

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Today English is an important language in our life. In Indonesia, English is one of the curriculum subjects in schools. It is a local subject in elementary schools, junior high schools, senior high schools and subjects in higher education institutions. It is hoped that Indonesian students can master English through their education.

In learning English, there are four basic skills that students should master; there are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is one of the most important skills that must be mastered by students in learning foreign language. Chaney and Burkey (1998: 13) define speaking as the process building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbol in a variety of contexts. In addition, Richard stated that "speaking is one of the central elements of communication in EFL (English as a Foreign Language), it is an aspect that requires special attention and teaching". According to Tarigan (1985), speaking is a skill of conveying words or sounds of articulation to express or to deliver ideas, opinions, and feelings.

In general, speaking is one way of communicating. Speaking is one of important aspects in human life process and also a crucial part of second

language in learning and teaching. Besides speaking, it is a process between two or more people to send and receive messages or information orally to talk and express their ideas, feelings and emotions to other people.

The student's problems in learning English are; students lack of vocabularies, seldom to practice in speaking and difficulty in pronunciation. The students need a confidence to speak in front of the class, but some of students had an anxiety when speak in classroom. One of the emotional states that make such process become difficult is anxiety. Anxiety can be divided such as feeling of tension, worry, and anxiety will impede students' ability to perform successfully in a foreign language classroom, for example when the teacher asks students to practice in front of the class. Some of them thought that if they make mistake, their classmate will laugh at them. So they preferred to be quite. That condition leads the students to feel anxious in classroom and it may influence their speaking ability.

Since anxiety can have main effects in English foreign language, it is important to know the students' anxiety. Therefore, the researcher want to investigate what the factors felt by students, may contribute to the anxiety in trying to understand the problems of anxiety in English Foreign Language more deeply. The researcher will use the subject of second semester students because they are new to learning English and still feel anxious when speaking English.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background above, the research questions are formulated as:

1. In what level is students' anxiety in speaking English?
2. What are the factors influencing students' anxiety in speaking English?

C. Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to find out the level of students' speaking anxiety in English and to analyze the factors that contribute to students' anxiety in speaking English.

D. Research Terminology

There are two variables that are operated in this research. Definition of the variables are clarified as follows:

a. Speaking

Generally, speaking can be defined as the act of express idea orally. Burns and Joyce (1997, in Torkey in 2006) clarified that speaking is constructing meaning, such as producing, receiving, and processing information interactively. In addition, Bygate (1998) argued that speaking is an interactional skill which order speaker to create decision about communication.

As argued by Harmer (2007, p. 284), speaking is how to deliver the expressive communication involving knowledge of language feature and a way to get information and language.

b. Anxiety

As we know before, the anxiety is defined as the feeling of fear, worries and nervousness in facing a certain condition. Some experts explained the definition of anxiety. As state by Jeffrey S Nevid (2003), Anxiety is a state of apprehension or a state of worry that complains about that something bad is about to happen. In this research, the researcher will focus in the level of anxiety in speaking English and the factors that cause of speaking anxiety in English at the Second Semester in English Education Department, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

E. The Uses of the Research

The significances of this research:

1. As source of information for further research on analysis of students' speaking anxiety in English.
2. As a source of information for further research in speaking anxiety.
3. For the students, the researcher hope that student are more motivated to practice their speaking in English.
4. For the lecturer/teacher, the researcher hope that the teacher can know and understand what the student's anxiety in speaking and then the lecturer/teacher can improve their confident in teaching process so that the goal of the learning can be achieved.