

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English is spoken by many people although it is not their first language. In other words, English is a language widely used for international communication. This is mainly because of the economic and cultural influence of the United States (Harmer, 2004). Therefore, many people start to learn English as a second or foreign language at a very early age.

Learning English language is not an easy thing. Learning English is a cognitively challenging task for anyone because one has to keep learning, especially when it comes to learn speaking as a very important aspect of English language. When it comes to learn speaking, many English learner in Indonesia will face difficulties, such as, ability to master sentence structure/grammar, know the differences in pronunciation, able to listen to the spoken word by other, and understand the meaning of vocabulary.

Apart from the obvious differences and difficulties during learning English stated above, English learner in Indonesia also face with the fact that because English is a foreign language, the chance to meet people and talk in English is quite small, limiting the chance to practice speaking in real world.

Limited chance to practice English in real world is a challenge for everyone that have role in education, including English teacher in senior high school. One strategy that employed by teacher in order to teach speaking is by using active learning strategy. Active learning is a dynamic type of learning where students intensely interact with each other, education materials and teachers (Demirci, 2017). In the real word of teaching, active learning strategy can be done by using several activities, one of them is role-play.

Golwitzer (2018) stated the definition of role play:

“Role playing is an active pedagogical approach where students engage in relevant scenarios in order to gain cognitive, affective, and/or behavioral understanding. They may “act out” imaginary characters or, in some instances, play themselves. Additionally, scenarios may be contemporary or historical.”

With the fact that role play can be done by doing some kind of activity in relevant scenario, it means that role play can be used to teach/ train the students about speaking. With the fact that speaking is not an easy skill to be mastered, role play must facilitate a positive learning activity, a learning activity that (but not limited to) enjoyable, relaxed, exciting and make the students have bigger motivation to learn speaking more. To know whether role play can draw positive perception among students during speaking class, a research must be conducted. That is why, in this research, the researcher wants to study about the student’s perception toward role play in speaking class. By knowing the students’ perception toward role play, this research can unveil what the students

actually think about the role play, whether or not students think that role play can create a good learning activity to learn speaking, and also can be a good resource for any teacher to know whether or not students have any input in order to make the role play implementation in the class become better.

B. Reason for Choosing the topic

There are some reason why the researcher choose students' perception toward role play in teaching speaking, those are:

1. speaking is one of the most important skill in English language,
2. role play is a learning activity that can be used to practice speaking in the class, and
3. knowing students' perception toward role play can be very valuable information to every teacher to know whether they should conduct role play during speaking class. If role play has positive perception among student, teacher can employ it more often than before to make the speaking class more enjoyable. If role play draw negative perception, teacher can simply try to not use it in speaking class.

C. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of study, the research problem of this study is formulated as the following: “what is the students perception towards role play in speaking class?”

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of this research it to know the students' perception towards role play in speaking class.

E. Contribution of the Research

This research's result will surely have some contribution especially for English teacher that can use the result of this research as reference and self-reflection to improve learning activity in speaking class.

