

CHAPTER I

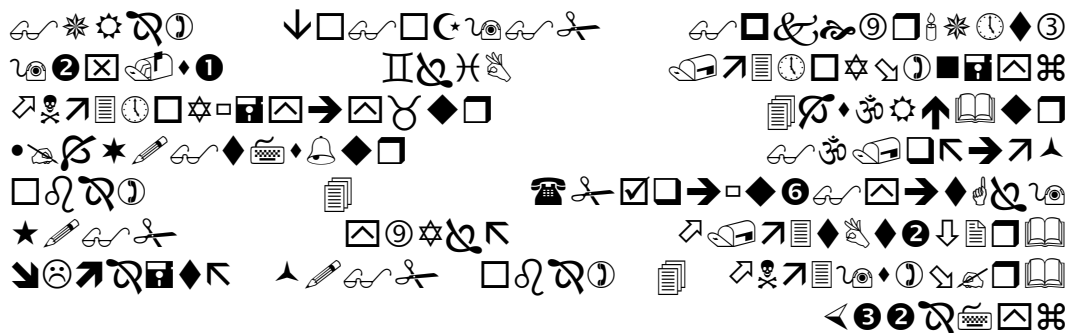
INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Language is a very important thing in our life. By using language we can communicate with each others. The function of language is not only as a lesson to study, but also it is used to express the idea, mind, opinion and feeling, either orally or written to others. Murcia and Lois stated:

The essence of language in human activity, activity on the part of one individual to make him understood by another and activity on the part of the other to understand what was on of the first.¹

A language can make a harmony among individuals, societies, ethnics and nations. Beside that trough people can know each other and understand more about something around them. Language is a gift of God for human being adjusts to one of holy Qur'an as follow in Surah Al- Hujarat 13:



¹Murcia Mariane Celce & Lois Meintosh, *Teaching English as A Second Language*, (Los Angeles: New Bury Hruse Publishers, Inc. 1959), p. 183

English is one of international languages which are used by people in the world in many areas. Moreover, speaking English is the easiest way to communicate with people from other countries.

The English language competence is regarded as stagnant competency although it usually gets serious considerations to improve the quality. Besides, teaching English itself especially in Indonesia is still poor and does not sign a significant result. It is indicated by many numbers of students' quality are still low where the English language has been taught and learned from the Elementary School till Junior and Senior High School in Indonesia. If this condition is not changed, it may immediately influence the acquisitions of language competence till University.

The function of foreign languages is not only as a lesson to study, but also it is used to prepare students to get competence that make students are able to reflect their experiences and express idea. Pauline Tomassow states that the foreign language learning can help to build the spirit of international understanding and friendliness, which is essential in achieving world peace.²

This language is used not only for communication, but also for science and technology. Due to this, learning English can be said as an important point in today's education, but the process in teaching and learning of this language is not easy as turning up and down the hands. Especially where English becomes the foreign language. Spelling, pronunciations, producing the words or sentences properly are several problems that faced by the students.

²Pauline Tomassow, *Cross Cultural Understanding*, (Jakarta: Karonika, 1986), p. 116

Based on the holy Qur'an, Allah Al Mighty gives instruction for the human to know and solve problem. In this case, someone who becomes teacher needs prepare to face the students in teaching and learning process. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an verse 4 surah Al 'Alaq:

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

There are many efforts done to solve the problems and to increase the quality of methods and approaches in learning and teaching English skill by linguists and education experts year after year. Furqanul Azies and Chaedar Alwasilah in their book concluded that there are three characteristics of communication. They are choice of speaking or not, the good, and the code or language.³

In this case, teachers as one of knowledge sources have some strategy to improve students' skill in English, especially in speaking skill. Students thought that speaking English is hard to do even more they have no motivation to learn it.

Based on pre-observation at Islamic State Senior High School (MAN) 1 Martapura, the writer get information that there are many students did have problem in learning English. There are only some students who have good attention, so many students get low score in final examination.

Based on the description above, the writer is very eager to know the application of method in teaching and learning process in English subject by

³Furqanul Azies & Chaedar Al Wasilah, *Pengajaran Bahasa Komunikatif Teori dan Praktek*, (Bandung: PT. Rosda karya, 2000), p. 8

writing a thesis entitled: **“The Application of Natural Approach in Improving Speaking Skill for the Second Grade Students of Language Program at State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Martapura”**.

To make this research clear and to avoid any miss interpretation towards the title, the writer is necessary to explain some terms found out in the title as follows:

1. Application

The word “application” according to *Oxford Dictionary* means “the act of putting something to practical use”.⁴ Furthermore, application here means that the use of approach in improving speaking skill as process in mastering English.

2. Natural Approach

Natural approach is based on the use of the language in communicative situations without recourse to the native language.⁵

3. Speaking skill is one of the skills which have to be mastered by students, which is stated in national education purpose and national curriculum. To improve speaking skill of the second grade students of language program, the teacher applies techniques which are adapted from the characteristics on natural approach.

⁴Marten Manser, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (Hongkong: Oxford University Press, 1989), P. 17

⁵Stephen Krashen & Tracy D. Terrel, *The Natural Approach; Language Acquisition in the Classroom*, (Oxford Pergamon Press, 1983), p. 107

Thus, the title above means a research the intends to describe the application of natural approach by the teacher in teaching English for the second grade of language program at State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Martapura.

B. Formulation of the Problems

Concerning with the topic, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. How well is the application of natural approach in improving speaking skill for the second grade students of language program at MAN 1 Martapura ?
2. What are the influential factors in the application of natural approach in improving speaking skill for the second grade students of language program at MAN 1 Martapura ?

C. Reason for Choosing the Title

The writer chooses the title above on the basis of many reasons bellow:

1. Language is basically speaking. To speak communicatively in the target language is the main goal of learning and teaching English. To reach that, methods and approaches are needed.
2. Teacher plays a very important role in teaching process. So, the teacher must have a good techniques and their application in teaching English.

3. The second grade of language program at MAN 1 Martapura are more ready than first grade to learn speaking skill and quit low than the third grade as one of source information in this research.

D. Purpose of Research

Based on the problems above, this study has two purposes, they are:

1. To know the application of natural approach in improving speaking skill for the second grade of language program at MAN 1 Martapura.
2. To describe the factors that influences the application of natural approach in improving speaking skill for the second grade of language program at MAN 1 Martapura.

E. Significance of Research

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follows:

1. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the scientific research about teaching English.
2. Be information, consideration and input for educational executors on increasing and improving education quality.
3. Be an input for English teacher who teach at State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Martapura
4. For the libraries of IAIN Antasari and Tarbiyah Faculty, so that this thesis can give a new contribution, especially for those who want to improve their English knowledge.

F. Organization of Writing

This research consists of five chapters as follows:

The first chapter contain introduction, which consists of rationale, formulation of the problems, reasons for choosing the title, purpose of study, significance of study and organization of writing.

The second chapter contains theoretical review, which consists of the definitions of natural approach, the characteristic of natural approach, the techniques used in natural approach, some factors influencing the application of natural approach in improving speaking skill.

The third chapter contains methodology of research, which consists of subject and object of research, data, sources of data and techniques of data collecting, basic framework of research, data processing and analysis, and measurement design and research procedure.

The fourth chapter contains report of research results, which consists of general description about the location of the research, data presentation, and data analysis.

The fifth chapter is closure, which consists of conclusion and suggestions.