

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a thing that human need for communicating and it is very useful in a daily life. It is used a medium of communication or expressing ideas, opinions, thoughts, and feelings. According to (Hornby, 1995:662 as cited in Falah, 2015: 1) language is the system of sounds and words used by human to express their idea and feeling. In the world, there are so many languages and one of them is English. English is an international language which grows rapidly nowadays because of the globalization effect on the information era.

In English education, there are four language skills that the students need to master. Speaking is one of the skills. 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. Moreover, Ricard (2008:19) explains that mastery of speaking skill in English is a priority for many second-language or foreign language learners among the three others. This affects the students in which they often evaluate their success in language learning as well as the effectiveness of their English course on the basis of how much they feel they have improved in their spoken language proficiency. Spoken language proficiency can be developed by enhancing various speaking activities both in and out of the class.

Speaking activity has an influence to help students in mastering speaking ability. It is supported by Widiati & Cahyono (2006:279) who define that speaking activity is one of the factors in developing students' speaking performance. Furthermore, Citranngtyas (2005) states that by assigning speaking activities which promote students' critical and creative thinking skill can make the situation of speaking class become more alive.

English Education Department requires students to be good at using English. This is because they are expected to be English teachers who have to master English as a subject master and that as the means of class instruction. It is why students should be able to speak English well. Students will be able to master the language if they practice it (Tarigan, 1981:1). The obligation to use a foreign language is not only intended to make the students able to speak the language, but also to improve their performance in academic subjects.

Based on the explanation and problems that faced by students in mastering speaking ability, the researcher is interested in finding out more information about "The Factors Contributing to The Students' Speaking Ability".

B. Reasons of Study

The reasons why the writer chooses the topic "Factors Contributing to the Students' Speaking Ability" which becomes my concern in choosing topic are:

1. Speaking is one of the important skills in English that have to be mastered by the students.

2. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language that difficult to be mastered by student.
3. Find out the factors contributing that supporting students' speaking ability in English, thus factors are very needed to know what factors that make they success in speaking English even though English as a foreign language is difficult to others students.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background above the research questions of this research are:

1. What are the supporting factors contributing to students speaking ability?
2. What is the most dominating factor contributing to the students' speaking ability?

D. The Aim of Terms

The main purposes of this study are:

1. to reveal the factors contributing to the students' speaking ability.
2. to find out the most dominating factors which contributing students' speaking ability

E. Clarifications of Study

There are some terms that will be clarified in this research:

1. EFL learners' speaking skill is affected by some linguistic components of language like phonology, syntax, vocabulary, and semantics and psychological factors such as motivation and personality (Mahripah, 2014).

2. Learning the speaking skill is the most important aspect of learning a second or foreign language and success is measured based on the ability to perform a conversation in the language (Nunan, 1995).

F. Contribution of Study

The result of this research may give beneficial contribution for:

- a. the lecturer

The lecturer will know how to increase the speaking skill of students by paying attention to the factors which contributes to the speaking ability.

- b. University

The university will evaluate about the speaking ability of the students in teaching learning process