

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

Language is a means of communication that is very useful in a daily life. It is used as a medium of communication or expressing ideas, opinions, thoughts, and feelings. There are so many languages all over the world, one of them is English language. English is an international language, which grows rapidly nowadays because of the globalization effect on the information era.

Nowadays, English becomes the most widely used language by people in the world in both oral and written communication. As the most used language, English has a great role in uniting people worldwide for many purposes such as in communication in international seminar, conversation, diplomatic relations, English courses, phone conversations, public interview, newspaper, TV shows and others. Based on that fact, it is very important for people, especially Indonesian to master English skill.

In learning English, we usually deal with four basic skills and three components. The four basic skills are reading, listening, writing, and speaking, whereas the three components are phonology (pronunciation), grammar, and vocabulary. The four basic skills in English can be classified

into two kinds. The first is productive skill, there are writing and speaking because writing and speaking can produce something like writing text and conversation. Then the second is receptive skill, there are reading and listening. They are called receptive skills because they do not produce anything but only receive sound or writing text. Of course, those skills have to be mastered well in learning English.

According to Nunan (1991: 39), speaking is the most important aspect of learning second foreign language and success in measuring in term of the ability to carry out a conversation in the language. Therefore, speaking becomes an essential skill in language learning because language is a tool of communication and the most effective communication is through speaking.

Nowadays, English speaking skill is taught and learned in every school whether it is in Elementary, Junior, Senior or Vocational High School. The students should master English speaking skill in daily conversation because conversation is a foundation to communicate with foreigners.

In Vocational High School, a lot of students felt difficult in learning English, especially in speaking. They still found difficulties to practice and produce a conversation. It was supported by the writer's experience in teaching English lesson in one of Public Vocational High Schools in Purwokerto which was done before the research begins. The writer could understand why the students could not practice speaking well. The reasons

why they couldn't speak English well are because they have low competence to speak up in front of people, and they always think how to make a good dialogue with correct grammar, appropriate vocabulary, and of course with a good pronunciation. Moreover, based on the interview result with some students in one of Public Vocational High Schools in Purwokerto showed that almost all of the students in the eleventh grade in that school felt difficult to speak up in English and they felt afraid firstly of making any mistake before trying to speak up in English.

In term of learning, facing some difficulties or making any mistakes is common. The most important thing is how the students deal with such problem. There are many kinds of strategies that the students might use to make their speaking more fluent, for example by doing practice with their friends, listening to English songs, watching English movies, and others. Despite all the strategies, the most important one is the strategy which comes from themselves. It is possible for students to use their interlanguage in delivering message and making people more understand what they are talking about.

Based on that fact, the students should have bravery and strategies to deal with their problem in speaking. In this research, the writer will observe the kinds of difficulties which are encountered by the students and types of strategies they employ to solve their speaking difficulties. Since the most important thing in solving problem is by knowing the problem and finding

the solution, this research is not only aimed at observing the students' speaking difficulties, but also reveal their strategies in solving speaking English difficulties.

For these reasons, the writer is interested in making a Descriptive Study on students speaking strategy entitled “Students’ Speaking Problems and Their Strategies at the Second Grade of a Public Vocational High School in Purwokerto.”

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

This research was conducted based on some reasons:

1. Speaking is one of the important skills in English that have to be mastered by the students.
2. In the reality, most of the students had some problem in speaking class; the students seldom practice speaking in the class, the students often make mistakes in their pronunciation, and the student’s lack of vocabulary.
3. Find out the student’s problem in speaking, thus a strategy is very needed to overcome their problem in speaking.

C. Research Questions

This research is a descriptive study which is aimed at investigating the students' strategies in coping with their speaking problem. In line with the purpose of the study, this research was attempted to address the following questions:

1. What are the student's problems in speaking?
2. What are the student's strategies in coping with speaking problem?

D. The Scope of the study

As it has been mentioned before, the study is meant to find out the student's problem in speaking and their strategies in coping with their speaking problem.

E. The Purpose of The Study

This research explores the students' strategies in coping with speaking problem at the First Grade of Vocational High School 1 Purwokerto. Moreover, it is aimed at:

1. Finding out the students' problem in speaking.
2. Revealing the students' strategies in coping with their speaking problem.

F. The Significance of the Study

This study is significant in several areas. First, the teacher will know the students' problem in speaking. Second, the teacher will know the students' strategies in coping with their speaking problem. Third, it will help the teacher in delivering speaking material easily because after this research conduct the teacher will know what are the students' problems in speaking and what are their strategies in coping with speaking problems so it will help the teacher to guide the students in speaking class.

G. Clarification of Term

In order to make the term more clearly, the writer presents the meaning of the term which are used in the topic:

1. Student

★ Student is a learner, or someone who attends an educational institution.

2. Speaking

Speaking is an ability to say or produce words and sound articulation to express feeling, thought and idea (Tarigan, 2008 : 16)

3. Strategy

Strategies can be classified as conscious mental activity. They must contain not only an action but a goal (or an intention) and a learning situation (Cohen, 2005:4).

4. Problem

Problem means something that causes difficulty or confusion.

H. Contribution of the Study

The writer hopes that this thesis will be useful for teaching and learning of English, especially in learning speaking. The result of this research is expected to be useful for:

1. Teacher

This research is expected to give him/her information about students' problems in speaking class and students' strategies in coping with their speaking problems, therefore the teacher will know how to guide the students to overcome their problems in learning speaking.

2. Students

They are expected to be able to practice their ability in using English in daily communication especially in school area.

3. Reader

They will know what is the most problem that students faced in learning English, especially in speaking class. Then, the reader will know what strategies that can improve students speaking skill.