

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction of the study. It is divided into six parts: (1) background of the study, (2) statement of the problems, (3) purpose of the study, (4) significance of the study, (5) scope and limitation, (6) definition of key term.

1.1 Background of the Study

Education is always important to the development of society. Education helps people improve their standard of living, so that they can solve problems and challenges, get good jobs and live together as good and responsible citizens. Education not only focuses on the acquisition of knowledge but also emphasizes knowledge of the value of knowledge, critical thinking, creativity, motivation, social skills and life. Students also need to improve their personal skills and apply them in life. Due to the urgency of individual skills education, camps have been developed in many countries around the world. Summer Camp helps children develop self-esteem, personality, courage, responsibility, resourcefulness and cooperation. Camp experiences help develop the social skills and healthy emotions necessary to be strong, responsible and competent adult. (ACA, 2004, p. 1).

In recent years, camps have become popular as it has shown the positive things since students gain after participating in summer camps with research.

There are many studies prove that the camp is very suitable for students. American Camp Association (ACA) and Youth Development Strategies, Inc (YDSI) had researched 80 camps in 2004 which provided optimal youth development experiences for campers. They had report 83% of the camps experience improvement in Youth Involvement and Skill Building. In other report from Summer Matters, students demonstrated significant increase in their level vocabulary, a gateway to English language fluency. Summer School also help students make a new friends and get along better with other students. Marryman & Mezei (2012) stated students' social skills are composed of four elements including leaderships, making friends, insecurity, and peer relationships are improved after researchers doing research.

International camps are held in developed countries so that students from that countries can come and join in and develop their personal skills. Many camps have been organized in European countries such as England, Sweden, Germany, ... or many universities in the US and in this study is Asia - Korea. Irwin (1950) states camp provides children with the opportunity to live, work, and play in a group situation; obtain experience and insight into many of the basic processes of life; and receive guidance from a mature counselor. Camp activities emphasized knowledge and skills through working in small group, offered opportunities to develop a variety of social, emotional, and cognitive skills for contributing to the total development of campers regardless of age (Benne, 2016). Summer camp is a very necessary activity for EFL students to improve their skills. The common language that summer camps use is English, because English is the international

language. Therefore, this summer camp will help EFL student improve English-speaking skills. The fastest language acquisition is the environment and opportunity (Sharolyn, 2016). Inha Summer Camp 2017 was held at Inha University in Incheon, Korea. This summer camp uses English as an official language. Therefore, EFL students must fully use English to participate in this summer camp.

English is very important and can not be denied its importance to the current trend of globalization. English is the language of the modern era (Algeo, 2010). English is used in all the different spheres of life. The Economics, e-commerce, medicine, aviation and tourism, all are using English for transaction. Chang (2003) said when people from other countries want to communicate with each other, English is usually the language of their choice. More than half of worldwide publications are written in English (Kim, Lee, Jun, & Jin, 1992). Scholars have reported that China has the largest English-learning population in the world (Yang Yu, 2010). One of the world's most populous countries, China is also rushing to learn English so that it can achieve the corresponding effect abroad. The widespread use of English has had a significant impact on the development of language policies and activities related to English language education in countries in East Asia (Yang Yu, 2010).

The use of English summer camps will allow students to connect with many friends around the world. There are many students from all over the world who are EFL students or native speakers. Inha University is one of the best universities in Incheon and in 18th position in Korea University Ranking

(Wikipedia, 2017). This program had started since 2004 and attracted many students from around the world to attend. There are 337 students from 20 countries in 2015, 312 students from 18 countries around the world (Inha Summer camp website). This program provided opportunity for EFL students to interact with foreign students. Among the students who attend Inha Summer School, there are a lot of native speaker students from United State of America and United Kingdom. Kam (2015) as an organizer of summer school program had previewed that in this short-term, intensive program primarily consists of classroom lectures, visit to corporate sites and field trips to cultural and historic place. Through the coursework, international will have the opportunity to understand the dynamic aspects of Korea society. The reasons mentioned above have attracted many students in the world, students from developed countries such as the United Kingdom, USA, France, Germany, and so on also participate in Inha Summer School.

Considering the above concern, this study investigates EFL students learning potential toward international summer camp program through Inha summer camp 2017. By researching in learning potential through this program, the researcher can get the conclusion of potential of summer school. These findings may be information for universities in developed countries to see if it is possible to start a Summer School program as an aspect of implementing a student-centered approach. Learning potential brings to Student toward Summer Camp can increase Summer camp performance in the context of education in other developed countries. This research aims to raise awareness and broaden the

implementation of summer schools in universities. Therefore, it will explore the value of Summer camp and their relevance to university as a way to promote a more inclusive education.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Related to the background of study, the researcher wants to answer the following question:

- What learning potential brings to EFL students toward Inha Summer camp 2017?

1.3 Objective of the study

This research study aims at exploring learning potential bring to EFL students through program Summer Program at Inha University Korea. It will also discover cognitive, knowledge and skills of students who attending in Inha Summer camp 2017. Its aim is to give a voice especially to the students and their views on the role of Inha Summer camp in order to contribute to the wider research on Summer School as part of the International education system especially through higher educational reform.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is projected to give more involvement to both of theoretical and practical improvement on this study.

1.4.1 Theoretical Significance

The result of the study will provide a theoretical basic on learning potential occur in the summer camp program toward EFL students.

1.4.2 Practical Significance

The EFL students can improve their social skills, leadership, make new friend, improve English skills by joining international summer camp program especially Inha Summer School 2017

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The current study focused on the learning potential among EFL students toward international summer camp program especially in Inha Summer camp 2017. This study focused on how summer camp program influence to EFL students toward Inha Summer camp during 3 weeks from 16th July until 4th August 2017 in Inha University.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are 3 key words to help the readers determine the focus of the research.

The key words are: EFL students, summer camp, learning potential.

- **EFL students** are students learn English in their home country where english is not their native language.
- **International Summer camp** is the program held by the organization reach on Summer, usually from June until August – holidays of the students. The participants are from all around the world. They live together, study together during program summer camp.

- **Learning Potential:** the ability to adapt and to learn, ability of cognitive to grow and lead to successful through interacting with people.
- **Inha Summer Camp 2017:** is a program hold by the Inha University from 17 July until 4 August, 2017