Identifying Student’s Interests Through Courses at English Department of Universitas Prima Indonesia

by Azizah Husda
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ABSTRACT
This study aims to analyze students’ interests in towards courses at the English Department of Universitas Prima Indonesia in Medan. This qualitative study uses a case study design involving 60 students in the 5th semester of the Academic Year 2018 as participants. Data are obtained through questionnaires and interviews, thus the results showed that students have higher interests in the courses of teaching and education than other variety of courses taught in the English Department. The second interest was found in language skill courses. The reasons were to determine their future goals as teachers as well as the major program decision. Students argued that the majors they chose were following their interests, but some students were still unsure about the majors and interests they had chosen. This study suggests that lecturers should motivate the students to strengthen their competences particularly to identify the students’ interests in teaching or any other goals.

KEYWORDS
Interests; Courses, English Department, Factors of Interests

INTRODUCTION
Research Background

Universitas Prima Indonesia, often referred to as UNPRI, is a private university with an essential role in producing prospective teachers, professionals, and people who contribute to education. Universitas Prima Indonesia is one of the students’ best choices in achieving their dreams in the future. Universitas Prima Indonesia has many majors that involve some interests to students. One of them is the Faculty of Teacher Training and English Education. This department is getting more and more popular year by year, seen from the increasing number of students in the Department of Teacher Training and English Education. Universitas Prima Indonesia has a significant role in facilitating students to speak English and teach English professionally. In this department, students are equipped with skills related to teaching. Not only that, but students are also facilitated with professional skills, namely literature and linguistics. Therefore, students are required to have the ability to listen, speak, read, and write in English.

English Department of UNPRI has a set of courses such as linguistics, literature, teaching and education, and language skills. As linguistics is a broader world of language (Georgiou, 2020), thus linguistics becomes the scientific investigation of language as a universal phenomenon and the analysis of individual languages. It aims to answer questions about the nature of language, its structure, and its relationship with the human mind and society. It is also defined as the scientific study of language; its design, use, and implications (structure and service). In linguistics there are some courses such as translation, phonology, semantic, morphology, pragmatic, and sociolinguistic. While, the second classification is literature that is a literary expression as something permanent in the words of some thoughts or feelings or ideas about life and the world. According to (Lumen Learning, 2015), literature is any
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