

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is the most widely used foreign language on the internet (80%) and for book publication with over 60 countries publish titles in English. Graddol (2000:86) stated that books, magazines, and newspapers written in English are available in many countries around the world. In addition, as stated by Crystal (2000: 86) the importance of English is without doubt very prominent to professional industry as the language continues to grow.

English Learning is delivered by giving four skills and two main aspects. They are speaking listening, writing, reading, grammar, and vocabulary. One of the most important skill is speaking. Many teachers from elementary level until lecture in University give those skills and aspects for their students comprehend English. The government hopes that the students have ability to communicate with foreign people.

Today, speaking can be a challenging task for many students because it needs interactions. The other four skills can be practiced alone, but for speaking, the students cannot really speak alone. That is why students should make every effort possible to find somebody to speak.

According to Mueen in Al-Roud (2016), there are several factors which affect students' performance in speaking English fluently; such as, lack of adequate and appropriate vocabulary, shyness, nervous, fearful to speak,

and lack of confidence. Harry in Al-Roud (2016) stated that “anxiety and depression are just two effective factors that contribute to learning difficulties. The impact of persistent failure can adversely affect a pupil’s self-esteem, confidence, perceived self-efficacy, attitude and motivation. When confronted by certain tasks, pupils may develop anxious feelings, fearing they will fail.”

Through speaking, students could improve their critical thinking and improving communication skills. Othman (2013:1507) stated that speaking encourages students to learn course content better, since they are engaged in the course content actively, broadly, deeply and personally. It also trains them to assess the data they get on a daily basis. In addition, it provides a valuable opportunity to develop learners’ speaking ability.

The researcher found some problems at students of English Department. There were some students who were still difficult to overcome their speaking skill especially when they in Professional Communication class. Most of the students are still making some errors in spoken language because of some reasons. For example; they do not pay attention carefully to their lecturer’s explanation.

From the description above, it can be seen how important Speaking skill in English class especially in Professional Communication. Teaching learning process will be success when the communication between lecturer and students are running well. Unfortunately, not all students were able to speak in English well, especially in Professional Communication class. Many students assumed that Professional Communication or Speaking class is one

of the main obstacles to implement effective learning. They feel that many of the difficulties and problem arise when learning in Professional Communication class. Problems that arise could be either physical or psychological.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher was interested in investigating about a study of students with low achievement in Professional Communication problem. The researcher presumed that there were some reasons or something happened while they study in English speaking class. The writer also tried to figure out some factors based on their problems why they could get low achievement in English Professional Communication class. Therefore, the researcher wanted to know “ A Study on Students’ Problem With Low Achievment in Speaking at fourth semester of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto”

B. Reason for Choosing Topic

This research was conduct based on some reasons, they are:

1. Speaking is one of the most important skills in learning English
2. Speaking is one of the crucial aspects in learning English for active communication between the lecturer and students to maintain efficiency and effectiveness of learning porocess.

C. Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, it was attempted to address the following questions:

1. What are the problems of students with low achievement in speaking?
2. What is the most dominant problem faced by the students with low achievement in their speaking?

D. Aims of the Research

The aims of this research were :

1. To find out the problems of the students with low speaking achievement
2. To know the most dominant problem in speaking skill

E. Limitation of the Research

The limitation of this research is the research only focus on the English Education Department's students at the fourth semester especially to the students who have low achievement.

F. Contribution of the Research

This study was expected to become an input that is useful for lecturers to know what are the students' problem in speaking class. The researcher hopes that this research can give contribution for:

1. Lecturers

Through this research, it would be found the students' problems why they are having difficulties in English speaking class, and this research can give solution to the lecturers for knowing students' problem and teach the students by good strategies.

2. Readers

The readers get deep knowledge and information about case study of students' problem in Professional Communication class and this research can be used as reference or guidance to conduct other research.

3. Researcher

The result of this study will be input for the researcher to develop the teaching strategy in speaking class as the way to relieve students' problem. The researcher will also get scientific data of an English teacher's strategies. This research will be able to formulate new plans based on the findings.

G. Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of this research, the researcher clarifies the essential terms of the research classified.

The term are clarified as follow:

1. Professional Communication of Speaking

Speaking skill as the second or foreign language is a challenge for the learners, because to speak a foreign language such as English requires more than knowing grammar but also the use of English in a real context.

2. Problems in Speaking Performance

Speaking problems are some problems that make someone lacks of speaking ability. According to Doris and Jessica (2007), language problems actually serve as one of the important reasons behind poor academic performance. These problems may become the obstacles for the students to enhance and improve their speaking ability. The reasons why the students have problems in their speaking are they are poor in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

3. Factors Which Influence Students' Speaking

According to Slameto (1995: 54-71), the factors that influence students' speaking competency can be classified into two groups, namely external factor and internal factor.