

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Apprenticeship

State Polytechnic of Bengkalis is the only state polytechnic under the Ministry of Education in Riau Province. Since it was established in 2000, it now has eight departments in State Polytechnic Bengkalis including: Naval Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Business Administration, Information Technology, Maritime, and Language. Also, State Polytechnic of Bengkalis now has 16 study programs including Diploma III and IV.

As graduation requirements, apprenticeship and final project are two indicators that should be finished by students of State Polytechnic of Bengkalis. In State Polytechnic of Bengkalis, apprenticeship is obliged for all students. There are some places where the student could have the apprenticeship such as Institution, Office, Bank, Official, and others. Apprenticeship should be done by the fifth semester for Diploma III students and seventh semester for Diploma IV students.

Diploma III of English is one of study programs in Language Department. The Students of English Study Program are prepared to have competencies. First of all, the Students of English Study Program should be able to communicate in English (oral and written). Second is able to manage, operate, and keep documents and office equipments. Also, the students of English Study Program should be able to master the public speaking, write and reply business letters, and good at public relations. The last is able to do export and import documents. Apprenticeship program helps students to apply and fulfill the competencies. For this reason, the writer chose to do the apprenticeship and student exchange in Thaksina Business Technological College (TSN) in Thailand through the program of Southeast Asian Student Internship Exchange that provided by SEAMEO (The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization).

12 Purpose of the Apprenticeship

The purposes of the apprenticeship done at Thaksina Business Technological College (TSN) were:

1. To follow all the SEAMEO Programs which focused on the following three activities including Courses/ Class Activities, Cultural Activities, and Tourism Activities.
2. To acquire useful experiences from other college in other country especially related to academic, English and Business.

13 Significance of the Apprenticeship

1.3.1 Significance for the Apprentice

- a) The apprenticeship program has given a chance for the apprentice to implement the knowledge they already learned in campus to a real practice especially related to English and Business.
- b) The apprentice acquired new experiences especially related to learning system, student life, tourism and culture of Thailand.

1.3.2 Significance for State Polytechnic of Bengkalis

Apprenticeship helps State Polytechnic of Bengkalis:

- a) To prepare and generate skillful students that are ready to work field once they finish their study.
- b) To help State Polytechnic of Bengkalis applying and arranging its curriculum.
- c) To help State Polytechnic of Bengkalis to get link and match as a medium to increase the relevance of curriculum with the work field.

1.3.3 Significance for the Company

Apprenticeship or SMEO Program gives Thaksina Business Technological College a chance to help and improve students' skills and knowledge and also to increase their international relationship with other institution from around the world.

