

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tourism is travel to other countries or the same country for the purpose of recreation, education, sports, religion, family or business, usually temporarily. According to United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2010), tourism is not only another sector of the economy but also a human phenomenon that has social implications. The human phenomenon can be seen and proven by the increasing young travelers. The young travelers mostly from students who undertake educational trips, known as study abroad programs is now better known as the study excursion. The research undertaken by The World Youth Student and Educational Travel Confederation (WYSE Travel Confederation) and United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) state that young travel has moved as specialized niche tourism and lead the market segment of tourism.

Young and students traveler are the main market segment within the tourism industry. The growth of young and students traveler as the main market will be able to increase the aspect values of the cultural, social, economy and educational travel. The young and students traveler usually do travel with different ways and purpose, it is accordance to Suwantoro (2004) that differentiates this segment into: Excursion, Safari tour, Cruise tour, Youth tour, and Marine tour.

Young and students traveler nowadays use excursion as an application of study. Study excursion is one of activities of excursion, a basic activity to learn in education and real situation. It is accordance to Weaver (as cited the University of Iowa's Institutional Repository), study excursion is a type of activity embodying the basic ideas of the real in education, readily illustrated the fact. Study excursion for education is also called field trip. Study excursion or field trip involves preparing, planning to make the itinerary, booking, managing the budget, etc. Study excursion can be implemented in various ways such as backpacking and tour and travel systems.

English department has implemented a study excursion that organized by students of English department. Study excursion if designed and implemented appropriately, can potentially contribute enormously not only to the host region, but also to the students themselves. In many ways, this form of tourism has the potential to develop the ultimate form of tourism education which contributes to the knowledge and skills of the students through a combination of learning experience and travelling within limited funds and time. Lack of evidence that student excursion is advantageous to the student participants had motivated the writer to explore this issue, and to date no empirical research has been published.

Based on the discussion above this study surveyed the students' perception and learning experience on study excursion, whether there is impact and examined factors that can contribute to support in the implementation of the study excursion in the English department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya. From the explanation above, the writers would like to take this final report with entitled **“Students’ Perception and Learning Experience on Study Excursion: Case of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya”**.

1.2 Limitation of Problems

The writer limits the subjects in this research to sixth semester students of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya involving 40 participants for interview individually and focus group and fills the questionnaire. The study was conducted by a participant observer who have joined the study excursion. The problem of this research is also limited to the investigation of students' perceptions and learning experience that contribute of study excursion in case of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya who were studying in the sixth semester of year 2016. This study examined if the students perceived any value in leaving the classroom to experience their travel to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. It also examined what type of study excursion activities they valued as positive educational experiences and how the excursions affected their learning

and other outcomes in relation to their learning objectives, skills, and socialization and personal development.

1.3 Problem Formulations

The problems of this final report are:

- a. What are the students' perceptions and learning experience on study excursion?
- b. Do the students perceive any value as the result on study excursion experience?

1.4 Purpose and Benefit

1.4.1 Purposes

The purposes of this final report are:

- a. To find out the students' perception and learning experience of study excursion in the case of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.
- b. To find out the value perceived by the students regarding on study excursion.

1.4.2 Benefits

The benefits of this final report are:

- a. To find out about the students' perception and learning experience of study excursion implemented by English department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.
- b. To give the specific information about activities of study excursion in English department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.