

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Conclusions

Language plays an important role in human communication and interaction. It serves as a means for individuals to express their thoughts, intentions and emotions to others. In other words, a language is a communication tool used by humans in their efforts to interact with each other. Language functions as a communication tool and is an important tool in a child's life. For children, language is very important because it allows them to connect with their peers, share experiences and enhances their intellectual development. Realizing the importance of language in children's lives, parents are increasingly introducing their children to learning foreign languages from an early age. Educational institutions also recognize the importance of foreign language education and incorporate international languages into their curriculum. Starting from preschool and continuing through to higher education, these institutions recognize the importance of preparing students for a global world where multilingualism is increasingly valued.

In Indonesia, parents enroll their children in institutional tutoring programs to introduce them to foreign languages such as English, Arabic and Chinese. From this phenomenon, a question arises which is a very interesting topic to be discussed by researchers in this study. Which is, "What are the parents' opinion about children learning foreign languages at a young age." Furthermore, to answer this question, the researcher conducted a survey by distributing questionnaires to twenty volunteer parents who have children aged 3-8 years, then six out of twenty parents were selected to conduct further interviews based on their unique answers. The questionnaire questions were close and open-ended, while the interview questions were open-ended only. The data collected from the questionnaire showed a variety of answers. It showed

that, the majority of parents agree with learning foreign languages at those ages, and very little of them who disagree about learning foreign languages at a young age. The motivations behind this initial introduction of a foreign language are varied. Parents also provided the right time or age of their children can start learning foreign languages. Parents recognize the value of being proficient in an international language for future educational and career opportunities. They believe that starting language learning early gives children a solid foundation and better language acquisition skills. In addition, learning a foreign language can increase cultural understanding and promote global communication. By exposing children to foreign languages from an early age, parents aim to equip them with the linguistic skills and cultural knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. Language learning has become an important component of education, enabling children to broaden their horizons, develop their cognitive abilities, and improve their overall communication skills. Furthermore, the very little of them who disagrees, opined that learning too many languages at a young age can make the children experiencing language difficulties. For example, they would feel burdened of too many languages. Parent believes that introducing too many languages at a young age could burden children and make it difficult for them to learn effectively. The parent expresses concern that the child may feel overwhelmed or confused by the multiple languages. In addition, parent concerns that learning too much of a foreign language can cause children to ignore or forget their own culture. This concern stems from the belief that language and culture are inextricably linked, and that a strong connection to one's cultural heritage is essential for identity and personal belonging. Therefore, this parent also has a solution, which is to teach children Indonesian as the mother tongue and the local language, which is Javanese, more often, more optimally, and more carefully. This parent starts to teach their children a foreign language at a sufficient age, approximately 6 years or above. So that children can master

Indonesian and Javanese more optimally, then children begin to be taught foreign languages one by one and not all at once.

5.2. Suggestions

In this section, the writer proposed several suggestions according to the result of this study. The suggestions bellow was addressed to two parties: The future researchers, and the parents.

Based on the writer's experience in the process of completing this study, the writer suggests for the future researchers who are interested in this topic of the study, they may find success in trying to find other areas of work that can be explored more. Since this study is only focused on the opinion of parents regarding foreign language learning at a young age, it would be a great benefit if the future researchers can discuss more about the effective ways or fun methods that parents used during foreign languages learning for young age children, and perhaps the pros and cons of the young age children development. Therefore, the researcher considered that it is quite interesting to explored further. In addition, this research can also be a basis for further research and discussion on the topic of children's foreign language learning. It contributes to existing knowledge and provides a starting point for future studies to delve deeper into specific aspects of this subject.

This study was conducted in order to share insights and important things of this study to the parents by providing valuable insights and information to parents regarding children's foreign language learning. Since this study explored parents' opinions and perspectives on this topic, this research offers a deeper understanding of the factors that influence parental decisions, such as the benefits of early language learning and the right time or age to start such processes. The findings of this study can be a valuable resource for parents who are considering or are already involved in teaching their children a foreign language. By sharing the

experiences and views of other parents, this research can help parents make informed decisions about language learning opportunities for their children.