

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the results of the research conducted through questionnaires and interviews with students from the English Education Program at Universitas Kristen Artha Wacana Kupang, it can be concluded that the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum has a positive impact on students' learning experiences. Students feel more engaged in learning, with more opportunities to actively participate in class, and they are more motivated to learn. This is reflected in the results of the questionnaire, where more than half of the respondents (50%) stated that they have more opportunities to be active in learning compared to the previous curriculum. Additionally, 53% of students feel that the Merdeka Curriculum enhances their creativity in the learning process.

Regarding the Student-Centered Learning (SCL) approach, the majority of students reported benefits from this approach, feeling freer to express their opinions, more engaged in discussions, and more valued when their opinions are heard by the instructors. SCL also proved to facilitate the development of important skills such as problem-solving and collaboration. However, despite feeling more empowered and motivated by the freedom to learn, students also face challenges in the form of increased personal responsibility in managing time and independent learning tasks.

Overall, the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum and SCL in the English Education Program at Universitas Kristen Artha Wacana Kupang has successfully created a more dynamic learning environment that aligns with students' skill development needs, both in academic contexts and the workplace. However, some challenges related to personal responsibility and the need for further support for students in dealing with more independent learning have also been identified.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings obtained in this study, several recommendations can be made to improve the effectiveness of the Merdeka Curriculum and Student-Centered Learning implementation in the future:

1. Increased Support for Students

Although students feel more independent and motivated with the freedom to choose courses and learning methods, they also face challenges related to time management and greater responsibility. Therefore, it is recommended to provide more support in the form of academic guidance and time management, either through academic advisors or the use of technological platforms to help students organize their study schedules.

2. Training for Instructors

To ensure more effective teaching within the context of the Merdeka Curriculum and SCL, instructors need further training on implementing

student-centered teaching techniques. Teaching that is more flexible and based on students' needs and interests requires a more interactive and adaptive approach, so instructors should be encouraged to develop skills in facilitating more personalized learning processes.

3. Ongoing Evaluation of the Merdeka Curriculum

Although most students have given positive feedback about the Merdeka Curriculum, it is important to continue conducting ongoing evaluations of its effectiveness. Further research is needed to assess the long-term impact of the freedom to choose courses and the level of student involvement in learning. The results of these evaluations can be used to make improvements or adjustments to the curriculum policies to better meet the needs of students and the evolving educational landscape.

4. Flexibility in Learning

The Merdeka Curriculum emphasizes the importance of student freedom in choosing fields of study and learning approaches that align with their interests. Therefore, it is recommended to increase flexibility in the curriculum structure, offering more course options, as well as creating space for practical skill development through project-based activities or internships that are relevant to the job market.

5. Attention to Academic Load Balance

Students have stated that although they feel more empowered, the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum sometimes adds additional burdens that may lead to stress. Therefore, more attention needs to be

paid to balancing the academic load so that students do not feel overwhelmed by ensuring that assignments and responsibilities are reasonable and align with students' capabilities.

5.3 Conclusion

Overall, the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum and Student-Centered Learning at Universitas Kristen Artha Wacana Kupang has had a positive impact on students' learning experiences. Although there are still challenges related to students' time management and personal responsibility, the results of this study indicate that both approaches have been successful in increasing motivation, creativity, and student engagement in learning. Therefore, with the recommended improvements, it is hoped that the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum and SCL can be optimized and make a significant contribution to the development of the quality of education in Indonesia.