

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **A. Strategies in Motivating Students**

Strategies are plans to meet certain situations to develop better service to learners (Boise, 2000). Moreover, strategies promote critical thinking and active learning. The selection of appropriate strategies for student-teachers is one of the difficulties in teaching.

Teacher strategies should focus on encouraging students to engage in activities with motivation to learn (Brophy, 2004). Further, teacher strategies need to focus on motivating their students to learn and to achieve the intended curricular outcomes, not merely to enjoy their time in school. Motivating students to learn requires not only bringing them to the lesson but bringing the lesson to them (Blumenfeld, 1992). Therefore, motivating students to learn means not only stimulating them to take an interest in and see the value of what they are learning, but also providing them with guidance about how to go about learning it.

#### **B. The Importance of Motivation**

Motivation is an essential and basic part of learning. According to Sternbergh (2005), motivation is very important in the success of study,

and without motivation, students would never seek to learn. Moreover, motivation energizes and directs actions, and so it has great relevance to many important developmental outcomes such as school achievement, performance in other activity areas, and overall mental health. Motivation is a force that energizes, sustains, and directs behavior toward a goal (Eggen & Don, 2005 p. 349). Students with high motivation will try hard and do a variety of positive ways to get maximum results. Motivation will determine the intensity of the students' effort to learn. Therefore, the more motivation students have, the more likely they will obtain the learning goal.

Learning a second language is more complex than the first language. It is because when the students learn L2, they need to learn not only vocabulary and grammar but also how to pronounce the word correctly, understand the discourse, and also the language function (Harmer, 1991). Moreover, motivation shapes them to be more competent and have more interest in and enjoy the material. Therefore, motivation is important for students in the success of the study. Motivation is a key to learning (Dörnyei, 1998). It's important for teachers of foreign languages to identify what are the strategies to motivate their students in learning English to have more motivation, because teacher is the most important

factor influencing students in learning. Strategies are often more powerful when they are used in the appropriate combination (Chamot, 1987).