

## INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF ENGLISH CAMP ACTIVITIES; THE STUDENT STUDY SERVICE'S PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract:** In order to enhance the students' outcomes in English learning, English camp is one of teaching activities that integrates various skills of teaching techniques and increases students' learning outcome. The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of English camp based on the perspective of the student study service. The methods consisted of collecting data from five students study service, selected by random sampling with interviews, and data analysis by study casus. The findings reveal positive and negative impact of english camp activities.

**Keywords:** *English camp, English skill improvement, the student study service.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Student Study Service (*Kuliah Kerja Nyata* or KKN) is a concept of linking academic study with the practical experience of community service. Since 1973, KKN has been integrated into the higher education curriculum for Indonesian universities, and it became one of higher education's threefold responsibilities besides teaching and conducting researches. Through the KKN program, the students are expected to share their knowledge and help local people to improve their lives and motivate them toward self-development.

KKN is a social interaction activity involving various parties and also a miniature of social reality for students to play a role in society. In interactive

activities with the community, social skills are needed, so that the student KKN program can run effectively. In various cultures and societal characters, students are required to be able to mingle with society.

According to EF English Proficiency Index (EF EPI) Thailand is categorized in "very low proficiency" with score 47.61 which is ranked 17th from 25 countries Asia. EF Proficiency Therefore in Thailand we had a flagship program KKN, namely the "English Camp" with different headings but with the same aim that it could help increase interest in the English language. To improve student learning outcomes in learning English. English camp is a teaching activity that integrates

various teaching technique skills and improves student learning outcomes.

In order to enhance the students' outcomes in English learning, English camp is one of teaching activities that integrates various skills of teaching techniques and increases students' learning outcome., (Patcharee et al., 2015)

Thailand is a country with a majority population of Buddhists and speaking Siamese (Thailand). However, it does not mean that only the Siamese language can be mastered by the Thai population. Especially in the southern Thailand, in Chana area many Thai people speak Malay by reason of the area is close to Malaysia's Pervatasa. However, the problem is that low English proficiency affects the ability to master the material in English as well as a lack of understanding. In this case language teachers are often suggest to use contextual learning (CTL) in the classroom. According to Johnson (2002), Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) is a system for teaching that is grounded in brain research. Brain research indicates that we learn best when we see meaning in new tasks and material, and we discover meaning when we are able to connect new information with our existing knowledge and experiences. Students learn best, according to neuroscience, when they can

connect the content of academic lessons with the context of their own daily lives

According to contextual learning theory CTL is presented as something that is socially and psychologically beneficial for learners, helps to relax atmosphere, to create bonds between classmates, to increase student interest, them, creates a comfortable classroom atmosphere, creates a comfortable classrooand simply to make learning more enjoyable and fun. It is all included in the english camp activities. Nurisnaini (2000) found out that games and songs are effective strategies in improving students' participation in activities. Huyen and Nga (2003) also agreed with this by saying that games bring relaxation and fun and help students to earn, and games involve friendly competition and interest among students. The main aim this paper is to investigating the impact of english camp activities base on the student study service's perspective. The main aim this paper is to investigate the impact of english camp activities base on the student study service's perspective.

## 2. METHODS

This study used a qualitative case study approach. The purpose of a qualitative research is to understand, describe and explain beliefs, behaviors and

meaning in context-specific settings (Wuo & Volker, 2009).

### **Participant of the study**

Participants in this case were pre-service teachers at the University of IBN Khaldun Bogor who had KKN in Thailand which has been taken randomly. Probability or random sampling has the greatest freedom from bias but may represent the most costly sample in terms of time and energy for a given level of sampling error (Brown, 1947).

### **Data collection**

The data in this study are gained through interview. Malik and Hamied (2014) state that interview is a purposeful interaction that permits researcher to obtain important data which is not possible through observation alone. Furthermore, they say that interviews allow researcher to examine attitudes, interests, feelings, concerns, and values more easily than through observations.

The interview consist of main question related to the participant experiences of KKN about the impact of the English Camp activities program they felt based on their perspective, whether it's a negative or positive perspective.

### **Data analysis**

The data were analyzed through their perspective. Researchers transcribe the interview data, then analyze them into into the positive and negative effects.

## **3. DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

The interview was conducted to the five participants in a different place in order to get a personal and valid data from five different perspectives. Based on the interview there are several impact of English Camp Activities faced by the pre-service teacher during KKN. Those are includings the positive and negative impact.

### **Positive Impact**

The teacher pre service state English cam can able to improve language skills, train cooperation, solidarity and creativity of students.

*“Train and improve students' abilities, especially in languages, namely English, Malay, Arabic. In the English camp, students form groups which can train them in cooperation and solidarity. Train students' creativity in performing arts”.*

Besides that, with the English Camp students love to learn English and train student's leadership.

*“As a result, students prefer learning English. Make it easy for children to learn English. And can train student leadership”.*

In addition to having a positive impact on students, English Camp also has an impact on Kkn students themselves. Such as being able to train cohesiveness in the group and getting solid. There is also an impact for individuals such as being able to communicate with native speakers and being able to get to know more about the native speaker culture in Thailand

*“The impact of EC itself exists for groups as well as individuals, if in one group we become more solid, closer to each other, more and more understand each other. As for the person, in my opinion, I can develop myself in various ways, for example, such as communicating with natives, teaching natives, and moreover getting to know their culture”.*

As for the interesting thing about the English camp itself, we are KKN students can get closer to the English camp participants in Thailand and can increase their curiosity about English.

*“In my opinion, we are closer to the children, maybe the children will understand English better”.*

English Camp is also an event that has been eagerly awaited because in the English Cam method there are many useful activities such as building cooperation, getting new families and most importantly improving creativity in teaching.

*“For me, English camps is one of the activities and agenda that I have been waiting for. lot of learning that we get at Camps, build a wide network, adding experience, friends, family etc. Build a sense of responsibility and solidarity with the team, experience teaching abroad in various schools, increase our creativity as teachers in teaching.”*

Based on the data interview, it turns out that English cam has a lot of positive impacts both for the participant English camp and for the KKN students themselves. The most important thing from the positive impact is that KKN students become more solid and gain experience on how to teach with creativity through the English camp, besides that KKN students also become closer to school students in Thailand by

understanding their various cultures and they also become interesting to English.

### **Negative Impact**

On the other hand English Camp also has a negative impact which relies on differences of opinion so that it can cause friction between KKN members.

*“There are differences of opinion that cause friction between student KKN, constrained by language makes English camp not run well even though thank God we can handle it quite well”.*

Besides that, the English Camp also caused some differences of opinion between KKN members and the school which made the English Camp less optimal.

*“Differences of opinion between the school and the parties student KKN, with inadequate facilities, English camp is not well organized”.*

Based on the data interview, English Camp turns out not only to have a positive impact but also to have a negative impact which is based on differences of opinion, both from the school or KKN students.

The findings of this study show that there are several impact of English Camp Activities. Those are including the

positive and negative impact, which is positive impact is more dominant than negative impact.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

Thailand is a developing country and places great importance on English skills. English language camp is one of a variety of activities or techniques generally adopted or implemented throughout the country to strengthen students' language skills at all levels. Joining an English language camp run by an organization can be one possible activity that can help them develop their English skills. As for the impact of this English camp activity, the participants were interested in English and The most important thing from the positive impact is that KKN students become more solid and gain experience on how to teach with creativity through the English camp, besides that KKN students also become closer to students in Thailand. Students can gain both new knowledge and experiences.

As we can see that English camp as effective method to teach English well besides; learners develop social skills and good relationships while they interact with each other. As for the negative impact, differences of opinion that made English camp less optimally held, but still can be resolved properly.

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