

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The title of this report is The Students' Knowledge about American and British English Differences and Their Preference in using those English Styles. This chapter presents background, problems, purposes, and benefits.

1.1 Background

Keraf in Smarapradhipa (2005, p.1), states that language as a tool of communication between members of the community in the form of a symbol of the sound produced by human vocal organs. There are many languages; it is between 6.000-7.000 languages that exist in the world. English is one of the kinds of those languages and it has become an international language for globalization. Nowadays, every education, business, and governmental require English as one of the most important part in its activities.

There are some countries that have their own dialect in using English as their language such as American, Britain, Australia, or other countries. In using English, they have several differences in grammar, spelling and also pronunciation. British English is the broad term used to distinguish the forms of the English language used in the United Kingdom from forms used elsewhere. British English is mostly used in Northern Ireland, Southern England and Wales, whereas American English is a set of dialects of the English language used mostly in the United States. Crystal (1997) says that approximately two-thirds of the world's native speakers of English live in the United States.

According to Cobb (2009), learning is the lifelong process of transforming information and experience in knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes. Furthermore, Notoadmodjo (2003) says that knowledge is the result of "know" and it occurs after the commit sensing to a particular object. Knowledge is divided into two kinds; knowing a subject and finding the information.

In learning English, sometimes students do not know which style that they use in learning it. Sometimes they combine both styles when they are using English,

and it happens without any understanding which style that they exactly use. In fact, consistency in using exact style is important in improving our English. If they know differences between two styles of English, it will make them easier to understand and use them.

In this research, the writer focuses on the knowledge about the difference between American English and British English of English Department students. In addition, this study tries to find out which style that the students prefer in using English. Therefore, the title of this final report is “The Students’ Knowledge about American and British English Differences and Their Preference in using those English Styles”.

1.2 Research Questions

- 1.2.1 What is the students’ knowledge level about the differences between American and British English?
- 1.2.2 Which English style do the students prefer to use?

1.3 Research Purposes

The purposes of this study are to find out the students’ knowledge about the American and British English differences and to investigate which style that they prefer to use when communicating in English.

1.4 Limitation of Research

This study will only find out the students’ knowledge about the American and British English differences and investigate which style that they prefer to use when communicating in written English.

1.5 Benefits

The writer expects that this final report will be able to give information about students’ knowledge of American and British English. Also, it will give information about which style that the students prefer to use when communicating in English.

1.6 Operational Definitions

A. American English

American English is a set of dialects of the English language used mostly in the United States. Approximately two-thirds of the world's native speakers of English live in the United States.

B. British English

British English is the broad term used to distinguish the forms of the English language used in the United Kingdom from forms used elsewhere. British English is mostly used in Northern Ireland, Southern England and Wales.