**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. Background of the Study**

Besides the use of popular culture as a teaching material can motivate the students in learning and create independent learning to be autonomous learners. Teachers’ life can be much more convenient if their students have independent learning habits. According to Cheung (2001), if the students think that the material is interesting or valuable enough, they will be motivated to learn it. Yan & Way (2021) also state that learning motivation is a form of spontaneous internal desire that encourages students to learn. But, many students in Indonesia tend to avoid learning English in school because the material is difficult to comprehend. Yule (2010) mention that there are obstacles faced by EFL students in learning English such as boring text- book and classroom condition that may cause the students to be demotivated in learning the language. If the students feel unmotivated, they are likely to be passive learners or distracted from the classroom objectives.

The learning style where the activities are only teacher talk and focus on grammatical accuracy is particularly difficult in the EFL classroom. Cheung (2001) argues that this type of English classroom cannot relate to the students’ experience from outside the classroom. Because this type of learning doesn’t provide English as a means of meaningful and purposeful communication, this will impact the students to feel unnecessary and less interested in learning the language.

Since the English class is taught very little in some schools in Indonesia with only two hours or less per week, the need of learning English is keep increasing each time because English is a lingua franca. Knowing English will also benefit us for cultural exchange that implicates the utilization of the internet, in this case teaching language via western music or movies as the medium. Seeing Indonesia as a tropical archipelago, Indonesia has so many tourist spots not to mention its richness of culture, knowing English is essential when meeting with tourists from around the world. For those reasons those who graduate with English proficiency have a higher

opportunity of getting better jobs and working prospects.

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These days students especially teenagers are native to internet technology. Take an example from the recent popular social media platform like YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter. These platforms have many contents related to English such as; music, stories, or news. Not to mention the popular movies by Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), many people enjoy the movie, especially teenagers, they are likely to imitate the line from their favorite scene or actor in the movie. It shows that popular culture can help students understand the English language. (Hofmann, 2018, 2017) the use of short movies in the classroom can be used as a visualization to encourage students to learn a foreign language. Teachers can use these sources to create materials to draw their students’ attention and learn effectively.

In this research, the researcher would like to enhance junior high school students’ interest in EFL learning. This research is important because this research can be used as an instruction to create and implement popular culture into the teaching media.

**1.2.Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

The researcher chooses this topic because based on the researcher’s experience when he was young, he finds out that watching English movies, listening to English song and etc. are contribute more in understanding English rather than in the classroom.

**1.3. Research Questions**

1.3.1. What are the teachers’ opinions toward the use of popular culture in their

class?

1.3.2. Do the students feel motivated when popular culture implemented in their class?

**1.4. Research Objectives**

According to the research question above, the researcher wanted to find out how English teachers conduct their teaching using popular culture and their opinions toward the use of popular culture in the classroom and the students’ learning motivation.

**1.5. Research Significance**

The results of this research are expected to be beneficial both theorical and practically to improve the educational system in junior high school. Theoretically it may contribute to former literature. Practically, this research is dedicated to improve students’ motivation in learning English. If it is successfully motivated students, students can acquire more skills contributing to four aspects of language: reading, listening, speaking and writing.

**1.6. Limitation of the Study**

This research only investigates a small number of English teachers consisting of two basic English teachers which is rarely implements popular culture in their class.

**1.7. Definition of Terminologies**

1.7.1. Popular culture

In this research popular culture include the use of popular music or movies that the teacher used to teach language to the students.

1.7.2. EFL

EFL refers to learning and using English as an additional language in a non- native English-speaking country.