CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In learning English, there were four skills that must be mastered by students. Those are reading, listening, writing and speaking. Based on those skill, speaking becomes an essential skill in learning language because language is a tool of communication and the most effective communication is by speaking. Speaking is an ability to express and deliver our idea, suggestion, think and feeling in form of sound, articulation (Tarigan, 1987:15). By speaking one could deliver something and got respond or answer. To mastered speaking ability, students should practice everyday. Everyone knows that speaking is very important for human being life.

Students should be able to speak English so that they could communicate with each other. Besides that, they also could deliver their ideas. In this case, teacher also gave a various media and techniques when the teacher taught in class so that the students be more active and enjoy to join the class.

In fact, English teacher found some problems in teaching learning process especially in speaking class. The problem also happened at grade VIIIIB students of SMP Muhammadiyah Pangkah. Based on pre-observation and pre-interview, the students have low score in speaking because the students felt difficulty to speak. They lacked vocabulary, they did not have
self-confidence so that they just keep silent. In addition, teacher gave material without media or techniques that make the students interest the material.

To solve the problems, it could be media to improve their speaking ability. Media is useful for teaching learning process. One of media of teaching that is often used in teaching learning process is picture.

Picture series is a number of pictures, which are interrelated each other (Noer, 2001). According to Hamalik (1982:85) picture can be used to teach, it can motivate and take attention of the students. Through picture series, students may enjoy learning speaking. It can encourage the students to speak because picture series can stimulate ideas for them. Picture series also helps the students to enrich their vocabulary. Kosasih, (2000:46) stated that picture series have the following functions: motivate students in learning speaking, inform students to arrange the plot of story, and facilitate students to expand the story.

The previous research was conducted by Aprilia (2009:51) which as entitled “Improving Students’ Interest in Reading Narrative Text Using Picture Series”. The result proved that picture series as the teaching aid can improve the students’ interest in reading narrative text. Sulistiana (2007:77) in her research “Improving Students’ Writing Competence Using Picture Series as The Media” found that picture series were effective to teach writing.

From the explanation above, to solve problems would be a classroom action research at VIII B Students of SMP Muhammadiyah Pangkah in
academic year 2012/2013 which entitled “Improving Students’ Speaking Ability Through Picture Series”.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Here were the several reasons of choosing the topic:

1. Speaking is an important skill to communicate with others.
2. Many students felt hard to learn speaking English. They still find difficulties to practice speaking because they lacked vocabulary and they have not self-confidence so that they just keep silent. In addition, teacher gave material without media or techniques that make the students interested in the material.
3. Picture series is one of media that can stimulate the student’s interest especially in speaking activity.

C. The Problem of the Research

The problem of this research was follow: “Can picture series improve the students’ speaking ability of SMP Muhammadiyah Pangkah in the Academic Year 2012/2013?”

D. The Aim of the Research

The aim of this research to know whether picture series can improve students’ speaking ability to the students’ of SMP Muhammadiyah Pangkah in academic year 2012/2013 or not.
E. Clarification of Terms

Below are some main definitions of the terms in this research:

1. Speaking Ability

Speaking ability can be described as the ability to use in essentially normal communication, stress, intonation, grammatical structure and vocabulary of the foreign language at normal rate delivery for native speakers of the language (Lado, 1961:239-240).

2. Picture Series

Picture series is a kind of picture. Picture series is a number of pictures which are interrelated each other (Noer:2001).

The function of picture series in teaching learning process is to stimulate interest. It means that picture series is used to attract student’s attention.

3. Recount Text

Recount text is to retell past event in the past through a sequence of events for the purpose of informing or entertaining.

F. Contribution of the Research

This research could have a good contribution in improving students’ speaking ability. Below are some contributions of this research:

1. Teacher

This research could apply picture series as medium by the teacher in a speaking class.
2. Other Researchers

It was hoped that the result of the study could be used as reference for other researchers.

3. Institution

This research would be useful for the institution to know the students’ need about media and give the change to the teacher to improve their knowledge.