when they choose to become a teacher in the future. The third one is to increase student's interest in the specific field. With this internship, hopefully, students could become more interested in the education field and make a lot of innovations in the said field. In summary, the writer chose to be a Teaching Assistant in an Educational Unit to gain new experiences and skills and prepare for the professional world. The MBKM Program successfully improved both soft and hard skills through hands-on teaching experiences at MI Wahid Hasyim. This practical exposure not only prepared students for the real workspace but also increased their interest in the education field, fostering hope for future innovations.

1.3 The Scope of the Report

This report will solely focus on the student's challenge of learning vocabulary in MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau. Here the writer will highlight the reason why this becomes a challenge due to lack of exposure, environment, and motivation. The method in this report is based on observation and interviews with some of the students during the class which lasted for four months.

This report exclusively delves into the challenge of teaching vocabulary at MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau.

1.4 The Significance

The significance that this program makes for the English Letters Study Program is first to create qualified graduates who are ready to compete in the world of jobs. Due to students already having experience and knowledge even before they graduate, students will be able to compete in the real world. The second one is to create more networking opportunities between Universitas Ma Chung and MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau. Hopefully, with this internship, the connection between

Universitas Ma Chung and MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau is getting better and could create more opportunities in the future.

For students, this internship offers them a valuable opportunity to enhance their teaching and problem-solving abilities, providing a platform for skill development and refinement before venturing into the professional realm. The four-month experience as teachers at MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau is expected to significantly contribute to their growth, allowing them to hone their instructional skills and better prepare for the challenges of future educational endeavors.

Moreover, the significance of MI Wahid Hasyim 02 Dau extends beyond individual skill development, fostering a collaborative relationship between the educational institution and Universitas Ma Chung. This collaborative effort is anticipated to result in a strengthened relationship, paving the way for mutual benefits, shared resources, and sustained collaboration that can positively impact both the educational institution and the university.

1.5 Operational Definitions of The Key Terms

Some of the key terms that will be mentioned frequently in the paper are as follows:

Second language acquisition: According to Saville-Troike (2005), Second Language Acquisition (SLA) refers both to the study of individuals and groups who are learning a language after learning their first one as young child and to the process of learning that language. The additional language is called a second language, even though it may be the third, fourth, or tenth to be acquired.

Exposure: According to Oxford Languages, exposure is the state of being exposed to contact with something.

Motivation: According to Oxford Languages, motivation is the reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way or the general desire or willingness of someone to do something.

Environment: According to Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the environment is the conditions that affect the behavior and development of someone or something.