

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

of the OBJECT of the STUDY

II.1 The First Grade Students of State Senior High Schools in Surabaya

The first grade students of state senior high schools are young persons who study in some state senior high schools, which are located in the city of Surabaya. They come from different areas with different family backgrounds, economic statuses, and so forth. However, since they are, now, the students of state senior high schools in Surabaya, then, the population here becomes homogenous. .

According to the curriculum of education of the year 1994, the first grade and the second grade

students are taught all kinds of subjects; natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics and language courses. Nevertheless, the third grade students specialize in certain subjects based on their choices of program and their scores of the subjects. Usually, there are three programs that students can choose; natural sciences, social sciences, and language. Thus, the first grade students who become the objects of the study in this research receive all kinds of subjects that are offered by education institute.

As students, they accept knowledge from their teachers and periodically the teachers want to know their progress by giving them examinations. In schools, there are two kinds of examinations; weekly quizzes and quarter examinations. The scores of the two are added to get the final scores of each student.

II.2 The Score of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and English

The score of natural sciences is the mean score which is obtained from summation of those of three

courses; physics, biology and chemistry. They are taken from the first quarter tests which are given by each state senior high school.

The courses like physics, biology and chemistry constitute studies that deal with students' analysis, although the courses contain certain materials, which should be memorized. However, the big portion of the objective of the study is to know their ability in analyzing, so the courses in natural sciences can be classified as analytic reasoning which resides in the left hemisphere of the human brain.

Although the course of mathematics contains conceptions, it can be said that it deals with arithmetic subject. The students are demanded to have abilities in computing numbers such as summation, multiplication, and so forth.

The score of mathematics is the score which is obtained from a mathematics score in the first quarter test, which is given by each state senior high school. Mathematics which is taught in senior high schools is divided into three big parts namely algebra, geometry and trigonometry. So, in the quarter test, the problems

that the students must work on receive the same portion of each these parts.

The score of English is the score which is obtained from the English score of the first quarter test. In some senior high schools, students also get English course for extracurricular activity. In this case, the score that will be used is the score of English as an intracurricular activity stated in the national curriculum of senior high school.

Although the students may receive some language lessons, such as Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian), and Bahasa Daerah (Javanese), however, the English language is chosen since this subject is considered as a very important foreign language.

BAB III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA