

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

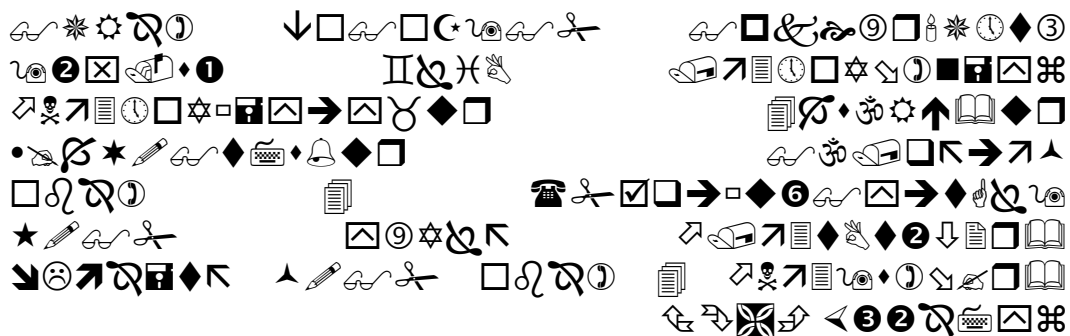
Human is social being, they cannot live alone. In fulfilling their necessities of life they need communication with their colloquial. One of beauty that was given by Allah SWT to human is language, because language is an implementation of communication. Language is an important communication device. By using language people can deliver messages, express ideas, thoughts, and feelings one another.

Human and animal are different. Human can think and talk, but the animal can not. On the other side, human beings are social creatures, they need to interact each other. They need to have a communication to share their own idea in their daily life, and express their ideas in many ways or many languages; either in verbal or non verbal language. Verbal has the same meaning with spoken language or oral language, which people speak or talk to communicate each other. Non verbal language is the language that people use other than verbal language to communicate, like written language, body language, gestures, etc. they more often communicate in verbal language than nonverbal. Nonverbal language is only used as a supplement. The ability of people to communicate using language indicates that they are different from any other creature in the world. Therefore, to understand more about humanity, we have to learn language that makes human beings be human beings. Mary Fhinocchiaro, states that:

Language is unique human activity. It is often characteristic as species specific, i.e. it is and instruments processed only by man. All normal people in the world can speak; no group of people without a spoken language has ever been discovered. Language is universal. All normal human being in community understand and speak well enough to carry out every activity of human life¹.

Of course we cannot image, if we do not use language as communication instrument and we know that Allah the Almighty created different language for human. A language is not only used to know each other but also needed to develop science and technology. English is an instrument to develop science and technology, particularly to developing countries. It is good tool to make international relation. But, for someone who said that English is a foreign language, he will get difficulty in studying English, like Indonesian people. Therefore, we must work hard in order to master English well. Mary Mc Groarty also said “Language is an intimate part of social identity²”.

Language, itself is the god’s gift for human. It is one of the signs of his power. It is written in the holy Qur’an Al-Hujarat: 13 as follows:



¹ Marry fhinocchiaro, *English as A Second Language from Theory to Practice*, (NY Regent Publishing company, Ine 1974). P. 2

² Sandra Lee Mc Kay and Nancy H. Hornberger, *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (Cambridge University Press 1996), P. 3

This verse means that Allah SWT has created us in pairs. There are men and women; he has created us in different tribes, nations, and regions. So that, we can know each other and also we can communicate with each other, and for this verse we need language to communicate.

In the world, there are many languages; one of them is English which is one of the international language that is spoken by many people in many countries. From a lot of languages, English is one of world languages that must be learnt.

The people who master English have bigger opportunity in their lives than those who do not. It is because English is one of the foreign languages which play an important role in all aspects of human life such as technology, economy, social, and politic. Beside English is an international language for communication.

English is also very important for current future. So it is very natural if English will be taught for children from beginning, this is done to prepare them to face globalization era, because they are young generation that will be leaders in the future. The children in the future era will live in advanced society, so children have to prepare for the life. Indonesian government makes English language as one of national education curriculum, from elementary school to the university. Teaching English in Indonesians schools has aim to produce people mastering English perfectly.

English is a foreign language which has four skills that should be developed and mastered by English of foreign language learners. They are

Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. All of those skills have their own way to master them; Alexander also stated that the students must be trained adequately in all four basic language skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing³. In order to be able to be a good speaker in oral communication they need to practice and use English in daily conversation, which one way to improve speaking ability.

In simple term English conversation is an activity where two or more people take turns at speaking. The main purpose of conversation is to communicate to each other or to deliver an idea effectively. Speaking or conversation has three general purposes: to inform, to entertain, and to persuade⁴.

MAN 2 Martapura is one of Islamic Senior High Schools at Kab. Banjar which often apply daily English conversation. In the classroom the teachers use direct method to teach English and use English language in explaining English with middleman language except in certain matter. MAN 2 Martapura has English as Special subject beside English subject, that is Special English skill Subject, it is for class XI Language Program. Beside that, MAN 2 Martapura has many activities about English skill, there are English Study Club, English Speech and English Debate in the afternoon every once in a week. Classroom has English Ability Subject; students must memorize 7 new vocabularies in a week.

³ L.G Alexander, *Practice And Progress An Integrated Course For Pre-Intermediate Students*, (Yogyakarta. Kanisius. 1975) P.viii

⁴ Joan Morley, *Improving Spoken English*, (Jakarta, Bina Pura Aksara, 1993) P. 67

Problems of class XI Language Program and XI Science Program of MAN 2 Martapura are differences. Class XI Language Program is better than class XI Science Program, because they have more activities to learn English in a week to develop English skill. But class XI Science Program has no more time to learn English to develop their English skill. Based on some problems is English speaking skill for the students at class XI Language Program and XI Science Program of MAN 2 Martapura, found some difficulties, those are comprehension, pronunciation, grammar, fluently, and vocabulary

Because of that, the writer consider that English language activities of students at Class XI Language Program and XI Science Program MAN 2 Martapura is needed to be investigated and it is done know the level of the students' ability in English conversation.

Based on what the writer has explained above, the writer organizes the thesis with the title:

“STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN ENGLISH CONVERSATION AT
MAN 2 MARTAPURA BANJAR REGENCY”

To avoid any misinterpretation towards the title, the writer needs to explain some terms in the title as follow:

1. Ability is skill or power⁵ the ability which is discussed here is students' capability in performs English language activity every classroom English Lesson and English Ability Lesson. The skills involving in this research are: listening ability, speaking ability.

⁵ A.S Hornby, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press. 2000) P. 1

2. English conversation is English language that follows the clause of grammar and using English language orally and fluently.
3. English language is one of scope of study that exists in curriculum at Class XI Language Program and XI Science Program MAN 2 Martapura.

The students' ability in English Conversation at MAN 2 Martapura is a research about the improvement of ability students' in English conversation using grammatically and English language orally and fluently is done by students' at MAN 2 Martapura Banjar Regency.

B. Problem Formulation

Concerning the topic, the problem of this research can be formulated as follow:

1. How is Students' Ability in English Conversation at MAN 2 Martapura Banjar Regency in Academic Year 2009-2010?
2. What are the factors that influence Students' Ability in English Conversation MAN 2 Martapura Banjar Regency?

C. Reason For Adopting The Title

There are some reasons that make the writer adopted this title. They are:

1. English is one the most popular and most important foreign language in Indonesia and generally in the world that has become the main communication device the field of science and technology.

2. The ability of English conversation is important matter for teaching and learning English process to obtain achievement of English subject.
3. MAN 2 Martapura is one of Islamic Senior High Schools which has formal English and Special English Skill, and also has many activities to develop English Skill in afternoon.
4. MAN 2 Martapura is one of Islamic Senior High School in Martapura which is the favorite Islamic High School in Martapura. And also the writer was graduated from MAN 2 Martapura.

D. Purpose Of Research

The purpose of this research are 1) To know the level of students' ability in English conversation in Academic Year 2009-2010, 2) To know what factors that influence Students' Ability in English Conversation at MAN 2 Martapura Banjar Regency.

E. Significances Of Research

The writer hopes to result that are got in this research can be useful as follows:

1. As a consideration for MAN 2 Martapura to increase their educational quality especially English instructional quality.
2. As information to increase knowledge and experience for the writer in the specific research especially in practicing English conversation fluently.
3. As input to follow up English language activity that operated by students' MAN 2 Martapura.

F. Organization of Content

To make the study easier, the writer makes organization of content that includes five chapters, they are:

Chapter I is introduction that includes rationale, Statement of problem, reason for adopting the title, purpose of research, significance of research, and organization of the content.

Chapter II is theoretical review about English characteristic, which consist definitions of ability and English conversation, English as a mean of communication and factors that influencing the ability students' in English conversation.

Chapter III is method of the research, which consists of subject and object of research, data, and source of data, techniques of data collection, design measurement, technique of data processing, data analysis, and research procedure.

Chapter IV is report of research results that are achieve in this research. The general description about the location of research, data presentation, and data analysis.

Chapter V is closure that includes conclusion and suggestion.