

Midwifery students' English language learning: needs and perception

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the midwifery students' English language learning needs and their perceptions of ESP course. The participants in this study were the students of midwifery at Madura Islamic University. This is a qualitative study and a need analysis questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire designed to identify the learners' perceptions of the importance of English language learning, the frequency of English skills, their need of language learning and their preferences of English language learning. After collecting and analyzing the data, it was found that reading skill become their priority in terms of importance and usage. It also found that students need and prefer practicing communication skills. Related to the students' perceptions of the currents ESP course, it was found that they need ESP book specially reading material which is suitable for the midwifery context. Furthermore, blended learning is suitable method and the students prefer using Google meet in learning.

Keywords: *English specific purposes, perception, and need analysis.*

INTRODUCTION

As an international language, the ability to use English is a necessity in a global era as a means of communication today. For that reason, English is taught from elementary school to university level. Focus on university students, English is also put on not only for English department students but also for all students across disciplines, it usually a compulsory subject on the curriculum. Madura Islamic university is also put the English subject for the students and it is taught for all students in all faculties including midwifery department.

Teaching English for midwifery students is categorized as English for Specific Purposes. Hutchinson and Waters (1987) said that ESP is "an approach to teach language where all decision for the content and method is based on the learners themselves". Similarly, Kennedy and Bolitho (1984) in Ahmed Kaosar, M (2014), point out that ESP is based on "an investigation of the purposes of the learner and the set of communicative needs arising from these purposes". It is related to the students' need. Furthermore, Need analysis is the key point on ESP. Meanwhile, Graves (2000, 153) explains that there are three points on need analysis procedures; they are the series of decisions, actions, and reflection. The three procedures are broken down into (1) to decide what information to gather (2) to decide the best way to gather (3) to gather the information (4) to interpret the information

(5) to act on the information 6) to evaluate the effect and the effective ness of the action, (7) to decide new information to gather.

To reach the maximal outcome in English language teaching, there had been study conducted by previous researcher related to the need of students in different field or discipline. Some studies found the importance of English in related to disciplines however another studies also found that the English course at the university level has not fulfilled the students 'expectation such as a study conducted by Andriani (2014). The finding leads to a further discussion to meet the need of the students in specific area of study.

Beside the students' need, another factor which is important to know is that students' perception. Understanding the students' perception is also important for improving the quality of learning and accordingly, there is an increasing interest in examining this perception. According to Stone and Nielson (1985:205), perception is intellectual organization of sensory stimuli internal and external, connected with a particular person, object or event. Related to the study about students' perception, Chhapra, et.al (2018) found that there is significant relationship between teachers' personality and students' academic performance at university level. Their major study was to measure the students' perception toward teachers' personality. Another study was conducted by Fatmawati, Vianty & Hayati (2016) found that the student's perceptions of classroom environment and students motivation were significantly correlated to their English Achievement.

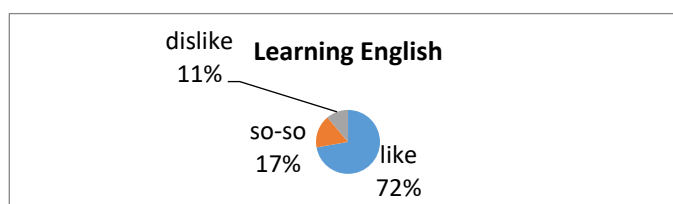
Based on the fact above, it is important to know the students' need and perception especially for ESP students. In this case, the students at Madura Islamic university where they take midwifery as their major course but they are also learn English.

METHODS

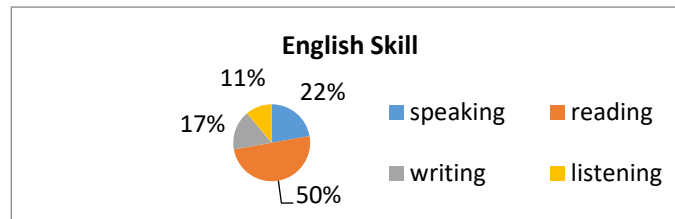
There are several types of research methods. This study used qualitative method to find out the students' perception and need in learning English. The instrument used in this study was questionnaire. A need analysis questionnaire and interview was used for data collection. The questionnaire designed to identify the learners' perceptions of the importance of English language learning, the frequency of English skills, their need of language learning and their preferences of English language learning. Meanwhile, the participants of this study were midwifery students at Madura Islamic University which consists of 18 students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

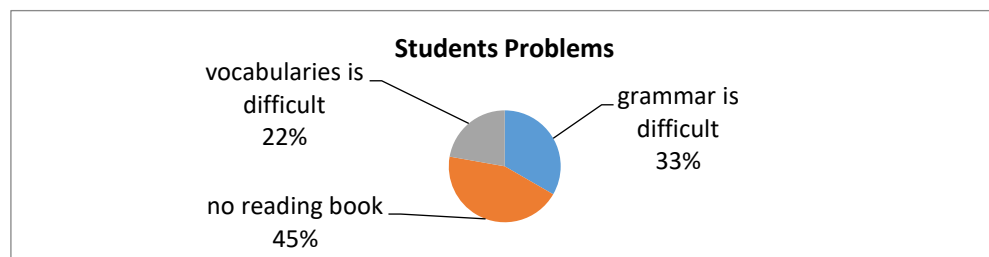
For the first question was related to the English teaching in their class. The first question asked whether they like or not to learn English. It is useful to be asked because English is not their major subject. The result showed the majority of the students like to learn English.



Second question related to the English skill, the result showed that 50 percentage of the students need to be able to understand the English text. In other word, they need to improve their reading skill.

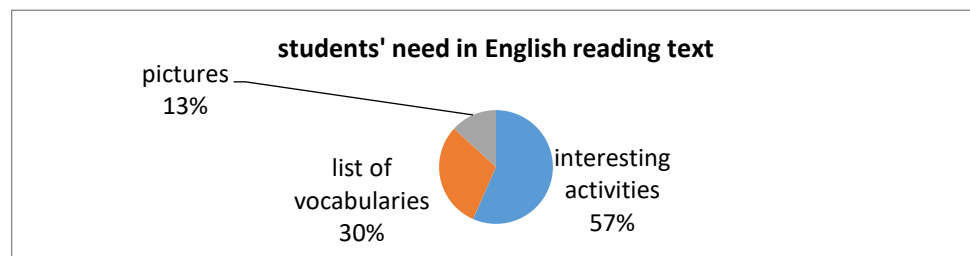


The following question related to the problem faced by the midwifery students in learning English. The finding can be an alternative solution for the lecturer to prepare the teaching and learning process to the students.

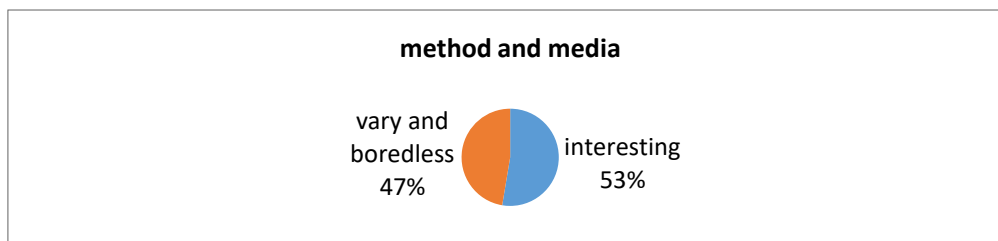


The finding showed that 33 percentages of the students found it hard to understand the English grammar, 45 percentage of the student mentioned that they have a little reference in reading book especially for context of midwifery. The local library has a limited English book which is related to the midwifery context. The rest 22 percentage of the students think that the vocabularies are difficult to understand.

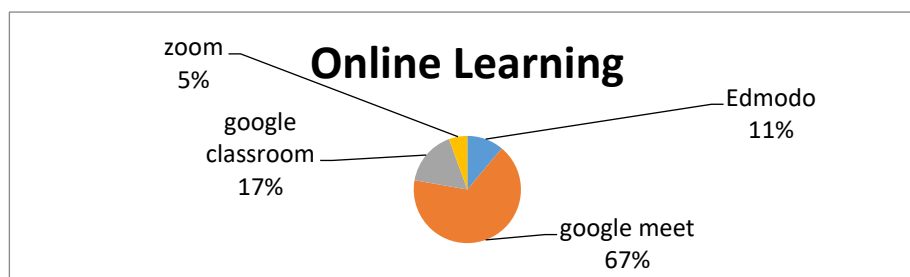
Regarding course contents and materials, the finding reveals that there are 15 students need a relevant material to what they are learning (79%). The rest 21% of the students think that the relevance of the materials is around 60%. In addition, in term of the need in reading English text the students said that they need a picture to help them understand what the text is about. Furthermore, they need an interesting activity or exercise after reading the text, they need list of difficult vocabularies to guide them understand the passage. The data can be seen bellows:



In addition, most of the students like to learn English using an interesting media and method, the finding also found that the students do not like monotonous activities and boring. The teachers have to be able to use an appropriate media and method. In this case, Arsyad (2014) states that there are two important aspects in teaching and learning process, they are teaching strategies and media.



The researcher asked the students about the online media because the recent study was conducted in pandemic situation where the students sometimes have an online learning. The researcher asked 4 platform which is usually used by the teacher and students in teaching and learning process, those are zoom, Google meet, Google classroom and edmodo, based on the result, the students like to use Google meet. The data can be seen bellows:



Cakrawati (2017) found that the online learning platforms can help the students in practicing their English skill, catching new vocabularies, and improving the students' understanding toward the lesson content.

Five students randomly selected for the interview. The question was quite similar to the questionnaire; it was done to know the detailed information from the students in this study. Related to the question number 1, almost 72% of the students like to learn English. The reason for that is because English is needed as an international language, they said that it's very important for their future career. Therefore they need and like to learn English. Similar to the result of questionnaire, 50% of the students need to be able to read the text because they need some literatures for their study. Speaking skill is also important, the said for the future career, they need to interact with the patience and people where sometime they meet English native speaker, but now reading is the most important. In addition, they said that some midwifery books are written in English so the need to be able to understand the English text. The reading skill in this case is the ability to comprehend the English text especially for midwifery context.

Furthermore, regarding to the students problems, the students found it hard to find a particular book for midwifery. They need a hand out book or a specific book that can facilitate them in learning English especially learning English in the context of midwifery.

CONCLUSION

The present study showed evidence that the midwifery students in Madura Islamic University like to learn English for some reason especially for their study and the future career. The students also need to comprehend the English text specially the text which

related to their study. Therefore they need an ESP book for them to learn English and improve their reading skill as well. The result of this study can be a reference for the lecturer before designing a syllabus and prepare materials for the midwifery students.

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