

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

A problem to get students engaged behaviourally in learning English in EFL classroom becomes a common phenomenon for teachers. This phenomena occurs since they probably do not have enough English skills and interest in their academic task related to English (Cooper, 2014; Fredricks et al., 2004; Shernoff, 2013; Yazzie-Mintz & McCormick, 2012; as quoted in Nguyen, Cannata, & Miller, 2016), so that they are difficult to understand well what teachers explain if they do that fully in English. For that reason, they do not pay good attention to the learning process. As a result, they are no longer engaged behaviourally in the learning.

The teachers are required a suitable teaching strategy to make the students engaged behaviourally in the learning. Many of them apply group work as a strategy to promote the students' engagement on which "group work is a teaching strategy that promotes academic achievement and socialisation (Baines, Blatchford & Chowne, 2007; Gillies, 2003; Johnson & Johnson, 2004; Oliveira & Sadler, 2008; Summers, Beretvas, Svinicki & Gorin, 2005 as quoted by Forslund Frykedal, K., & Chiriac, E. H., 2014). By implementing group work, the students can interact with the other students during leaning English. As a consequence, the teacher can stimulate the students' behavior to engage in the learning process.

A previous study related to group work implementation has been well-documented. The study of Pishghadam and Moghaddam (2011) focused on investigating the place of group work among children in current EFL classes in order to examine the effect of group work on the language performance of children. Then, the researcher realizes that the study provided a gap to fill. Since it had only one focus, the researcher of this study attempts to conduct a research with different focus about how group work engages students behaviourally in EFL classroom.

B. Formulation of the Problem

The research problem is formulated as: “How is students’ behavioral engagement in group work?”

C. Operational Definitions

Avoiding misunderstanding about keywords used in this research, operational definitions are provided, as follows:

1. Group work : It is a teaching strategy demanding students to work collaboratively including interaction among them to achieve learning objectives.
2. Behavioral Engagement: It is the involvement of students' positive and negative behaviour towards learning

activities.

3. EFL Classroom : It is a classroom in which English is learned as a foreign language

D. Aim of the Research

This study aims at investigating the students' behavioral engagement in group works.

E. Uses of the Research

The research will hopefully contribute positively in some manners, as follows:

1. Theoretically, the research will provide additional input for existing theories and concepts related to this research topic, and will be valuable insight for other researchers taking the similar topic.
2. Practically, this research will encourage the teachers to apply group work to engage their students behaviourally in their own EFL classroom.
3. Empirically, this research will give empirical insight for the researcher herself of how group work engages students behaviorally in EFL classroom.

