CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are about thousands living languages in this world and English is the most widely used. With this predicate as the International Language, makes English become important nowadays, especially for people who live in developing countries like Indonesia. People are expected to master the English or at least have ability as passive English users in order to get a good job in every field of work.

Because of the importance of English nowadays, many parents send their children to school where English is taught as a compulsory subject. And now in some developing towns in Indonesia, like TebingTinggi in North Sumatera, many parents begin to send their young children to some kindergartens where English is taught and practiced, in order to get good qualities in English for their children.

There are many methods in English teaching. Therefore, teachers should select a suitable method or students. A suitable method to teach can help the student in understanding the materials easily. A suitable method is very effective for situation and condition of the teaching and learning process in Classroom. Using the suitable method is hoped that the teacher can deliver the materials clearly and the students can understand the lesson easily. Beside that, the teacher should also be able to make students active in the classroom. In addition, suitable method will make the process of teaching and learning in the classroom effective, finally the purpose of the teacher and students can be achieved.
Considering this case, in teaching-learning process, the teacher must pay attention to the method used. The teacher must make English class joyful. It means that students feel fun in learning teaching process. Monotonous activities make the children bored. The teacher must make English method in joyful such as singing and games in the classroom. Managing a big class is not as easy as anybody thinks. It needs patience and high motivation for teaching. Beside that, it also needs a good preparation for teaching, such as media and facilities.

There are many reasons why I choose the kindergarten students. Budi Dharma Kindergarten is the favorite school in Tebing Tinggi for the parents to send their children to get the education. So, I interest to know the English Teaching at the school. As young learner, children have great talent in learning new things, including language. The children are able to receive new language easily. The only apparent acceptation to this is pronunciation, which is learned more easily by young learners (Children) as state by Penny Ur (Penny, 1996:286). Moreover, they have good memory. They can memorize new vocabularies better and faster than adult. Beginning, the teachers have to arrange the activities as well as possible to get the students’ attention because they usually get bored fast.

In the recent years there has been a massive increase in teaching languages at schools. English is in demand at schools even in lower primary classes. Teachers need to find interesting and enjoyable ways in order to involve children in successful learning process and enhance their progress, which is mostly not an easy task. That is why I have chosen the topic concerning methods and technique. From this condition, there are many kindergartens and are built and they increase in number every year. Most of them compete to serve best methods or ways in teaching English for
children. In those kindergarten, the teachers begin to introduce English to the children through many ways, such as communication, songs, pictures, games, etc. The children in the includein “young learners” category, where young learners mean the children in the range age 3 – 12 years old.

Many theories stated by psychologists related to the processes in language learning and language acquisition, might be useful for the teachers. The writer is interested in the topic above because many theories of teaching English discuss little about teaching children. In my mind, learning English which English is their second language in the early ages is important because child’s mind is still fresh, empty, and most of them are able to grasp and remember new things, so the children can increase the vocabulary by using many ways of teaching. Studying a language can’t be separated from studying vocabulary. By learning vocabulary first, learners will be able to communicate in English.

Children in the early ages can acquire a second and even a third language because the speed learning center of the brain is at its maximum capacity between the first to the ninth years of life. According to Pearson (in Curtain and Carol 2009: 6) “Age is strongly related to learning another language. Children are more likely to develop native-like proficiency before age 10, and they are also at a maximum of openness to other cultures.”

In teaching language (especially English) to children, the teachers and the methodologist need to work together to make the syllabus (objectives and methods) and the programmes of teaching-learning process. Here, there is a relationship between the theory and practice in order to get the target for children’s abilities in English.
1.2 Problem of the Study

According to the title of this proposal “A Case Study Of English Teaching Methods To Young Learnersat Budi Dharma Kindergarten in Tebing Tinggi”, there are two problems that I try to clarify the problems into some questions, they are:

a. What kind of techniques are used by the kindergarten teachers in teaching English to the young learners?

b. What kind of methods used by the kindergarten teachers in teaching English to the young learners?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This thesis is also designed to achieve two objectives, they are:

a. To show some the activities of teachers and students (English teaching process) in the kindergarten class.

b. To know some teaching methods used by the kindergarten teacher through some techniques practised in the class.

1.4 Scope of the Study

As shown above, the analysis is focused on the class activities in the “Cherry B Class” at Budi Dharma Kindergarten. I try to analyze what kind of methods that are used by kindergarten teachers in teaching.
Therefore, she limits the scope of the thesis in teaching English through some methods (as the theories) and the use of some techniques in the class activities (as the application or practice) in the kindergarten.

1.5 Significance of the Study

For those who have an interest in this topic, there are some significances. The significances of this thesis are:

a. To show the teachers in the schools about the methods and techniques that are used in teaching English are appropriate with the young learners or not.

b. To let the readers know that teaching English to young learners is not as easy as many people think.

c. To let the readers know about the nature of students-teachers interaction in the class.

d. To let the readers know about teaching English by using some methods or techniques for young learners where English is their second language.

e. To help the other those who intend to discuss further about young learners and English teaching method.