

The Islamic Education Students' Motivation in Learning English

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Abstract: *The development of globalization era requires everyone to be able to communicate in English, including Islamic education students. This study aims to analyze the Islamic Education students' motivation for learning English. The method used is descriptive-qualitative. The subjects were taken by simple random sampling technique and who completed the questionnaires. The data were taken by online interview questionnaire using Google Form application. The students were asked to answer each question provided. The results showed that there were external and internal factors that influenced students' motivation to learn English. External factors include the lecturer's personality, teaching, and learning methods, and the social environment. Meanwhile, the internal factors are interest and goal.*

Keywords : *Islamic Education Students, Motivation, English Learning*

Introduction

Islam is one of the religions with the most followers in Indonesia. Muslims are followers of the religion Islam, who believe in and live by the teachings of the prophet Muhammad. Indonesia has the greatest number of Muslims worldwide, with an estimated 231 million Muslims (Worldpopulationreview.com, 2023). This represents 86.7% of the Indonesian population and roughly 13% of the global Muslim population ((Bayu, 2021). The large number of Muslim populations in Indonesia causing the Islamic education is one of the subjects given in schools from elementary to university levels. To support the availability of Islamic education teachers, several Islamic universities provides Islamic education as the department or study program. Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Indonesia (UNUSIA) is one of Islamic university which has Islamic Education Department and it is under auspices of Teacher Training and Educational Faculty. Based on the latest curriculum, apart from learning Arabic language, the Islamic Education makes an English as the general basic subject that should be learned from semester 1 to semester 2. This is in accordance with the mission of Islamic Education Department itself to implement the *aswaja*-based curriculum which appropriate with the

current development. Globalization and modern era require the current generation to master an English as the international communication language.

One aspect which is needed to continue in increasing the awareness of learning English is motivation. There is an influence of motivational variables on foreign language learning success (Sandiasa, 2019). Motivation plays an important role in the Foreign Language Learning process because it provides the first push to initiate a successful language learning process (Ramirez, 2014). Motivation takes a crucial role in people's life because it may influence human actions (Hamidah, 2022).

Motivation is an encouragement in human to do something that aims to achieve a goal. The encouragement itself often caused by the need for achievement or to be the best. In education, motivation has an important role in the learning process. Students who have high motivation in learning about something will certainly try their best to get the best results. Learning motivation can affect how long the students to survive in learning process (Wulandari, 2021).

There are several definitions about motivation put forward by some experts. Motivation is the direction of person's behaviour which causes a person has desire to repeat a behaviour and vice versa (Purnama et al., 2019). Motivation refers to the underlying reasons behaviour which is characterized by willingness and volition (Lai, 2011). Learning motivation as driving force that transforms energy within a person into the form of real activity to achieve certain goal (Khodijah, 2017). Motivation is general term of several factors; it doesn't have specific, certain definition like whether it is affect, cognition, mental energy or response to stimuli, inner force (Bakhtiyarovna, 2021)

The researcher found that there is a case where the students are interested in learning English but on the other hands, they lack of motivation in learning English. Islamic education students mostly argued that prospective Islamic teachers should master Arabic. That is true, but being able to speak English is now a standard worldwide. In this case, the researcher tries to find out the factors that motivate students, especially those in Islamic education to learn English.

Methodology

This study is descriptive qualitative. The data was collected by using survey method (Nusfiyah, K., & Al Maghfuri, R. S. . (2023). Appropriate to the research topic was the Islamic Educational student's motivation and interest in learning English as the first foreign language. The population were the students at first semester of Islamic Education Department of Nahdlatul Ulama Indonesia University (UNUSIA) as much as 183 students. The samples were 43 students that was taken by simple random sampling technique who completed the questionnaires. The data were taken by online interview questionnaire using google form application. The students were asked to answer each

questions provided. Students are expected to give their opinions regarding motivation to learn English. In this survey, the students were asked to answer questions based on their personal opinion. The study used an open-ended questionnaire technique in which respondents write their personal opinions on the question lists or statements listed so that researchers can identify the respondent's answers in depth. Here are some questions in the questionnaire should be answered by the students. The questionnaires were given in Bahasa Indonesia to make it easier for respondents to answer the questions.

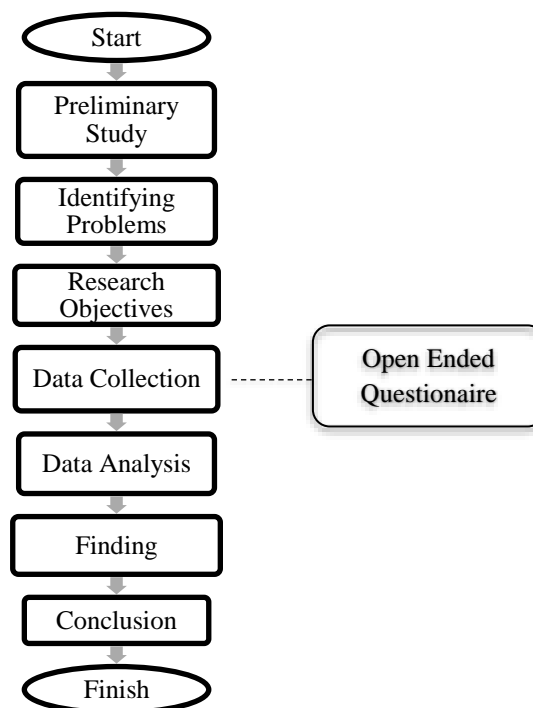
Table 1 Student's Opinion Questionnaires

No	Questions in Bahasa Indonesia	Translate in English
1	Apa pendapat anda mengenai Bahasa Inggris.	What is your opinion about English?
2	Menurut anda, apakah Bahasa Inggris mudah dipelajari?	In your opinion, is English easy to learn?
3	Menurut anda, apakah penting belajar Bahasa Inggris? Berikan pendapat anda mengenai hal tersebut!	In your opinion, is it important to learn English? Give your opinion about it!
4	Apakah anda pernah mengikuti kursus Bahasa Inggris di luar?	Have you ever taken an English course outside?
5	Apakah anda tertarik mempelajari Bahasa Inggris?	Are you interested in learning English?
6	Apa yang menjadi motivasi anda dalam belajar Bahasa Inggris?	What is your motivation in learning English?
7	Ketika dosen anda menjelaskan tentang Bahasa Inggris, apakah anda merasa penasaran untuk mendapat informasi lebih mengenai hal tersebut? jelaskan!	When your lecturer explains about English, are you curious to get more information about it? Please, explain!
8	Apakah anda merasa senang saat belajar Bahasa Inggris?	Do you feel happy while learning English?
9	Selama proses pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, apakah anda merasa senang, bosan, atau bersemangat? Berikan alasan anda!	During the English learning process, did you feel happy, bored, or excited? Give your reasons!
10	Apakah anda dapat memahami dengan mudah ketika dosen anda menjelaskan suatu topic dalam mata kuliah Bahasa Inggris?	Can you understand easily when your lecturer explains a topic in English courses?
11	Menurut anda, apa topik atau materi dalam Bahasa Inggris yang paling susah dipahami? (contoh: speaking, reading, grammar, etc.). Jelaskan alasannya!	In your opinion, what is the most difficult topic or material in English to understand? (example: speaking, reading, grammar, etc.). Explain why!
12	Apakah anda merasa senang ketika mendapatkan nilai tinggi dalam mata kuliah Bahasa Inggris?	Do you feel happy when you get a high score in an English class?
13	Apakah anda dapat dengan mudah memahami ketika ada orang berbicara dalam Bahasa Inggris?	Can you easily understand when someone is speaking English?

14	Apakah anda dapat dengan mudah memahami sebuah materi ketika dosen anda menjelaskan dalam Bahasa Inggris?	Can you easily understand a material when your lecturer explains it in English?
15	Apakah anda setuju jika metode pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris harus selalu ditingkatkan?	Do you agree that English learning methods should always be improved?
16	Metode belajar Bahasa Inggris seperti apa yang anda harapkan?	What kind of English learning method do you expect?

The analysis technique is carried out by processing each answer from the open-ended questionnaire using descriptive methods to analyze how the motivation of students of Islamic education in learning English. The flow diagram below represents the steps taken to support the research process that will be made so that the research can run more directionally and systematically.

Diagram 1 Flow Diagram Research Method



Results and Discussion

Students' opinion regarding English

As the language most widely used worldwide, English is one of the languages studied from elementary to high school. As a foreign language that has been studied for a long time, it is important to know what students think about English itself before trying to find out the students' motivation in

learning English. The results of the following questionnaire show the views and opinions of students regarding English and how important to learn English. As a note, question will be abbreviated as Q and students as S.

According to Q1: "What is your opinion about English?". This is in accordance with the statements of several students as follows:

S1 states that "one of the important subjects, because in the globalization era, it is needed". S3 argue that "English may be a very hated subject for those who do not understand since elementary school. But I like it more because I have to hehehee. Because no matter what, English is always in life, so yes, after all, English is very important in life". S6 said that "In my opinion, English is an international language, and especially for students, this language is very important to learn because other references and introductions will use English".

In addition, the researcher found out whether it was important to learn English or not which is asked in the question Q3 "In your opinion, is it important to learn English? Give your opinion about it!". The data analysis showed that as many as 22 students stated it is important and 17 students stated that it is very important. The table below shows the frequency distribution of students' opinion about the importance of learning English as the foreign language.

Table 2 The frequency distribution about the importance of English

No	Category	Frequency
1	Very Important	17
2	Important	22
3	Moderately Important	2
4	Slightly Important	2
5	Not Important	0
Total		43

Based on the results of the questionnaire, several students argue that English is an important subject and must be learned since it is an international language. Most of the students thought that English was a subject that had to be learned, especially in the current era of globalization and modernization. This is in line with the students' statement as follows;

S2 stated that "Yes, it's important. Because, it's one of the world's languages". In addition, the S5 argue that "Important. Because English has become an international language that is needed even when entering the world of work". Meanwhile, there is a student who think that people who can speak English look smart in front of other people. This statement was disclosed by S6 who stated that "Very important. Because English is an international language. In my opinion, if someone can speak

English, other people will definitely see him/her as 'smart person' even though he doesn't master 'for example' in mathematics or other subjects".

The finding showed that most students state that English is important because it is an international language that is used globally in various aspects such as education, work, technology, and other aspects. So that, even though Islamic education students are required to learn Arabic, most of students think that English is also a must.

External Factors that Motivate Islamic Education Students in learning English

According to the data analysis, the finding shows that the level of Islamic Education students' motivation in learning English is in a high level. The motivation of Islamic Education students is largely influenced by external factors. Students are fully aware that English is an international language that is used globally in various aspects, thereby motivating students to learn it. Several extrinsic or external factors that influencing the Islamic Education students' motivation, as follows.

Lecturer's Personality

Lecturer is the main character in the teaching and learning process at college. Lecturers play vital role in creating an environment that supporting and motivating the students' learning. A lecturer's self-development and personality affect students' motivation in learning English. The figure of fun and pleasant teacher/lecturer will make the class atmosphere more comfortable. In addition, the teacher's/lecturer's skill and ability to teach will also increase students' motivation in learning English. This is in line with following statements;

S12 stated that *"I'm very enthusiastic because the lecturer is funny, not boring, she likes jokes too, her aura brings happiness, so the class becomes lively."* Whereas S22 mentioned that *"The material studied becomes easy to understand because the lecturer is cheerful, the way of teaching is fun, firm but not stressful."*

Based on the statement above, it can be studied that the role and self-personality of the lecturer or teacher in learning greatly determines the students' learning outcomes.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Apart from the lecturer's personality, the learning method also greatly influences students' motivation to learn English. Teaching and learning methods that are fun and in accordance with student characteristics will be easily understood by students so that learning motivation will increase enthusiasm.

Social Environment

Most of the students in the Islamic Education Department also lived and studied at "*Pondok Pesantren*". In Islamic Boarding Schools, or "*Pondok Pesantren*", foreign languages must be used as the language of everyday life, whether through a specialization class program or in the student's daily program. The main foreign languages taught in Islamic boarding schools are Arabic and English. Arabic is the first foreign language taught in Islamic boarding schools because it is the basis for studying the Quran, Hadith, and other Islamic books. Meanwhile, English is the language used internationally. The development of the times requires students to be able to speak English to face global challenges. The environment in Islamic boarding schools that uses English regularly makes students motivated to be able to communicate using English.

Internal Factors that Motivate Islamic Education Students in Learning English

There is an internal factor which affect students' motivation in learning English. The intrinsic factors which influence the students' motivation is interest and goal.

Interest

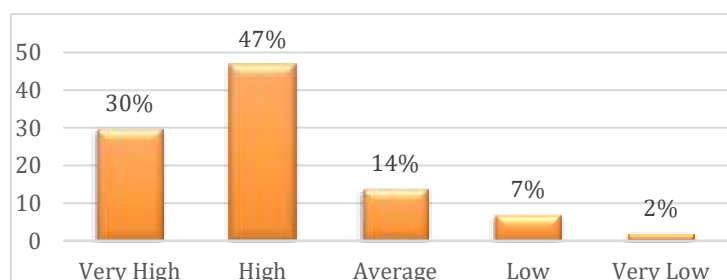
Interest is a sensation or emotion that draws attention to an object, event, or process. The importance of interest in learning English cannot be overstated. When a student displays an interest in studying English, he or she is making an attempt to learn English. Students gain knowledge and improve their English as a result of their efforts, and continue to engage with it as their interests develop and grow (Manurung, 2018). The students' interest in learning English can be seen from the table 3 below;

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Students' Interest

No	Category	Frequency
1	Very High	13
2	High	20
3	Average	6
4	Low	3
5	Very Low	1

Meanwhile, the percentage of students' interest level is shown in the following diagram.

Diagram 2. Students' interest level



The results showed that the percentage of students who had a very high interest in learning English was 30% and high at 47% so a total of 77% of students had an interest in learning English. According to the classification level of student motivation in learning, it is included in the average to good category. It means that Islamic Education students actually have a good interest in learning English as a first foreign language.

Goal

Goals are what many students express related to motivation in learning English. Most students would like to study or continue their studies abroad so students think that learning English is very crucial considering that English is a language used internationally and globally. It proves from the following statements;

S2 stated that “*My motivation in learning English is to study abroad and make my parents proud of me*”. Meanwhile S5 clearly stated that he/she wanted to study abroad. This is in line with his/her statement “*I want to study in Egypt that is why I have to learn English*”.

Conclusion

Islamic Education students at Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Indonesia have high motivation to learn English. External factors that affect student motivation include lecturers' personality, teaching and learning methods, and the social environment in which students live. Besides that, the internal factor that influences student motivation is their interest and goal in learning English. Based on the research results, as many as 77% of students have a high interest in learning English.

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