

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

In today's globalized world, English plays a vital role as a means of communication at the international level. This language not only functioned in intercultural interactions but also became the dominant language in the fields of education, business, technology, and diplomacy. English language skills were often a key requirement for competing in the global job market and pursuing higher education. Therefore, English language proficiency was considered an essential skill that young people needed to have in various aspects of life.

English was used in education as a means of accessing information and knowledge from around the world. English language proficiency was crucial for students to expand their intellectual horizons because a lot of scientific papers, textbooks, and research findings were written in the language. Additionally, since many businesses and educational institutions consider English language proficiency to be one of the fundamental talents required, having proficiency in the language opens up more job options both domestically and abroad.

David Crystal (2016) It was asserted that English has functioned as a global lingua franca that dominates international communication in the fields of education, economics, technology, and diplomacy. According to him, proficiency in English

provides direct access to global opportunities, including higher education and the international job market.

Students who enrolled in English Language Education programs were directly involved in the process of learning and mastering the language. Some of them chose this major because they recognized the importance of English and the various career opportunities available to graduates with good language skills, such as teaching, translating, working in tourism, or in international companies. However, there were also students who chose this major for other reasons, such as personal interest, parental influence, or limited choices when applying to college. Thus, their views on the role of English can influence both their choice of major and their perspective on their future careers. Students' views on the role of English were a crucial aspect to study, as they had an impact on their learning motivation, academic commitment, and career paths after completing their education. Students who viewed English as a key factor for future success generally had high learning motivation and focused on continuous self-development. Conversely, students who felt that English did not greatly influence their careers had less drive to achieve maximum competence.

Therefore, it was important to understand how English Education students viewed the role of English in determining their future major and career choices. With this understanding, educational institutions were able to adapt their teaching strategies, career guidance, and curriculum adjustments to better suit the needs and views of students.

Based on the above explanation, this study aimed to analyze English Education students' views on the role of English in determining their future major and career

choices. This study was expected to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between language perception, academic motivation, and career planning among English Education students. In the literature review, several gaps were identified: (1) the lack of studies that focused specifically on the views of English Education students in the early stages of their studies (e.g., the second semester), (2) a lack of research that clearly linked perceptions to decision-making in major selection (not just learning motivation), and (3) a need for research that could identify factors that influenced or moderated the relationship between perceptions, particularly in career planning (such as internship experiences, information about the job market, and support from lecturers).

1.2 Identification of the problems

Based on the background explanation, there are several differences in the views of English Education Program students regarding the importance of English in supporting their future and careers.

1. There are variations in students' views on how important English is in influencing their choice of major, as well as in academic and professional aspects.
2. Some students are still not fully aware of how English proficiency can affect their future employment opportunities.
3. The relationship between students' views on the role of English and their learning motivation, choice of major, and career planning has not been studied in depth.

1.3 Limitations of the Research

Limitations were incorporated into the design of this study to make the discussion clearer and more targeted. Instead of focusing on language proficiency, the primary goal of this study was to investigate how students in the English Education study program perceived the importance of English in choosing their major and future employment. The results could not be applied to students in other majors or semesters because the study's subjects were second-semester English Education students. This study solely examined the viewpoints of the present students; it did not address shifts in their opinions over time or take into account other elements like the impact of friends, family, or financial situations.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the identification of these issues, the research questions posed in this study are as follows:

How do English Education students view the importance of English in determining their choice of major and in their academic and professional lives?

1.5 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study were as follows:

This study aimed to examine English Education students' perceptions of the role and importance of English in determining their choice of major, supporting their academic development and future careers, including the factors that influenced these perceptions.

1.6 Significance of the Research

This study is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically, as follows:

1. Theoretically

This study was expected to contribute to the development of knowledge, particularly in the field of English language education. The results of this study provided insight into how students' perceptions of the role of English influenced their choice of major and future career direction. In addition, this study also served as a reference for further research that examined the relationship between language perception, learning motivation, and student career planning.

2. Practically speaking

1. ★ For students, the results of this study can help them understand the importance of English in academic and professional life, thereby increasing their motivation to learn and preparing themselves for future careers.
2. For lecturers and educators, this research can be used as a reference in developing more relevant and contextual learning strategies according to student needs, especially in fostering awareness of the practical benefits of English.
3. For educational institutions, the findings of this study can be used as input in curriculum development, career guidance, and academic activities that support the strengthening of students' English skills in line with the demands of the global workforce.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. Student Perceptions

In this study, student perceptions referred to how students understood, interpreted, and assigned meaning to the role of English in their academic and professional lives. These perceptions included students' attitudes, beliefs, and views regarding the extent to which English influenced their choice of major and future career opportunities.

2. The Role of English

The role of English referred to the function and importance of English as a global communication tool, a means of education, and a tool for career development. In the context of this study, this term covered the extent to which English proficiency was considered important for academic success and career advancement in the era of globalization.

3. Future Major

A major referred to a program of study or academic field that students chose to pursue in college. In this study, this term related to how students' perceptions of English influenced their decision to choose English Education as their major.

4. Career

A career referred to the job or professional path that students planned to pursue after completing their education. This study explored how students viewed the role

of English in shaping and supporting their career goals, both nationally and internationally.

