

**Foreign Language Academy of Nasional**



**The Correlation among Aptitude, Interest, and Opportunity of  
Learning English**

**A Paper**

**Presented to the Language Academy of Nasional in**

**Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Diploma III Degree**

**Written by :**

**AGUSTINA SETIAWATI**

**083450200350019**

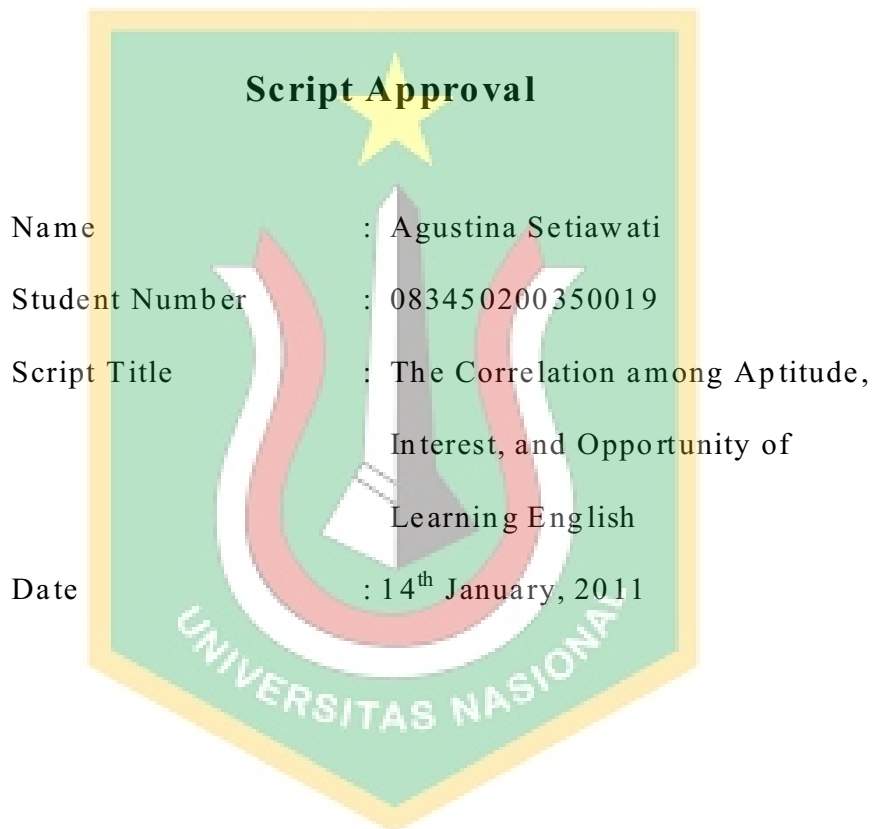
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Approved by:

Advisor

Director

(Zuhron S.S, M. Hum)

(Drs. H. Agung Prawoto, M.M)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Let the writer praise to God because I finished the paper writing discussing about the Correlation among Aptitude, Interest, and Opportunity of Learning English. The paper writing I already arranged is intended to fulfill one of the requirements in order that I can graduate from Nasional Academy of Foreign Language, English department.

In arranging the paper writing, the writer finds many obstacles. However, I realize that there are the people who have helped me. In this way, I can finish the paper writing on time.

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Finally, the writer hopes that God will reward for the people who have helped me,



The writer,

Agustina Setiawati

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the problems

*English is one of the languages which is used widely in the world.*

*Richards and Ellis* (as cited in Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 1) stated that besides becoming a mother tongue for 320 million inhabitants in some of the big countries like United States of America, Canada, and Australia, English is also the second or formal language in many countries including part of Asian countries whose users are around 390 million people.

As an international language, English is very important to be used for the people to communicate internationally. Meanwhile, English is also used in all of the human activities like diplomatic relations among countries, science, and tourism. Therefore, in context of learning, this language belongs to the curriculum in most schools, beginning from kindergarten until university.

Because English is necessary, the good ways of learning always need seriousness. Some people regard that English is very difficult to be learned. For example, although learning English has been given from kindergarten until university, some people can be definite yet to use English well and fluently.

In learning English, someone's skill depends on three things which are interrelated. There are aptitude, interest, and opportunity. Aptitude (*natural skill*) which is owned by someone to comprehend English usually

can not be separated by someone's interest (*desire*) to understand that language. For instance, someone having aptitude in English will comprehend that language by having a strong interest.

However, both of aptitude and interest will not run fluently if there is not *opportunity* to learn it. For example, the learners who are learning English can get opportunity by reading English text in newspaper or magazine. By using this way, they can look for difficult words in English text.

Therefore, in learning English, there are the correlation among aptitude (*natural skill*) received by having a strong interest (*desire*) and getting a lot of the *opportunities*. By having three factors, the learners will support their progress of learning English.

## 1.2 The Reasons for Choosing the Title

The reasons which are used to choose this title are the first the writer wants to introduce the readers about the connections among aptitude, interest, and opportunity of learning English.

The second, the writer regards that there are many phenomena which show that the difference of someone's success in learning English can be known by aptitude, interest, and opportunity whether he or she will be successful to achieve his or her learning objective or not (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 19*).



The last, the writer is very interested in knowing what the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity in learning English is.

### **1.3 The Aims of The Writing**

The aims why the writer has written this final assignment are the first, to fulfill one of the requirements in order to get a diploma degree in English Department from Nasional Academy of Foreign Language.

The second, to convince the readers in order to achieve the goals and benefits of learning English through all or part of these correlation like aptitude, interest, and opportunity.

The third, to make the readers to be aware of the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity of learning English.

The fourth, to persuade the readers in order to change their thoughts about English which is regarded as difficult subject.

The last, to give knowledge for the readers so that they can be motivated to learn English and finally will be successful.

### **1.4 The Scope of Idea**

In this limited time and ability, the writer would like to discuss about “The Correlations among Aptitude, Interest, and Opportunity of Learning English”.

## **1.5 The Method of Collecting data**

This final assignment was made by the writer from many methods. The writer has used many researches based on available data in the courses through the books, websites, and dictionaries.

## **1.6 The Organization of the Writing**

This paper is organized by following:

### **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Background of the Problems
- 1.2 The Reasons for Choosing the Title
- 1.3 The Aims of the Writing
- 1.4 Scope of Idea
- 1.5 The Method of Collecting Data
- 1.6 The Organization of the Writing

### **CHAPTER II : THE EXPLANATION OF THE CONNECTION AMONG APTITUDE, INTEREST, AND OPPORTUNITY OF LEARNING ENGLISH**

#### **2.1 Aptitude**

##### **2.1.1 Definitions of Aptitude**

##### **2.1.2 The Characteristics of Aptitude in Learning English**

## 2.2 Interest

### 2.2.1 Definitions of Interest

## 2.3 Opportunity

### 2.3.1 Definitions of Opportunity

### 2.3.1 Proper Base Ways Should Be Given for Language Learners

### in Using Opportunity of Learning English

## **CHAPTER III:**

### 3.1 Analysis

## **CHAPTER IV:**

### 4.1 Conclusion

### 4.2 Suggestion

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**



## CHAPTER II

### The Correlation among Aptitude, Interest, And Opportunity of Learning English

#### 2.1 Aptitude

There are some of the successful people in their works and studies, but on the other corners, they fail in learning English. Although they have tried repeatedly and spent much time to learn that language, they still have many difficulties.

Meanwhile, there are the other people who can easily understand English words, comprehend about grammar, and speak English fluently. *Elsjelyn (2008, P. 19)* suggested that one of the factors which differs both of them in learning English is *aptitude*.

##### 2.1.1 Definitions of Aptitude

According to some resources, definitions of aptitude can be defined, as follow:

- 1) *Fudvartanta* (as cited in <http://psikologi-kosongempat.blog.friendster.com/2007/01/pengantar-tes-bakat/>)

stated that aptitude is a characteristic combination which has an individualistic capacity to get special knowledge, skill, or response which is developed through drilling. For example,

there are some people who have English ability because of their aptitude.

- 2) *Fudvartanta* (as cited in <http://psikologi-kosong-empat.blog.friendster.com/2007/01/pengantar-tes-bakat/>) also stated that aptitude is also natural characteristic combination

which can be learned. Usually, it indicates someone's capacity to develop his or her ability in some skill.

- 3) *Chaplin* (as cited in <http://psikologi-kosong-empat.blog.friendster.com/2007/01/pengantar-tes-bakat/>) gave meaning that aptitude is a capacity to get achievement in the next day.

- 4) *Carroll* (as cited in *Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 19*) said that aptitude is the result of born gift which is difficult to be changed by someone. She also suggested that aptitude can be formed and improved by someone through drilling.

- 5) *Green (1974, P. 137)* defined that aptitude is a talent which must be known by test in order that the learners will know and develop their aptitude.

After knowing some definitions of aptitude which were suggested by some researchers, so the writer can conclude that aptitude is a natural skill which is owned by someone in mastering special knowledge or skill which must be developed so that his or

her natural skill can be developed successfully by having a strong motivation.

In the other words, aptitude also influences the learner's success in learning English. However, it is not the only main factor to succeed in learning the language because it must be combined by two things in order to achieve the goals in learning English. They are interest and opportunity. These correlation are necessary because they will open the way in mastering that language (Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 20).

Therefore, to know aptitude in English, the learners can do the test to know their aptitude in the language. Usually, aptitude test is done in order that the learners will know their aptitude so that they will be easier to comprehend and develop their ability in English.

(Chaplin (as cited in <http://psikologi-kosong-empat.blog.friendster.com/2007/01/pengantar-tes-bakat>)).

Carroll (as cited in Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 17) created aptitude test to predict someone's aptitude in English by using the criteria.

They are:

1. Ability to know phonetic coding

One of the tests which is done by the learners to know their aptitude in English is an ability to know phonetic coding. The test is very important to be done to know how far the learners

can understand phonetic coding because phonetic coding like  $\theta$ ,  $\xi$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $t\xi$ ,  $d3$  will influence the learners in speaking English.

2. Ability and sensitivity to master grammar (grammatical sensitivity)

In the test, the learners have to know their ability in mastering grammar whether they can form words to be sentences correctly by using the right formula or not, because generally grammar is an English constituent which can not be ignored in learning English.

3. Ability to memorize vocabulary (rote memorization)

Before learning English, the learners also must know their ability in memorizing vocabularies because by having many vocabularies in English, the learners can not only understand easily what they hear and read, but also communicate clearly and effectively.

4. Ability to learn English inductively.

By doing the test, the learners will know whether they will formulate or get grammatical rule through the explanations which are received both of oral and written or not.

The tests are given by someone who has ever yet learned English before. After doing this test, he or she will know the result showing that aptitude also influences someone's success in learning English.

### 2.1.2 The Characteristics of Aptitude in Learning English

The people who have aptitude in English are those who can prove their high skill or ability (*aptitude*) in that language. It can be known by:

a) High intelligence which can influence someone's aptitude to develop his or her Special skill in English (*Munandar* (as cited in <http://episentrum.com/artikel-psikologi/keberbakatan/>

b) Good creativity which is used in thinking to find and create new idea. The learners can develop their idea completely of learning English (*Wahidin, 2008*). Besides that, the learners will be able to solve the problems in English by giving any solution which is new, original, and imaginative if they have good creativity (*Kamus Besar Ilmu Pengetahuan, 2000*).

c) Strong motivation which can make someone do anything to get a good result in learning English (*Munandar* (as cited in <http://episentrum.com/artikel-psikologi/keberbakatan/>)).

Moreover, if the learners have strong motivation, they will get a positive thought about English, so that they can do anything to master that language (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 22*).

d) Special aptitude which is owned by someone such as there is someone whose aptitude can be known since he or she is still a child. For example, the children who are three years old can



- a) read English text which is intended for the children who are seven to eight years old (*Wahidin, 2008*).

However, the learners who have aptitude in English also face the problem in learning the language. The attitudes they have are as follows:

- 1) They always question all of the things in English.
- 2) They have a critical attitude about something in English which is regarded difficult.
- 3) They become tired of their daily tasks
- 4) They possess ability to see something in English from different point of view

The problems often come because they are not supported by environment both house and school (*Munandar* (as cited in <http://episentrum.com/artikel-psikologi/keberbakatan/>)).

Therefore, there are the things which must be paid close attention to develop their aptitude by knowing the supporting of their environment, such as:

#### A. Flexibility in opportunity

To achieve a clear objective in learning English, the learners need flexibility in opportunity which means that they have to adapt easily in looking for opportunity to get

much information about English. It can facilitate them in learning English.

A. Positive example

The learners must get positive example from not only the lecturers and friends in the school but also family members who always give positive example what they must do in learning English successfully like adjusting to speak English with the others every time or reading English texts everyday.

B. Supporting and consultation

In learning English, the learners can not learn English dependently because they must have supporting which is given by near people like friends or family members. Besides that, the learners can get consultation with the people who are able to explain difficult things in English in order that the learners can understand about English completely.

C. Sense of humor

During learning English, the learners also need sense of humor. It is done in order that they will regard that learning English by using sense of humor is fun to be received.

## 2.2 Interest

Besides aptitude, the learners can be successful to learn English if they have an interest. It happens because by having an interest in English, the learners will be motivated to learn that language. Therefore, the writer is going to explain about this factor in this part.

### 2.2.1 Definitions of Interest

According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (2008)*, Indonesian dictionary, interest (a strong desire) is an inclination of heart which is high with something.

According to *Kamus Besar Ilmu Pengetahuan (2000)*, general knowledge dictionary, interest is an inclination of heart which is owned by someone for special activity, object, or experience.

According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2006)*, interest is a state of curiosity or concern about or attention to something, like an interest in English or something such as a quality, subject, or activity that evokes this mental state.

Interest can become cause for an activity. Therefore, Interest in learning language is inclination of heart in learning to get information, knowledge, and skill through effort, teaching, or experience (I., *Hanik, 2010*).

In the other words, interest is a strong desire which is owned by someone to learn or know about something which is liked.

Although there are some people not having aptitude in English, they still want to learn because they have interest in that language so that they will look for opportunity in learning English.

Interest also has big influence in learning English. The learners who have interest in the language will learn it seriously like learning very hard, following all of the English subjects happily, finding ease in doing grammatical exercise, and memorizing easily vocabulary attracting their interest (*I., Hanik, 2010*).

Therefore, interest is related to motivation. Motivation is the learner's pushing that wants to do something. In learning English, motivation comes because it is necessary. In the other words, motivation is an instrument in context of learning. Generally, motivation is based on objective which will be achieved. If that objective is clear and interesting, the learners will have a strong motivation to learn it. For instance, someone who has interest in English and want to use English fluently and well, will be motivated to spend hours drilling (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 21*).

The process of learning English will run fluently if there is an interest. So the lecturer needs to arouse their interest in order

that all of the subjects which are given will be easy to be comprehended by the learners (*I., Hanik, 2010*).

On the other hand, if there are the people who are not interested in English, they will refuse to learn that language, moreover they will do refusal to the lecturers (*I., Hanik, 2010*).

Based on the website, the meaning of interest in learning English is as follows:

- Giving the attention immediately.
- Facilitating the learners in creating concentration.
- Preventing annoyance from outside.
- Making the learners easy to receive all of the English subjects.
- Reducing boredom in learning English.

Interest can be expressed through a statement and activity which show that the learners prefer choosing the subject which is liked by them. Usually, they can give all of their attention for their interest (*I., Hanik, 2010*).

Interest is different from aptitude. Interest is not brought since someone was born, rather it is gotten then. Interest is also the condition which is formed after it is influenced by environment. Interest in learning English develops after seeing from their experience which has brought progress. They will have interest in and motivate to learn it. It is caused by the language which is being learned. They regard that English can influence their life, achieve

their objective in learning English, and satisfy their necessity (I., Hanik, 2010).

Meanwhile, interest in learning English also can be developed by the learners because they have strong desire to use English well and fluently, get a good job in the foreign company, and so on. Thus, interest in learning English should be connected by high motivation (I., Hanik, 2010).

Based on the website, there are five important motives which can motivate the learners to have an interest in learning English, They are:

1. A purpose to get high score in all English subjects.
2. A motivation to satisfy curiosity in learning English.
3. A desire to develop ability in English.
4. A strong desire to receive praise from the parents, lecturers, and friends.
5. A plan in the future to get a good result in learning English and succeed in using English.

Therefore, there are the steps to develop an interest in learning English, such as:

- Make clear learning objectives which want to be achieved.
- Plan learning activity and follow that plan.
- Get ease after finishing learning schedule.
- Have positive aptitude in facing learning activity.

- Drill freedom of someone's emotion during learning English.

## 2.3 Opportunity

In learning English, the learners need not only aptitude and interest, but also opportunity to achieve a good result. Therefore, to know opportunity, the writer is going to give the explanations of *opportunity*.

### 2.3.1 Definitions of Opportunity

*Elsjelyn (2008)* said that opportunity is favorable time or chance to do something which is wanted by the learners. It includes all of the best learning activity in not only a class but also another resource. In this factor, the learners practice actively in using English.

Based on *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (2008)*, Indonesian dictionary, opportunity means time and extent to get something which is wanted by the learners.

Based on *Kamus Besar Ilmu Pengetahuan Umum (2000)*, general knowledge dictionary, opportunity is occasion which means event. Thus, opportunity is the condition which provides

Besides that, opportunity is also a favorable or advantageous circumstance or combination of circumstances, a favorable or suitable occasion or time, chance for progress or

advancement (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 2006*).

So, opportunity can be concluded as a condition which is used by the learners to get much proper information everywhere as the facility so that they can know what they want in learning English.

Remembering the final objective of learning English is using English to communicate, in the other words, practicing is an absolute opportunity which is created by not only the teachers but also the learners (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 23*).

### **2.3.2 Proper Base Ways Should Be Given for Language Learners in Using Opportunity of Learning English**

There are many learning ways which can be given for the language learners by using opportunity in front of them. The learners can look for opportunity about English everywhere both home and school. In the school, they drill actively in not only books but also methods which are taught by the teacher. Meanwhile, at home, they always look for a lot of the opportunities to listen to English compact disk. Moreover, they do not be shy and afraid to speak English everyday. In their mind, they just think that English is not a difficult thing because they like that language (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 23*).



Besides that, the learners must not depend on books and methods which are gotten by the lecturer in the school or campus because there are the other ways to learn English which can be done by them selves through television, radio, book, magazine, newspaper, and someone's experience. It must be appropriate with their desire and style in learning English. There are the opportunities which are created by the learners (*Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 23*), such as:

- 1) Buy English newspaper and magazine. The learners can read and look for difficult words in text.
- 2) Listen to English news on radio and television. Then, make a summary of the news which is caught by them.
- 3) Visit an international hotel to ask the price of room there.
- 4) Read English novel the learners are interested in.
- 5) Watch international channels happily without text in Indonesian.
- 6) Write the letter and send emails in English.
- 7) Listen to language compact disks or songs in English to improve the accent.
- 8) Write the story in English everyday.
- 9) Visit to the places whose people are the foreign tourists. There, the learners can practice their speaking skill.
- 10) Seek the kinds of the texts to be translated by the learners.
- 11) Join to conversation or grammar club in campus

- 12) Play English games and have fun.
- 13) Come to international bank or express American office. There, the learners can try to fill a form to make visa card or credit card of American express.
- 14) Call up international airport and ask flight time to some place.



## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

Based on the discussion in chapter two, the writer is going to expose the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity of learning English which has been discussed in previous chapter.

As we know that the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity in English influences someone's success in learning the language. Therefore, in supporting the learner's goal of learning English, they should have three factors which are interrelated. They are aptitude, interest, and opportunity.

In other words, aptitude, interest, and opportunity have the role to each other. If you would like to know that my primary attention is to help the learners think about three correlations I have told before.

As we know that aptitude, the result of born gift which is difficult to be changed by someone, has to be formed and improved through drilling in other that the learners can achieve the language successfully in the future. Besides that, to perfect in learning English, aptitude which is owned by someone should be combined by having interest and opportunity. The correlation is needed by the learners to open the way in achieving the language (*Carrol (cited in Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 19-20)*). In the other words, someone who has aptitude in English should have at least one or two of the factors like a strong interest or a lot of the opportunities which will be gotten through not only formal but also informal sectors.

As we know that there are the cases which commonly happen around us about the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity of learning English. For instance, the first is about some people who have three correlations like aptitude, interest, and opportunity. By having all of three correlations, automatically they will be successful in learning English if the correlation among aptitude, interest, and opportunity balance with the way of they learn.

The second, although there are some people who have aptitude in English, it doesn't mean that they will automatically succeed in learning the language if they do not have a strong interest and opportunity. Therefore, they must be supported by environment at both home and school (*Munandar* (as cited in <http://episentrum.com/artikel-psikologi/keberbakatan/>)).

Besides that, there are some people who have aptitude and interest, but on the other hand, they have no opportunities in learning English. In this case, they must still have the ways to learn the language independently by looking for the other resources such as reading grammar books to understand and master all of the things about grammar, and listening to the English songs which can improve the vocabulary on the song.

In the other cases, some people learning English give up because they do not have a strong interest. Although there are a lot of the opportunities, they are not good enough in learning because they think that English is difficult to be learned. Therefore, the learners must have the motivations in learning English effectively. In this way, they will be quick to learn the language without having

difficulties (Elsjelyn, 2008, P. 25). The following is the motivations the learners should have.

a) Self-motivated in communication

One of the special keys which are owned by the successful learners in learning English is their strong motivation in communication. They can find opportunities to speak English they are learning.

Although they make a lot of the mistakes, they are not shy and afraid to speak as long as they possibly can. They also try to practice their new vocabularies they have just learned. The following is the mistake which is often said by the learners in daily conversation:

The wrong sentence: *“I want to conversation with you”*

The right sentence : *“I want to talk to you”*.

b) Self-motivated in drilling

This factor can be sought by the people who actively join a formal class and always take each opportunity to practice their English with their classmate.

Besides that, they also create an opportunity to practice in informal class, such as joining in a conversation club, reading English novels, and watching English movies.

c) Self-motivated in learning grammar

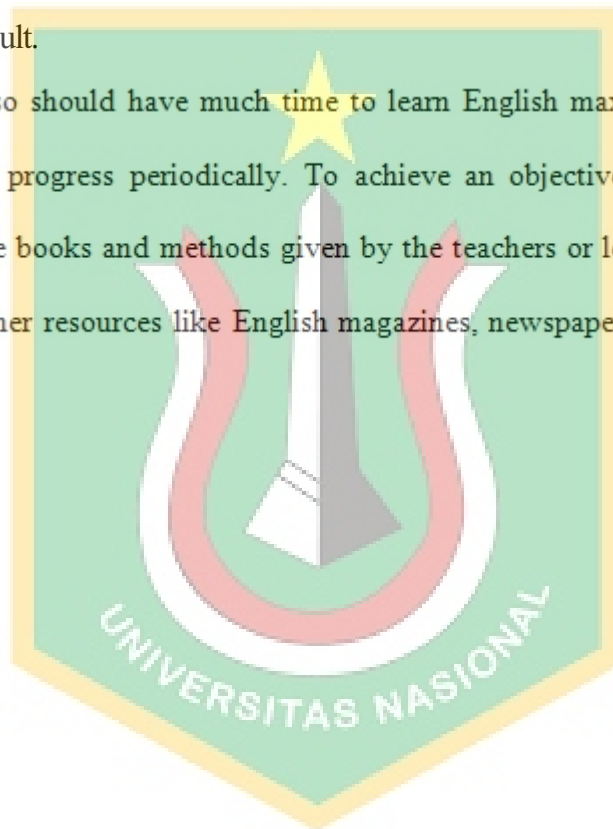
Besides practicing English, the successful learners also spend their time learning the rules of grammar.

They must take note of the patterns of sentences and learn how to arrange some words into right sentences.

d) Self-motivated in establishing a clear objective

The successful learners should know what objective they want to be established. They should learn very hard and have good discipline to get satisfying result.

They also should have much time to learn English maximally and take note of their progress periodically. To achieve an objective, they not only depend on the books and methods given by the teachers or lecturers, but also use wisely other resources like English magazines, newspapers, bulletins, and many more.



## CHAPTER IV

### 4.1 Conclusion

From the previous explanations, the writer comes a conclusion that the learners who want to be successful in learning English should have aptitude, interest and opportunity which are interrelated.

The first, aptitude is a natural skill someone has which must be developed in order that he or she can master it in the next day. In this way, his or her natural skill can be achieved successfully by doing some tests such as ability to know phonetic coding, master grammar, memorize vocabulary, and learn English inductively to know his or her aptitude.

The second, interest is strong desire which is owned by someone to learn and concern about something he or she likes. Someone who has an interest in English will learn and receive the language easily and fluently if he or she has a strong motivation.

The third, opportunity is a favourable time which is used by the learners to get much proper information as the facility to make them easy in learning. Generally, opportunity is found and created through not only the method which is given by the lecturer but also other resources.

The correlation I have explained previously will influence the process of learning the language so that they will be able to achieve the clear objective namely English language.

For example, there are some learners having aptitude, interest, and opportunity in learning English. In this way, process of learning English will be easier for the learners to go through.

Meanwhile there are some learners having high aptitude, but not having strong interest and opportunity so that it is impossible for them to master the language. In other cases, if some learners do not have a lot of opportunities, but they have aptitude and interest, an achievement in learning English will go slow. On the other hand, if they have opportunities but lack motivation and aptitude, they will find it difficult to receive English easily.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

In arranging the paper writing, the writer realizes that the paper writing is not perfect. There are still many flaws. Therefore, I am pleased to receive suggestion and criticism.

Meanwhile, I hope that the paper writing arranged will be useful for the readers, especially the students of English department of Nasional Academy of Foreign Language.



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## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Name : Agustina Setiawati  
Place and Date of Birth : Bogor, 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1989  
Sex : Female  
Marital Status : Single  
Nationality : Indonesian  
Religion : Moslem  
Address : Jl. Pabuaran-Cimanggis Rt 02/02 No. 8,  
Kecamatan Tanah Sareal, BOGOR 16168  
Telephone : 085711704474

### EDUCATION

1994-1996 : TK Darma Putra BOGOR  
1996-2001 : SD Islam Bina Insani BOGOR  
2001-2004 : SMPN 2 BOGOR  
2004-2007 : SMAN 8 BOGOR  
2007-2008 : LIA Institute of Language and Profesional Training BOGOR

Jakarta, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2011,

The writer

Agustina Setiawati