

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The part of introduction serves to explain the background of the study, the research context, and the reason the chosen topic is important. This section usually contains an overview of the phenomenon being studied, identification of existing gaps or problems, the research objectives, as well as the significance or expected benefits of the research results. The introduction also often includes a brief review of theories or previous research to show the position of the study being conducted.

A. Background of Study

English learning is the process of learning English as a second or foreign language, which involves mastering the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing for effective communication, often through approaches such as English for Specific Purposes (ESP) tailored to the learners' needs. English learning is defined as a language teaching approach in which the content and methods are based on the learner's goals, such as understanding basic grammar and reading skills (Syandri, 2023)

The International Class Program at SMA Budi Utomo Perak Jombang is one of the flagship programs aimed at producing graduates who are ready to continue their studies or work abroad in accordance with global competency standards. This program focuses on English proficiency, project-based learning, and curriculum integration that meets global demands, so students not only gain academic knowledge but also communication, collaboration, and cultural adaptation skills. The ICP at SMA Budi Utomo is also supported by the school's facilities and policies

that promote modern learning, with the goal of creating a specialized class that focuses on quality and competitiveness at the international level.

Budi Utomo Boarding School in Jombang, as one of the dormitory-based educational institutions, has great potential to implement the International Class Program due to a conducive learning environment and adequate facilities. According to Syukur (1988: 17) cited in Warwick, the implementation of a program is influenced by two factors: facilitating conditions and impeding conditions. A type of plan that is clear and concrete because it already includes goals, policies, procedures, budget, and the set implementation time (Hasibuan, 2006: 72)

Budi Utomo Boarding School in 2024 introduced the International Class Program alongside the Dual Track class. This program is designed to allow students to learn foreign languages intensively and serves as an important step to connect the national curriculum with international standards, including proficiency in English and Japanese. The International Class is supported by various activities such as English Day, Intensive English TOEFL.

The purpose of this program is due to the increasing demands of globalization, which compel the younger generation to have international capabilities, especially in the use of foreign languages, academic skills that meet global standards, and readiness to compete in the educational world as well as the foreign job market. The school recognizes the need to prepare graduates who are not only academically and religiously intelligent but also capable of adapting to various international standards. Therefore, it is established as a flagship program aimed at enhancing students' competitiveness, addressing the challenges of the national curriculum that

encourage innovation, and meeting the community's desire for quality education with a global perspective.

The result of preliminary study done at the Budi Utomo dormitory shows that many students have received awards from various competitions, and there are adequate facilities to implement this program. Whereas the previous studies have advantages and disadvantages that may occur when schools implement the program research by Izzi and Ramadhani (2022) at the State University of Surabaya found that the international class program in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences uses a bilingual system (Indonesian–English) and provides an international learning experience through guest lecturers, teaching practice in international schools, and student exchanges.

This program has been proven to improve academic quality, support international accreditation, and accelerate the university's progress toward achieving the title of World Class University. Similarly Research by Supriyanto and Puspitasari (2023) revealed that the International Class Program (ICP) at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Inovasi Malang has been successfully maximized by utilizing digital technology such as virtual meetings, social media, and project-based learning to improve students' English language skills. Although this program still faces several challenges, including students' low self-confidence and differences in language proficiency, requiring intensive support and varying learning strategies. However, research gap this study emphasizes that the International Class Program in boarding schools like Budi Utomo Jombang has not been extensively researched, despite having specific challenges in combining formal education with pesantren traditions. This lack of research provides an opportunity to explore the

implementation, obstacles, and adjustment strategies that can accommodate Islamic values, pesantren culture, and international standards while involving various stakeholders.

The purpose of this study is to explore the implementation of the International Class Program at Budi Utomo Islamic Boarding School in Jombang in order to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and factors that contribute to as well as hinder its implementation, such as the bilingual curriculum, innovative teaching methods, and the integration of technology in English language instruction. It also aims to evaluate the teachers and students involved in this program, the impact of International Class within the school environment, and to provide suggestions for the development of the program.

B. Statement of the Problem

1. How is the implementation of International Class Program in Budi Utomo boarding school Jombang?
2. What are the challenges in implementing International Class Program in Budi Utomo boarding school Jombang?

C. Purpose of The Study

1. To describe how the implementation of International Class Program in Budi Utomo boarding school Jombang.
2. To analyze challenge in implementing International Class Program in Budi Utomo boarding school Jombang.

D. Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical

Theoretically, this study enriches comparative education by examining how International Class Programs are adapted within Indonesian boarding schools, bridging global standards with local traditions. It contextualizes international education theories and validates their applicability in diverse cultural and institutional settings.

2. Practical

a. For teacher

To providing guidance on how to integrate national and international curriculum with pesantren values, including the use of digital methods and educational field activities to improve the bilingual teaching process, as well as adjusting SRL to face challenges in adaptation.

b. For students

To help students gain broader learning experiences, improve their English skills, critical thinking abilities, and readiness to face the workforce as well as international higher education, and strengthen Islamic identity.

c. For researchers

To serve as a source of information on the implementation of International Class at the high school level, while also providing an opportunity to conduct further research on the effectiveness of international education policies in Indonesia. Researchers can analyze the supporting factors, challenges, and the program's effects on the quality of education in the area.

E. Scope And Limitation

This study focuses on the implementation of the International Class Program at Budi Utomo Boarding School Jombang, covering the international curriculum, the use of English, teaching methods, and school facilities. The research subjects are teachers, and students. The main objective is to assess the effectiveness of the program in improving students' English proficiency, critical thinking skills, and learning motivation during the 2024/2025 academic year. The study has limitations in terms of location and respondents and focuses on aspects of implementation, without discussing policies or funding, and other limitations.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Implementation

Implementation is an activity, action, policy, program, plan, or idea that has been carefully designed by an educational unit to achieve a desired goal. It is the process of transforming one concept into another or combining the two.

2. International Class Program

A flagship program that uses English as the language of instruction in the learning process. This program still follows the national curriculum, with the aim of preparing/introduction students to become graduates who are able to communicate and compete in the international arena.

3. Budi Utomo Boarding School

Budi Utomo Boarding School Jombang is an *asrama*-based educational institution located in Gadingmangu, Perak, Jombang, Jawa Timur, that offers SMP, SMA, and SMK a variety of subjects, including technology,

multimedia, accounting, and foreign language. This school is taught by professional teachers and has *asrama pondok pesantren*, so students not only receive academic instruction but also develop their character and discipline.