

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is an international language, which is used more widely and intensely nowadays because of the globalization effect on the information era. Most people use English for communication and to accessing information including science, technology etc. which are written in English. Brumfit (1981:1), English is an international language and medium of communication due to the large number of native speakers as well as the large number of non-native speakers who use it for part of their international communication. It's not a secret that English is becoming increasingly important in our lives from elementary school to university, students in Indonesia should learn English language.

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are the four skills needed. Because those skills are interdependent and cannot exist separately, students must master all four. Uma and Ponnambala (2001) confirm this by stating that mastering language skills determines a student's communicative ability in the target language. Students are expected to learn the four skills well so as to communicate well with English. Among the four skills, speaking is the most important for students to master. Learners should know the components of speaking, which they can speak correctly and fluently. Those components are vocabulary and grammar.

Vocabulary is very important for learners. Hornby (1996:979) stated that a person's vocabulary is the set of words that he or she knows or uses in their trade, profession, or other occupation. Based on the opinion, vocabulary is a set of words that people know and use to arrange a sentence and then speaks it. Without sufficient vocabularies, we cannot express our feelings and sometimes it takes time to express ideas on our mind and end up not saying. In order to avoid that we should master vocabulary as much as we can. Many individuals are misinterpreted as a result of incorrect usage of words or expressions. Vocabulary is learnt more efficiently when it is used in a full sentence rather than being memorized. When learning vocabulary, we must understand and be able to apply it in a sentence context.

Grammar is sometimes referred to as a language's rules. This is stated by Michael Swan (2005:19) that grammar is the set of rules of how words are combined,

arranged, and changed to convey specific meanings. According to Fromkin and Rodman (in Darmono 2013), learners must understand the nature of this internalized, unconscious set of rules that is a part of every grammar of every language in order to fully comprehend the nature of language, implying that grammar is essential to mastering English. Without mastering grammar our utterances will not be well structured and it could be misunderstood by others. In order to use grammar appropriately in speech, one must be able to construct the language's particular grammatical structures and successfully apply them in communication while taking into consideration the characteristics of spoken grammar. For example, rather than complete sentences, spoken clauses are frequently joined with coordinators such as "and" or "but," or are simply uttered next to each other, possibly with a brief pause in between. As a result, simple phrasal structure and deliberate repetition can often be indicators of high proficiency (Hughes, 2002: 61 and Luoma, 2004: 6).

Producing, receiving, and processing information are all parts of the interactive process of constructing meaning that is speaking. When someone speaks, he or she interacts with others and expresses their ideas, feelings, and thoughts through language. It is a means for students to communicate with others in order to achieve specific goals or to express their opinions, intentions, hopes, and points of view. As English Education Department, mastering speaking is the crucial thing to communicate effectively. In order to do so, learners should know the components of speaking so that they can speak correctly and fluently.

It's nearly impossible to have true command of a language if you don't actually speaking it. According Maxom (2009) speaking is the most important skill in English language teaching. Based on the opinion, in teaching english speaking is a skill that is also important to be learned because that is the point of learning a language, to speak it. Speaking refers to the use of language to communicate with others verbally. Speaking, on the other hand, plays an important role in human life because it is used as a face-to-face communication tool.

When you speak, you're engaging in a communication process that sends a message from the speaker to the listener. The speaker has a vital part in ensuring that the communication is effective. Aside from that, there are certain key elements to which we should pay attention when speaking. Pronunciation, grammar, fluency,

vocabulary, and understanding are examples. The ability to speak is dependent on the ability to listen. Although speaking is seen as a crucial ability, many students lack it.

The aim in research is to analyze whether there is a correlation between students' grammar mastery and their speaking ability, the sample of this research is students at 5th semester in Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto. Because some people assume that if students has a great grammar mastery their speaking ability is also good. The researcher wants to know whether there is a correlation between grammar mastery and speaking ability because mostly students in English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto are having a great skill in speaking English. The method employed in this research is quantitative by giving a grammar and speaking test through google form to students at 5th semester in English Education Department. Then, analyzing the students score. If there are students who has a great score at their grammar test but not in their speaking test, therefore there is no correlation. The test's score must be equal, thus the conclusion is that there is a correlation between grammar mastery and speaking ability.

B. Reason of Choosing the Topic

Grammar is the important aspect of learning English since grammar as rule of English Expression, role for communication of producing and giving utterance correctly. It aims at ensuring that students can understand well about grammar, so that they can use english well.

Speaking is one of four language skills and it is also important to be learned. Speaking is a process of communication between two or more person which influenced by some aspects, such as pronunciation, grammar, fluency, vocabulary, and understanding. Speaking is also a way to express ideas.

In previously, the writer needs to know the correlation between students' grammar mastery and speaking ability. The writer has own opinion about them, if the students are good in mastering grammar, so their speaking is also good. However, the writer needs to prove that opinion with doing this study correlation. Reseacher will conduct the study at the 5th semester in English Education Department at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2019/2020.

C. Research Question

The researcher conducts the research on the correlation between grammar mastery and speaking fluency. The research question can be formulated as “Is there any positive and significant correlation between students’ grammar mastery and their speaking ability at the 5th semester students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2019/2020?”

D. Aim of the Research

The purpose of this study is to find out whether there is a correlation between students’ grammar mastery and their speaking ability at the 5th semester of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2019/2020.

E. Clarification of the Term

The writer divides the topic into several subtopics to make readers understand it more easily, which are as follows:

1. Correlational Study

Correlation means mutual relationship between two variables or that first variable influences second variable to show relationship between them. According to Bull (2011: 441), study is a piece of research that examines a subject. Therefore, correlational study is a research to know the correlation between two variables.

2. Grammar Mastery

Grammar is a rule of a language, without mastering a grammar our speaking would not be well structured and brings a different meanings. Grammar is an important aspect to be mastered besides the four skills speaking, listening, writing, and reading. This also stated by Chowdhury (2014) that grammar as the rules in a language for changing the form of words and joining them into sentences.

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking skill is one of the four skills that must be mastered. Among the four skill, speaking skill is the goal of learning a language, because what's the point of learning a language without actually can speak it. Speaking skill is an activity to share an ideas, feelings or information to the others, it can be face to face or through the phone. This also stated by Widdowson (1984: 58) that speaking communication

occurs in a face-to-face interaction as part of a dialogue or other type of verbal exchange. Therefore, speaking can be defined as interaction between speakers and listeners.

F. Contribution of the Research

The result of this research is hopefully going to help teacher or people who are interested in education to be aware of the importance of teaching grammar in order to help the students in speaking English fluently.

1. For the language teachers, by knowing their student's grammar mastery, they will know how to help them in order to increase their ability in English speaking. From this research the teacher will know students' level of grammar mastery as well as their level of speaking skills. By knowing this research the teacher will also know the correlation between students' grammar mastery and their fluency in speaking English. The researcher hopes that the teacher can pay more attention to their students' grammar as well as their students English speaking.
2. For the students, this study provides the students information about the students' level of grammar mastery and speaking skill. From this research they can be more aware about their grammar learning English. Since this research provides the measurements of their English proficiency, the students will realize how far their English skill is. They also get new knowledge about the correlation between grammar mastery and speaking skill in learning English.
3. For other researcher, the findings of this study hopefully can be a useful resource to their reference for the future purpose. It is also useful to inform other readers about correlation between students' grammar mastery and their speaking ability at the 5th semester of English Education Department in Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.