

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Students of language learning should master 4 language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The mastery of all skills will make the EFL student able to use language properly. They use the skills for communicating with the teacher and friends, discussing the materials, presenting the discussion results and many other club activities.

To do such activities, speaking is considered the most important skill to master. Some crucial points to note about speaking is that some functions of the skill are that a speaker can express his or opinion and feeling, ask for something, share knowledge or information directly. The skills in mastering speaking is a measurement to know how far a student has mastered the language he or she is learning. In line with it, Brown and Yule (2000) underline that speaking is one of the basic skills as a measurement of language learners whether someone is successful in learning the language or not.

Following the statement, Gert and Hans (2008) state that speaking is utterances to have their intentions recognized and recipients process a speaker remarks to recognize those intentions. Consequently, through speaking people can express their feeling and easily achieve the aims of communication.

To maintain English speaking skills, it could be attained by either practicing individually or practicing in a group. Then, the English Club is an example of practicing English in a group to improve speaking skills. This way, students can practice speaking in English together intentionally to improve English speaking skill. Also, they can practice English seriously and enjoy English. Moreover, students can talk freely about what he or she wants to talk but still related to the topic given by the teacher or instructor.

This study focuses on describing the importance of English Club did by students SMA Negeri 3 Purwokerto as a place to build good character, develop qualified students, and as an institution to increase foreign language abilities such as English to Senior High School Students. According to the teacher, English Club at SMA N 3 Purwokerto was born in 2000. A group of the English teacher decided to start a new project which they expected would promote the learning process of the English language and culture as well as the interaction between teachers and students. Their aim was also to offer students where they could not only develop their personal qualities and skills but also share experiences and build team spirit and a sense of belonging while playing an essential role in the organization of different activities. SMA N 3 Purwokerto is different from any other schools in district Banyumas in which the school has been developing 3 learning choices to the students. They are science, social-economic, and sports.

As language is not one of the three majors in the school, the existence of the English Club becomes a crucial need for all students. As an extracurricular, English Club is held every Thursday at 02.30 PM this activities covered sharing and discussion about grammar, vocabulary, language function, and speech practices.

The English Club is intended to make the students accustomed to practicing English in a different situation from what they have in regular club. Besides, the goal and expectation of joining the club are the college students feel pleased to practice English without feeling embarrassed, apprehension and nervous because the members of this club are the students who stay at the same dormitory. They also can use new English vocabulary to express their ideas when the speaking activity takes place. The participants can correct each other common or pronunciation mistakes.

Based on the background of the study, the researcher was interested in conducting research entitled: **“The Students’ Perception on English Club in Improving Students’ Speaking Skills (A Descriptive Study of English Club Members’ at SMA Negeri 3 Purwokerto in Academic Year 2019/2020)”**

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are 2 reasons why this study is interesting to conduct. They are:

1. Speaking is important to communicate with others, express our ideas, and know other ideas as well. Communication takes place, where

there is speech. Without speech, we cannot communicate with one another.

2. English Clubs can be practiced effectively. They differ from other methods because English Clubs are less formal than a clubroom setting. Many students find them more fun than the usual English clubs. They also let learners practice English in more real-life situations. This can increase a learner's desire to practice and learn on their own.

C. The problem of the Research

The problem of the research can be formulated in the following research questions:

1. Is English Club a good place to improve students' speaking skills?
2. What are the students' perceptions on the benefits of the English Club for the student speaking skills?

D. Aim of the Research

This research was aimed at:

1. Gaining information about whether English Club is good for improving students' speaking skills or not
2. Finding the students' perceptions on the benefit of The English Club for the students' speaking skills

E. Contribution of the Research

1. Practical

The researcher hopes that the result of her research will be valuable for:

a. The teacher

It is expected that this research can be used in teaching English speaking skills to improve students' speaking skills and to give positive input to the English teacher in the teaching of speaking structure, especially if join an English Club. English teachers can choose an appropriate technique for teaching speaking.

b. The Student

The result of this research can be beneficial for the students hopefully so that the students can enjoy studying English by joining an English Club. They also will be interesting and understand speaking activities.

c. The other researcher

The researcher hopes that this research will be a beneficial reference for other researchers. They also can improve their knowledge about the suitable theory in teaching English especially about speaking activities and English Clubs.

2. Theoretical

This result of this research is intended to enrich the strategy of teaching ESP in English Club.