INVESTIGATING BOREDOM AND ANXIETY IN LEARNING ENGLISH FACED BY NON-ENGLISH MAJOR STUDENTS AT SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

A THESIS

by

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FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY 2024

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A Thesis

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This thesis was defended by the writer in final examination and was approved by examination committee on:

Day: Thursday

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DEDICATION

This thesis serves as a representation of my study resolve, devoted to myself, my family, and my network of support. I sincerely appreciate your unwavering support throughout my journey.

"I'm grateful to still be here in the past and future pages of my life, which I know will be filled with both happy and painful adventures. I'm hoping that the upcoming pages will be better ones that will help me grow stronger and appreciate all pages—new or old—even more. My former self will take great delight in the old page."

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Palembang, July 2024

Dwinanda Yulia Nur Halimah

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INVESTIGATING BOREDOM AND ANXIETY IN LEARNING ENGLISH FACED BY NON-ENGLISH MAJOR STUDENTS AT SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY ABSTRACT

Language is a means of communication, which is essential to human existence. Learning a language produces a range of feelings with both positive and negative implications. These feelings have a crucial role in the acquisition and success of second languages (L2). In many languages, boredom is described as a person-environment interaction between an unstimulating or restrictive circumstance and an individual's characteristic experience of constraint, restlessness, or lethargy. The sources of this feeling are foreign language classroom boredom, under-challenging task boredom, PowerPoint presentation boredom, homework boredom, teacher-dislike boredom, general learning trait boredom, and over-challenging or meaningless task boredom. Anxiety is a common human feeling that includes dread and doubt and that it typically arises when a person feels as though their self-worth is under jeopardy, and it prevents people from thinking normally. The sources of this feeling are communication apprehension, test anxiety, and fear of negative evaluation. The level of boredom and anxiety are low, moderate, and high. The present study aimed to know the sources of boredom and anxiety, the level of boredom and anxiety, and whether there was any significant correlation between was any significant correlation between boredom and anxiety in English language learning. The instruments used in this study were Foreign Language Learning Boredom: Conceptualization and Measurement, FLCAS, and the students' English students' score. The research findings indicated that; (a) the sources of boredom were PowerPoint presentation boredom and over-challenging or meaningless while the sources of anxiety were communication anxiety, test-anxiety, and fear of negative evaluation, (b) the level of boredom and anxiety mostly in moderate level, and (c) there were a significant correlation between Boredom and English language learning, and no correlation existed between Anxiety and English Language Learning.

Keywords: Boredom, Anxiety, English Language Learning.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides (1) the background of the study, (2) the problems of the study, (3) the objectives of the study, (4) the significance of the study.

1.1 The Background of The Study

Shao, et al (2019) claim that learning a language produces a range of feelings with both positive and negative implications. These feelings have a crucial role in the acquisition and success of second languages (L2). Language is a means of communication, which is essential to human existence. People must learn a language to improve their ability to communicate with one another because it is a means of interacting with others and exchanging ideas, opinions, and feelings through the use of words. English is particularly important since it is a universal language in the age of globalization (Riadil, 2020). Boredom is commonly defined as a state of restlessness due to lack of interest (Boredom, 2016, as cited in Lee & Zelman, 2019).

Most of the time, boredom among students is a fleeting emotion that varies in intensity based on how aroused the student is during a task. Thus, bored students can experience a wide range of emotions, from happy exhaustion (indifferent boredom) to a painful sense of helplessness combined with dissatisfaction (apathetic boredom) and an irrational desire to change the situation (calibrating boredom). They can also experience searching boredom, which is an effort to find something more interesting to do, or reactant boredom, which is an unpleasant attempt to place the blame elsewhere (teachers, materials, topics, etc.). According to studies (Daschmann, Goetz, & Stupinsky, 2011; LePera, 2011; Todman, 2013, as cited in Pawlak et al., 2020), boredom is linked to impulsivity, stress, risk-taking, impaired self-regulation, demotivation, reluctance to put up mental effort, and lower achievement (Preckel et al., 2010, as cited in (Pawlak et al., 2020a)).

In order for teachers and students to anticipate sources of boredom and anxiety in their classes and be better prepared to find creative and innovative ways to create fun in learning English and also improve students' English skills, it is necessary to investigate the problem of boredom and anxiety in order to reveal what makes students feel bored and anxious in teaching their English process.

The general causes of anxiety, according to (Albulescu et al., 2023), can be behavioural (lack of learning skills, avoiding and/or delaying work assignments, or efforts that need to be invested), affective (evaluation of one's own state: a state of tension, tense muscles, tremors), or cognitive (negative thoughts, global evaluations related to previous failures, and threats to the ego based on self-esteem).

Ajmal, et al (2019) asserts that anxiety is a common human feeling that includes dread and doubt and that it typically arises when a person feels as though their self-worth is under jeopardy. Depending on how long it lasts, anxiety can alternatively be a condition or a feature. Anxiety prevents people from thinking normally. Even though they have spent ten years studying English in structured junior high, high school, and university settings, many Indonesian students who learn the language still struggle to speak it fluently and effectively in everyday situations (Abadi, 2015). (Musthafa, 2001).

Writing is seen by many ESL (English as a second language) and EFL (English as a foreign language) writers as a difficult task due to its complicated nature, in addition to the writers' limited vocabulary and poor grammatical knowledge of the English language, according to Sabti, et al (2019). Compared to L1 writers, who can write quite easily because they have automatic and quick access to the nuances of the language, ESL and EFL writers may not have as much language at their disposal, which makes it difficult for them to write effectively in the foreign language (English).

Many people say they have a mental barrier when it comes to learning a foreign language, yet in other contexts, they might be excellent language learners. They frequently experience anxiety reactions that make it difficult for them to function well in foreign language classes; they could also find studying to be burdensome. When learning a foreign language, students may experience anxiety because of issues with communication anxiety (e.g., trouble comprehending what the teacher is teaching), negative assessment (e.g., fear of being corrected and fear of making mistakes), and general anxiety (e.g., fear of failing the class) (Horwtiz et al., 1986, as cited in Ali Khalaf Ali, 2017).

1.2 The Problems of The Study

The following questions are formed from the problems of this study in light of the background information provided by the research mentioned above:

- 1) What are the sources of boredom and anxiety?
- 2) What are the levels of anxiety and boredom of students?
- 3) Is there any correlation between boredom and anxiety in English language learning?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

The study's goals were to learn more based on the problems mentioned above:

- 1) To find out the sources of boredom and anxiety.
- 2) To find out the levels of boredom and anxiety.
- 3) To determine whether there is a correlation between boredom and anxiety in English language learning.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

It is intended that the findings of this study will be useful in informing and other researchers about boredom, students, instructors, anxiety, and the reasons behind these emotions that non-English students who are enrolled **ECFSAW** course held by UPT Bahasa Sriwijaya University potentially encounter. In order to help students, deal with boredom and anxiety when they arise, the author wishes for them to comprehend and identify the causes of these sensations. The author hopes that the findings of this study will help lecturers enhance their teaching methods in order to lessen the frequent feelings of anxiety and boredom experienced by non-English students enrolled in courses at the place of the course. Furthermore, it is anticipated that this study will serve as a helpful resource for future investigations into the reasons for boredom and anxiety.

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