CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the area of the study that will cover background of study, research question, hypothesis, objective of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Testing is one of many commonest things in social life.[1] Since long time ago, people had to show their ability and capability as a proof that they were worth to be in social class position; army leader, artists, expertise and etceteras. For the sake of perfectness, nowadays, institutions have made many tests to ensure that the test-takers are worth to donate their blood, to have driving license, and also right to be in position as manager, expertise, student or teacher; and the tests might be in form of a placement test, interview, final project, psycho test, and also test that related to language such as TOEFL, IELTS and many others.

By the growing of technology that makes our world smaller, TOEFL and IELTS, as worldwide famous proficiency test, show that language has become a significant skill to be mastered in order to communicate with people around the world and to get a scholarship. Many institutions seriously add, make, and apply language curriculum or standard, even some institutions are made to facilitate

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[1] Tim Mcnamara, *Language Testing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 3.

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people who wanted to learn language itself, in order to give each individual certain qualification or skill on certain language (usually English), for the sake of the institutions' prestige and the future of the individual itself.

In case of applying language curriculum or standard means that the institution must conduct a proficiency and achievement test which has different purpose.[2] Achievement test is often to be linked to language learning process, and some are in form of: end of semester examination, final project, portfolio assessment and etc. Achievement test measures the result of learning process joined by learner in specific period given by an institution. Proficiency test, more or less, has opposite purpose with achievement test; this test measures the future of a test-takers performance without considering any learning he or she joined before. This test might be in form of placement test, selection test, language aptitude test, academic potential test and etc.

This study will focus on proficiency test since it is very important to know how far our test-takers can adapt, learn, and perform their ability in the institution conducting the test, because we do believe that every institution wants the best candidate to join its program.

In predicting test-takers' future performance, proficiency test must have high predictive validity, without underestimate other validity, to ensure that the test is proper and it's expediency is not in doubt, because the purpose of the test is to predict the future performance and outcome as the institutions expect. Predictive validity is known by world wide as an important thing in

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[2] Tim Mcnamara, *Language Testing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 6.

doing the prediction of future like performance.[3] To measure whether the validity is good or not, we should correlate the result of last proficiency test with the result of first semester or second semester examination; if the correlation shows a positive relation between two tests' result, it means the proficiency test has high predictive validity, but if the correlation shows negative relation, it means the predictive validity of the test is low.

A research conducted by Mary Kerstjens and Caryn Nery entitled "*Predictive Validity in the IELTS Test: A Study of the Relationship Between IELTS Scores and Students' Subsequent Academic Performance*",[4] implied that proficiency test was an important step to have most adaptive students from around the world applying to study in Australia. In this case, they also stated that predictive validity is necessary to measure that the test is good or not in predicting future performance of student candidates. Another research entitled "*Validitas Prediktif Ujian Penerimaan Calon Mahasiswa Universitas Islam Indonesia terhadap Indeks Prestasi Kumulatif Mahasiswa*" is the second previous study that was conducted by Irwan Nuryana Kurniawan and Arief Fahmie to know how far the entrance examination of Indonesian Islamic University predicts the students' academic grade point average. The point is both of researches implied that proficiency test was important in finding, choosing, student

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[3] H. Douglas Brown, *Language Assessment - Principles and Classroom Practices* (New York: Pearson Education ESL, 2004), 25.

[4] Mary Kerstjens - Caryn Nery, "Predictive Validity in the IELTS Test: A Study of the Relationship Between IELTS Scores and Students' Academic Performance", *IELTS Research Reports* Vol. 3, 2000, 86.

candidates that were capable to learn in some circumstances and to achieve institutions' goal.

As implied above, those researches, measured IELTS as one of requirement to go to Australia and learn there, and UPCM as selection test for student candidates of UII (Universitas Islam Indonesia) were regional and international scale of admission and proficiency test, unlike this research. This study tends to measure smaller scale of the test because FLDI (Foreign Language Development Institute) is held by local Islamic boarding school, Nurul Jadid in Paiton, Probolinggo. But, even this study cover smaller scope than researches mentioned before, it is also urgent and vital because this institution's members will be pupils that in future, taking such IELTS, TOEFL, or other admission and proficiency test, and competing with other test-takers to be able to learn at prestige collage.

In this case, FLDI as language institution in Nurul Jadid must be more aware of its selection test. The reason of conducting selection test is to pick qualified student candidate, because the institution know that not every test-taker is capable in reaching, achieving its standard and goal; following and adapting the teaching-learning method. This test is also important for FLDI because having great alumnus that skilled in English is the vision of the institution.[5] This study, conducted in FLDI will reveal how good is the FLDI's selection test in predicting test-takers future performance; and also

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[5]Lembaga Pengembangan Bahasa Asing, "Profil Lembaga" *Festival Bahasa LPBA 2014* (https://www.uoguelph.ca/hftm/research-process, accessed on April 25, 2016)

will make the institution management be more conscious of the selection test they held.

B. Research Question

1. What is the predictive validity of the "selection test" in predicting student's future success in Foreign Language Development Institute (FLDI) of Nurul Jadid?

C. Objective of Study

1. To assess the predictive validity of selection test of FLDI

D. Hypothesis

1. Null hypothesis (H^0)

   There is no correlation between FLDI's selection test score and the first semester final examination score.

2. Alternative hypothesis (H^1)

   There is positive correlation between FLDI's selection test score and the first semester final examination score.

E. Scope and Limitation of Study

Validity, in most every field of science (if not all), is an aspect that becomes very important to determine whether data, instrument analysis, result of theory, or result analysis is acceptable and admitted by worldwide. In language testing, validity plays a big role in making a test to be appropriate, meaningful, useful and efficient (Waugh and Gronlund: 2012).[6] This big role

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[6] C. Keith Waugh - Norman E. Gronlund, *Assessment of Student Achievement Tenth Edition* (California: Peachpit Press, 2012), 46.

separates validity into at least five branches: content validity, construct validity, criterion-related evidence (which divided into concurrent validity and predictive validity), consequential validity, and face validity. Those separations have its own job in measuring a same test or a different one.

The discussion of this study is predictive validity analyzing proficiency test which has prediction ability to see future performance of its test-taker. Since, proficiency test has many types, this study only uses selection test on FLDI (Foreign Language Development Institute) of Nurul Jadid as the subject of the predictive analysis

F. Significance of Study

After considering about background, statements of the problems, and objectives of the study, the researcher also has to consider about the significance of the study.

The expectation of this study is to help the management of FLDI to be more conscious and to do better selection test in ensuring the student candidates' capability had met demands required achieving the goal of the institution, so that its graduates can compete in prestigious collages. Also, as addition, this study expects the institution increase the predictive validity of the selection test by doing such analysis in future for its own good.

G. Definition of Key Term

- *Selection test* is included to admission test which predicting future like performance of test-taker without relating test-taker's education, because

by taking the test, the institution conducting the test will definitely know whether the test-taker is worth for joining the programs or not.

- *Predictive validity* is included to criterion-related evidence.[7] This validity measures, what Brown called by, prediction of test-takers' likelihood of future success.[8]

- *Foreign Language Development Institute* is an autonomy institution in Nurul Jadid Islamic boarding school, Paiton, Probolinggo, which conducts Arabic and English teaching/learning process separately which the members (students) are students of senior high school from first through third grade.

- *Test-taker* is a male or female *santri*, a person studying Islamic boarding school which known as *pondok pesantren* in Indonesia, who join selection test conducted by FLDI.

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[7] H. Douglas Brown, *Language Assessment - Principles and Classroom Practices* (New York: Pearson Education ESL, 2004), 25.

[8] Ibid, 25.