English Medium Instruction In Higher Education: Challenges From Student Perspectives

Liliani
Ciputra University, UC Town, CitraLand, Surabaya 60219, Indonesia (liliani@ciputra.ac.id)

ABSTRACT

Globalization creates great impact on education throughout the world. The global interconnections in politics, economy, socio-cultures, science and many other aspects in life bring challenges in education. Higher education in Indonesia should meet the challenges to keep up with the urge of globalization, rapid science development and academic internationalization. The use of English Medium Instruction (EMI) in higher education in Indonesia, one of the Non-English speaking countries, has become one of the efforts to improve the quality of learning as well as proficiency in using English. This research aims to study the implementation of EMI in higher education from the perspective of students. The analysis focused on challenges and benefits experienced by students during their study. This research used qualitative approach based on case study in Ciputra University Business Management International study program that uses EMI in all subjects. Data was collected from in-depth interview with active students who had been studying more than one year to obtain detailed description of their experiences. The result indicates that students experience difficulties and challenges during their studies as well as benefits that increase their quality of study and competitiveness in the future International business or job market.

Keywords: English Medium Instruction, Higher Education, Non-English Speaking, Student challenges

Introduction

Globalization has created global interconnections in almost all aspects in live, such as politics, economy, socio-cultures, science and many others. The impact of globalization on education throughout the world is inevitable. The rapid science development and academic internationalization generated from globalization has become a challenge for higher education. In Indonesia, one of the Non-English speaking countries, the use of English Medium Instruction (EMI) in higher education has become one of the efforts to improve the quality of learning as well as proficiency in using English. Other reasons of using EMI in higher education are the need to attract international students and expansion of co-operation with foreign universities (Hellekjær, 2010). Furthermore, many students are now looking for excellent quality in education and hoping that they will be able to pursue career in the local or international job market as well as compete in business after they graduate. They choose higher education that use EMI as they expect not only to be better educated persons, but also to earn better paid jobs, (Coleman, 2006). This condition...