

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Nowadays, the learners of English are beginning to realize the benefit of who can speak English. People who know English better seem to attain a greater success in their study, career, and have more options in life. In addition, to improve English skills better, besides studying in formal schools or universities, many learners also will join English courses to improve their speaking skill.

MEC English Syariah is one of English community in Indonesia. This community provides an English course for improving the English skills of the members of the community. In the learning process of the class, the teachers of this course emphasize their students to practice more in communicating in English rather than just learn too much theory of English lesson, so the teacher always integrates speaking skill when she/he teaches vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading, and writing. On the other hand, for encouraging their students to communicate in English, the teachers use direct method.

Beside an English learning class, it also provides a café which is in it, all the members, either teachers or students, even the waitress of the café should speak English. In other words, they are asked to practice English speaking not only during the class, but also in their daily conversation among all the members of this community, therefore the

English speaking environment in this community is so fast to develop and students' speaking skill can improve as fast as possible.

In fact, some students may have good ability in communication in English and some may not, it is based on their level in English skill, including also the students in this community. As al-Quran explained in QS Az-Zukhruf verse 32:

أَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّكَ نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ  
فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا سُلْخِيًّا وَرَحْمَةُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ

This verse explains about every human is different in everything, including in their skill especially in English skill, therefore the students in low level in grammar skill or lack of vocabulary will face some difficulties when they communicate in English. Dealing with the reality above, learning how to be a better communicator is important for all of us, especially English students. Better communication means better understanding of us and others. Moreover, it is important that people should understand what we are trying to say. Practically, students face difficulties in delivering their message, especially in English Foreign Language. If the students don't have a way to overcome the difficulties, so the message will be unclear or even will not reach by the listener, whereas al-Quran explained that when communicating we should communicate clearly and communicative, it was showed in QS. An-Nisa verse 63:

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَعِظْهُمْ وَقُلْ لَهُمْ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ قَوْلًا

بَلِيغًا

This verse indicates that it is important to communicate clearly and easy to understand by the listener, therefore it will be a problem when communicators cannot send their message clearly because the listener will not understand, to overcome the problem some strategies must be applied and used by the students when they communicate in English. Thus, communication strategies can be taken as a consideration as strategies to overcome the problems above and helping the learners to ease their real communications.

There are some experts who define communication strategies. Faerch and Kasper in Brown define “communication strategies as potentially conscious plans for solving what to an individual presents itself as a problem in reaching a particular communicative goal” (2007, p. 137). Felix explains in Fauziati that “communication strategies may viewed as attempts to bridge the gap between the linguistic knowledge of the second language learner and the linguistic knowledge of the target language interlocutor in a real communication” (2010, p. 167). The strategies which a speaker uses in order to achieve of what he/she means on becoming aware of problems happening during communicating because of linguistic short-comings called communication strategies (Kasper & Kellerman, 2014, p. 2).

Even more, Tarone in Kasper & Kellerman states that “communication strategies used by an individual to overcome the crisis with occurs when language structure are inadequate to convey the

individual's thought" (2014, p. 2). In addition, communication strategies are defined as "a systematic technique employed by a speaker to express his or her meaning when faced with some difficulties" (Corder, 1981, p. 103), the word difficulties here mean lack of vocabulary and basic grammar of the target language (Dornyei, 1995, p. 56).

From those explanations above, it can be concluded that communication strategy is about a strategy that is used by people when they face difficulties in delivering their message in speaking. In this study, researcher just focuses on the students at MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin in using communication strategies when they communicate.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher wants to conduct the research entitled: *Communication Strategies Used by the Students of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin*. The researcher wants to find out what types communication strategies used by the students of MEC English Syariah and the dominant type of communication strategies used by them.

## **B. Research questions**

Based on the background of study above, the researcher formulates the problem as follows:

1. What types of communication strategies are used by the students of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin?
2. What is the dominant type of communication strategies used by students of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin?

## **C. Objectives of the study**

Relates to the problems above, the researcher formulates the major objective of this study as follows:

1. To find out types of communication strategies used by the Students of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin.
2. To find out the dominant type of communication strategies used by students of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin.

#### **D. Significances of the study**

The researcher hopes that, this thesis can give the information for the readers that is in communicating by using English language, there are strategies which can help them to overcome the difficulties they face when speaking English, so their communication can run well and be communicative. It is also useful for the teachers who teach English, it will help them to improve the way they teach communication in the class, even it is recommended by Yule and Tarone to teach communication strategies in the class, they also stated that is 'improvement in effective communication strategies use can be resulted from training' (Faucette, 2001, p. 10).

For the school or English course, the researcher hopes that this study will produce more active and confidence students in speaking English. It will bring more achievement as well. Another benefit is that this study expected to show the teacher, especially the teacher of MEC English Syariah about what type communication strategies used by his/her students to overcome their difficulties in delivering message when

speaking English. It will build a good communication of students. When the study is finished, it is expected in this study will benefit to MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin and it will hopefully provide the English course more successful way to overcome the communication difficulties in speaking English.

#### **E. Definition of key terms**

There are four key terms which are defined in this research by researcher, those are:

##### **1. Students**

Students here are members of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin who learn English at English course of MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin.

##### **2. Communication**

Communication here means the process of transmitting information or delivering message in speaking English by the students of English course at MEC English Syariah.

##### **3. Communication strategies**

Communication strategies here means the strategies that can help the speakers/students when they face difficulties to deliver the message when speaking English.

##### **4. MEC English Syariah Banjarmasin**

MEC English Syariah is English community which provides English course and English café for members.