

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, the limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Learning style is one of processes in the language acquisition of people. It is a process in which an individual has of acquiring, processing, and retaining the information.¹ Moreover, learning style is a method of personal choice to sense and process the information.² It determines how an individual acquire the information and language. An effective learning style can make people easy to acquire the information and knowledge.

People have different way of learning. It is determined from many factors such as cultural background, age, gender, habit, environment, and so on.³ The learning style of every individual is influenced by the appearance of

¹Susan M. Gass and Larry Selinker, *Second Language Acquisition An Introductory Course* (New York: Taylor & Francis, 2008), 432.

²Hassan Naqeeb and Ayman Awad, "Learning Styles as Perceived by Learners of English as a Foreign Language in the English Language Center of The Arab American University-Jenin, Palestine", in *Journal An-Najah University.J.Res.(Humanities)* Volume 25, Nomor 8, September 2011, pp. 2233.

³Baderaddin Yassin, "The Academic Effects of Learning Styles on ESL Students in Intensive English Language Centers", in *Journal of ELT and Applied Linguistics (JELTAL)* Volume 3, Issue 1, March 2015, pp. 37.

the biological and psychological differences.⁴ Their learning style develops based on an internal characteristic of people since childhood. It is difficult to replace with the new learning style in the future. Some individuals have more than one learning style and some of them only have one primary learning style. Learning style is related with the personality. The learning style is only known by the individuals themselves. It shows their differences and various needs. Besides, the learning style can influence the academic achievement. It also can influence the English proficiency for EFL students. The academic achievement which is good or average or poor can be seen from the learning style that they used.

Learning style is divided into three major learning styles namely cognitive learning styles, sensory learning styles, and personality learning styles.⁵ Those learning styles are still is divided into several learning styles again. One of those learning styles is perceptual learning styles. Perceptual learning styles included sensory learning style. Perceptual learning style is a preference of individual to perceive and retain the information using one of the human senses that is called sensory modalities; visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, and haptic with the physical environment.⁶ Perceptual learning styles consist of visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, and haptic

⁴Mohamad Jafre Zainolabidin, et.al., "Learning Styles and Overall Academic Achievement in a Specific Educational System", in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* Volume 1, Nomor 10, August 2011, pp. 143.

⁵Joy M. Reid, *Learning Styles in the ESL/EFL Classroom* (Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1995), viii.

⁶Nurul Amilin Razawi et.al, "Students' Diverse Learning Styles in Learning English as a Second Language", *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, Volume 2, Nomor 19 (October 2011), 180.

learning styles. This study uses that four learning styles, such as visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile learning style to analyze the students learning styles because those are common perceptual learning styles. VAKT (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic, Tactile) learning style are a learning style that are based on how individual or students take the information by using human sense. Every student has preference with one or more those styles. Some of them are visual learner, and the others are auditory or kinesthetic or tactile learner. It is based on their sense to take information. While students are using all of their sense to take information, they will have preference to learn best.

The sensibility of their sense to take information is important. It becomes determinant good or bad the students absorbing that information. The students who have good sensibility of their sense can absorb the information well, and vice versa. From that statement, it is good to know the sensibility students' sense. Knowing their sensibility of sense to take information, it can through the analysis of their perceptual learning styles. This is why very good to know the students' perceptual learning styles.

Today, the students are demanded to become active learner in the teaching and learning process in the classroom. They must find information or knowledge as much as they can individually. They can use internet or many references. That is not difficult thing because it is supported with the advancement of technology, as like internet. Moreover, it needs a learning style to support their activity. Besides, it has supported with the advance of

the technology. They have different learning style that is based on their needs. Learning style that is appropriate with them can make easy to obtain and comprehend the material.

Learning styles are one of the effective factors to learners' learning outcome. The learners' learning outcome that is gotten by the learners is reflection of their learning style. It also indicates the success of the learning and teaching process. The teaching style should be match with the learners' learning styles. Besides, the materials and classroom activities should be appropriate with their learning styles. So, it can help the learners to improve their learning outcome. And then, the learning and teaching process becomes success.

Some of people consider that the effectiveness of learning and teaching process is when the students listen the teacher's explaining quietly. They also consider that the students who are noisy in the classroom do not listen their teacher and look not good. Those statements are not all true. All of students have their learning style. Their learning style is appropriate with their background and their habit. And also, they have different character. So, that is why the condition and situation of every class is different based on the character of the students' learning style.

English department students of STAIN Kediri have difference background and also perceptual learning style. They have perceptual learning style which is appropriate with their needs to take knowledge. It is because they have different cultural background, habit, biological and psychological

differences. They have varied ways to take knowledge from the lecture's explaining in the classroom. It influences their knowledge and language acquisition. Perceptual learning style that is appropriate with their sense can make them to learn best and get good academic achievement.

Numerous researches have dealt with perceptual learning styles. One of them is Gilakjani who did the study about the impact of VAK (Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic) learning style. His study shows that students of Islamic Azad University of Lahijan, Iran are 50% visual learners, 35% auditory learners, and 15% kinesthetic learners.⁷

Based on those facts, the researcher wants to know further information about the perceptual learning style of students English Department, the types of perceptual learning style that is preference used by students English Department, the similarities and the differences of perceptual learning styles of English Department students. The researcher hopes this research will give contributions to the students, teachers and the future researchers. The result of this research hopefully can make English teaching and learning process better.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates research problems:

1. What are the perceptual learning styles of good, average, and poor students of English Department of STAIN Kediri?

⁷Abbas Pourhossein Gilakjani, "Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic Learning Style and Their Impacts on English Language Teaching", in *Journal of Studies in Education* Volume 2, Nomor 1, February 2012, pp. 104.

2. What are the similarities and differences of perceptual learning styles among good, average, and poor students of English Department students of English Department of STAIN Kediri?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objective of this study are:

1. To know the perceptual learning styles of good, average, and poor students of English Department of STAIN Kediri.
2. To know the similarities and differences of the learning styles among the good, average, and poor students of English Department students of English Department of STAIN Kediri.

D. Significance of the Study

The result of this study hopefully gives some contributions to:

1. Teachers and lectures

The result of this study can be used as a reflection for teachers and lectures in order to understand the students' perceptual learning style and guide them to choose and use the teaching method that appropriates with the students' learning style. By understanding the students' perceptual learning styles and applying appropriate teaching method can make the teaching process to become success.

2. Students

By understanding their perceptual learning style, students will try to improve and increase their learning and their English proficiency effectively, so they can get good academic achievement.

3. Future Researcher

The result of this study hopefully can be useful for the future researcher. They can use this study as a base to conduct their own research. Beside that, the result of this study can be used as literature for the future research.

E. The Scope and Limitation of the Study

In order to make this research not too broad too narrow, the researcher limits the problem that is being observed. This study focuses on finding the perceptual learning styles of good, average, and poor students of English Department, the similarities of the perceptual learning styles that are used among them, and the differences of the perceptual learning styles that are used among them. Learning style can be is divided into several styles. This study focuses on perceptual learning styles that consist of visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile styles because those styles are common. Besides, this study just focuses on the sixth semester students of English department.

F. The Definition of the Key Terms

The key-terms are used to clarify and avoid misunderstanding of term.

The researcher gives the following limitation as follows:

1. Perceptual Learning Style

Perceptual Learning style is a process to comprehend and interpret information or knowledge that is received by human sense. It based on the individuals' ways. The researcher uses PLSPQ questionnaire that consists of statements about VAKTs' (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic, and Tactile) to know the students' perceptual learning styles.

2. Visual

Visual is a learning style that the individual takes the information or knowledge visually. Visual learners think it in picture and learn best in visual image.

3. Auditory

Auditory is one of learning style in which the individual obtains the information or knowledge auditorily. It can be through listening and interpreting the information.

4. Kinesthetic

Kinesthetic is a learning style in which the individual are better when the whole body is involved. Kinesthetic learner is moving when try to memorize or understand the information.

5. Tactile

Tactile is a learning style that prefers to hand work, such as taking notes or handling material. Tactile learners are like to taking note when they study or listen the teachers' explanation.