

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned with introduction of the research that consists the following point: background of study, problem of study, objective of study, scope of study and significant of study.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a tool of communication to express our thoughts, feelings, and opinions to others. According to (Wibowo, 2001) Language is an arbitrary articulation and system of sound that produced by the speaker, which is used as a means of communicating by a group of humans to express their feelings and thoughts. Language is a tool to communicate. Described by (Kramsch, 2003) language is a platform for human actions to perform social life. Each tribe in Indonesia has their own tribal language include Nias tribe. Inside the Nias society, *Li Niha* or Nias language is a indigenous language spoken by the Nias as a communication tool and their mother language. The Nias people called themselves as “*Ono Niha* (Ono = children or descendant; Niha = human)”.

Proverb is one of the part of linguistic that covered by semantics, phrase or a short sentence or a figure of speech in concise, simple sentence or group of words that refer to norms, values, counsel, illustration, principles, and rules conduct. (Mieder, 2014) has defined the proverbs as "a short, common phrase of a society with wisdom, morals, truth and traditional metaphorical view, remains and is remembered and has been passed down from generation to generation". Everyone knows that the wisdom of the people is manifested in proverbs and can change someone's character. Proverb is an illustration where the comparisons are composed of the purpose of something unexpressed and the comparison of something expressed.

In Nias, a proverb is called *Amaedola* and has been used by people from generation to generation for character building. They also teach this *Amaedola* to their children when they give advice. *Amaedola* is a part of the Nias cultures and taught from generation to generation. Nowadays, *Amaedola* or Nias proverbs is almost forgotten and not only among the young people but also among the children. Researchers decided to build this up again by taught *Amaedola* at school in the teaching-learning process.

Character building is essential for all students. Character building is an effort to build and establish character and self-worth. According to (Megawangi, 2004) Character building is a process or effort made to direct, fix, or build human behavior, habits, qualities, morals, good behavior according to norms and rules. The researcher also, improving certain good or valuable traits in a person's character, especially self-reliance, endurance, and courage. Teachers have responsible for building the students' character because character building is an essential element of a nation and the fundamental foundation to shape the Indonesian character. Based on *Kemendiknas*, the aim of charm character-building aims quality of implementation and outcomes of education in forming students' character or moral as a whole, integrated, and balanced.

The researchers found that teachers can build excellent character by teaching Amaedola at school in the learning process, and it will be instrumental. Character-building consisting of responsibility, fairness, and caring could be integrated into EFL classroom activities. Character building is a positive thing that teachers do and affect the character of the students they teach. According to (Pearson & Nicholson, 2000) developing good character requires students to recognize the good, crave the good, and put forth the good. School is also have responsible to building character of the students and parents must help their children to identify core values, adapt and commit to those values, and practice it in their own lives.

Value is one of the most highly valued in life. According to Steeman (Adisusilo, 2013) in value is something that gives meaning to life, which references, point of view and purpose in life. Value is something that is highly esteemed, that can color and tingle one's actions. They are more than faith, values always involve thought and action, so there is a very close relationship between values and ethics. According to Drs. OP Simorangkir cited by (Ferdinand et al., n.d.) Ethics as a human view of good and bad behavior. It means ethics relating to values, good ordinances of living, good rules of living, and all habits that are held and passed down from one person to another or from one generation to another. Schools must therefore help students discover and strengthen significant and significant worth to students in obtaining personal happiness and contribute positively to society.

English is used for specific purposes only by those who have learned it. Even though English is a general foreign language taught in every school, most Indonesian

students are still anxious to communicate using English. Based on that, the researchers have found a way to build students' character and improve EFL learners' English at Senior High School 1 Luahagundre in Nias by taught Amaedola at school. The researchers have found that taught Amaedola can motivate the students to achieve knowledge and good character.

Amaedola is legacy of a culture that is handed down through generation and contains values in life that make wiser and better behavior. The people of Nias use Amaedola to advice and reprimand their children, but there are many young people who didn't know or have never heard of Amaedola before. Researchers would like to resume introducing and teaching Amaedola to youth especially at school while learning a foreign or English language. Researcher teach English to student at school as well as they do character building to students by teaching Amaedola to students.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

This study has some research problem as follows:

- a. How the meaning of the relationship of the proverb in Nias with the English language?
- b. What are the values of the proverb Nias as character-building in the school?
- c. How the students respond to using Nias proverb as a character-building in English learning?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The Objective of the study are:

- a. To describe the meaning of Nias language proverbs.
- b. To identify the values in Nias language proverb for character building.
- c. To find out the students responses of using proverb at school and daily communication.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study investigates revitalizing the meaning of Nias language proverbs as character building for EFL learners in Nias. (Khan, 2010) says there are four types of character education that have been done in the school education process as follows:

- a. Moral conservation (characture-based religious value education) which is the truth of the Lord's revelation.

- b. Social conservation (culturally based character education, including character education, pancasila, literary appreciation, examples of historical figures and national leaders).
- c. Environmental conservation (Environment-based character education)
- d. Human conservation (the result-based character education, which is personal attitude, results from the process of awareness of self-directed potential empowerment to enhance human quality).

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the discovery of this study can improve the knowledge of the Nias proverb in school English. This discovery refers to the use of proverbs to restore them to life. It can also revitalize language culture and also as one way of shaping better student character.

Practically, the researcher expects this study will be helpful for:

- a. Teacher: For the teacher or lecturer who teaches English as a means of preserving that proverb, especially in the furthering of the Nias proverb in school.
- b. Students: For students, it can revitalize the use of the proverb civilized in school and improve the student's character or the better.
- c. Future Researchers: This paper can be options for the researcher and reference material to the reader in facilitating his research, which relates to revitalizing Nias proverb as character-building for EFL.