

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Nowadays, education is an important thing that someone should have because through education someone will develop his or her knowledge, attitude, behavior, etc. To get education, someone can go to school or university. If they want to be a teacher, he or she has to go to a faculty of teacher training and education like the one available at Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya (WMCUS). There are two programs offered by this faculty; they are Physics Education Study Program (PESP) and English Education Study Program (EESP).

Both Physics Education (PESP) and English Education Study Program (EESP) are important for the society nowadays. In PESP, the students are prepared to be a professional Physics teacher; in EESP, the students are prepared to be a professional English teacher. To be a professional teacher is a challenge for the students. The students need to develop their professional, pedagogical, social, and personal skills.

To prepare the students to be professional teachers, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FTTE) of WMCUS offers *Teaching Practice* (TP) as a compulsory course to the seventh semester students or to the students who have passed several prerequisite courses. Teaching Practice is an important aspect of becoming a teacher. It grants the student (teachers-to-be) experience in the actual teaching and learning environment (Ngidi and Sibaya, 2003; Marais and Meier,

2004; Perry, 2004; Edith and Samuel, 2009). During the Teaching Practice, the teacher candidates are given the opportunity to try the art of teaching before actually getting into the real world of the teaching profession (Kasanda, 1995; Edith and Samuel, 2009).

In addition, in Teaching Practice, the students will practice what they have got in class in the real school so that they will have real teaching experiences from the real school. Because Teaching Practice is a compulsory subject for all the students of FTTE, it is interesting to know the students' perception on Teaching Practice. Teaching Practice is like a "force" for the students. The study entitled "*Students' Perception on Teaching Practice*" is worth doing because Teaching Practice becomes one of the characteristics of the students of FTTE. Until now, there is no research about the students' perception on Teaching Practice at Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya (WMCUS); therefore, the study about the students' perception is worth doing.

1.2. Research Questions

In line with the title of this study, two research questions were formulated as follows:

- a) What are the students' perception on Teaching Practice before joining Teaching Practice?
- b) What are the students' perception on Teaching Practice after joining Teaching Practice?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems above, this study were intended to find out:

- a) the students' perception on Teaching Practice before joining Teaching Practice,
- b) the students' perception on Teaching Practice after joining Teaching Practice.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study was expected to find the information about the students' perception on Teaching Practice. The students' perception could be used as an input to the English Department to improve Teaching Practice program. Furthermore, the students could pay more attention during their Teaching Practice.

1.5. Theoretical Framework

This study concerning the students' perception on Teaching Practice needs some theoretical back-ups. They are the theory of Teaching Practice, which was needed to understand the nature and the implementation of Teaching Practice and the theory of perception, which is needed to understand comprehensively the concept of perception.

1.6. Assumption

This study was conducted under the following assumptions. First, every individual has his or her own perception as a result of perceiving something in his or her life and it is different from one and another. Second, the students' perception on Teaching Practice could be elicited by using questionnaire and interview.

1.7. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study entitled "*Students' Perception on Teaching Practice*" focused on investigating the students' perception before and after joining Teaching Practice Program which was conducted at the real school. The subject of this study was all of the students belonging to the batch of 2012/2013 of EESP of FTTE of WMCUS. They were the students who have joined and passed Teaching Practice in the year of 2015/2016.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some key terms used in this study are defined as follows:

- a) Teaching Practice is a 4 credit course which is used to prepare the students to be a professional teacher before they graduate.
- b) Perception is an understanding or interpreting something which comes out as an opinion.

1.9. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consisted of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction which presents background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, theoretical framework, assumptions, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the thesis. Chapter II is review of related literature which contains the nature of Teaching Practice, the Teaching Practice at WMCUS, the nature of perception and the review of related study. Chapter III is the research method which deals with research design, the subjects, the research data, instrument, the procedures of data collection, and the technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is the findings and discussion, and last is chapter V which presents conclusion and suggestions.