

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Indonesia is a country that has many kinds of social, education and religious activities. By the increasing of growth economic, social, cultural, and high population with all the activities, it should be supported with many facilities and infrastructure. In this case, one of them is a place for worship for each religious people.

There are many places for worship in Indonesia such as mosque for moeslem, church for christian and catholic, *vihara* for Budhist, *pure* for Hindu and *kelenteng* for Kong hu cu, but the most place for worship is a mosque. It is because many citizens of Indonesia are moslems.

In Indonesia, the mosque has some terms such as *surau*, *mushallah* and *langgar* for the small mosques and *masjid* for the big mosques. The small mosques are usually in the village or small area, but the big mosques are in the center of city. Each city in Indonesia has the big mosque that is usually called *Masjid Agung*. One of the big mosques in Indonesia is *Masjid Agung Palembang* located in Palembang.

Masjid Agung Palembang is a mosque used for worship. Because of the era changing, mosque is not only for worship. There are many activities held in the mosque such as celebration for the prophet's birth, reciting Qur'an competition, and discussion about Islam. That is why *Masjid Agung Palembang* has been renovated for several times that aims at exploring and improving the quality of *Masjid Agung Palembang*. It will affect the qualities of the mosque for example enlarging the area for worshipping, improving the comfort and the safety, the quality of the prayer aids and many others. Therefore, the development of facilities is really important to support and encourage those activities.

By the changes of the facilities, it shows that the *Masjid Agung Palembang* is not only a place for prayer and worship but also a place of conducting other activities having to do with religious interests. Certainly, there

are many other activities done in this mosque. Therefore, the writer is interested in discussing the changes of facilities and the functions at the *Masjid Agung Palembang* with the title "*Masjid Agung Palembang: The Changes of Facilities and The Functions*".

1.2 Research Focus

In the final report writing, the writer would like to explain the changes of facilities and the functions of the mosque. It is because the facilities are the important parts to support all activities in the mosque and the facilities influence the functions of the mosque.

1.3 Research Formulation

Mosque is a place for worship for moslems. Now, mosque is not only a place for worship but also a place for doing many other religious activities such as the celebrations of holy days, discussions, religious studies and reciting the holy Qur'an. To do all the activities, surely it should be supported by good facilities. These facilities is an important role in supporting all activities in the mosques. Therefore, now there are many mosques improve their facilities in order that to support these activities. Also, because of these activities, mosque has many other functions. The function is not only from religious side but also from social, culture and economic side.

1.4 Research Questions

By the previous explanation, there are two questions that the writer would like to discuss as the problems in this final report writing. The problems are:

1. What are the changes of facilities at *Masjid Agung Palembang*?
2. What are the changes of functions at *Masjid Agung Palembang*?

1.5 Research Purposes

The purpose of this final report writing is to know the changes of facilities and the functions of *Masjid Agung Palembang*.

1.6 Benefits

There are several benefits of making this final report that is divided in three parts.

1.6.1 The Writer

As media dissemination to the public, especially the people of Palembang to gain knowledge and insight.

1.6.2 Readers

As reading material or references to find out the history of the *Masjid Agung Palembang*, especially for the changes of the facilities and the functions of the mosque.

1.6.3 Institution

As the references for the students in the institution, especially for English department at Sriwijaya State Polytechnic.