

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

There are four skills in learning English they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is very important because speaking and human being cannot be separated from each other. Speaking is one of the important skills in language learning besides listening, writing and reading.

Speaking can be defined as an activity in giving and asking information by two or more people. In speaking, there is a process of communication between speaker and listener. People put ideas into words, talking about perceptions and feeling they want other people to understand. Allah says in Surah Ar-Rahman verse 3-4 as follows:

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ (٣) عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ (٤)

The ability to speak is one of the innate potentials given to humans since they were created. With this ability, humans are able to build social relationships. By having the ability to communicate, humans can help each other, express intention, and other functions that cannot be separated from life. That is why many people learn more than one language to expand their knowledge and develop their speaking ability and skill.

In learning speaking skill, it is important to learn not only linguistic competence but also communicative competence. Communicative competence concerns on how an EFL student communicates naturally with the appropriate use of utterances. By developing communicative competence, EFL students can understand more and competent on how and when to use utterances appropriately. Lack of communicative competence may cause some communication problems such as disharmony and misunderstanding. Therefore, EFL learners need to pay attention to grasp and enhance the communicative competence.

Considering its importance and complexity, various schools in Indonesia have special program to improve students' English speaking skill. One of educational institutions which implements special program for English is boarding school.

Boarding school has more duration in learning where the learning process is 24 hours in boarding program. In terms of mastering English and Arabic as foreign language, some boarding schools have their own method and strategy to habituate English in their environment. One of the boarding schools which has such characteristic is Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female in Martapura, South Borneo.

Darul Hijrah for Female has been implementing the use of English and Arabic in students' daily lives since 1995. The students are obligated to talk and communicate in English and Arabic in their daily lives. A bunch of programs are implemented to support students' language acquisition such as delivering some vocabularies every morning, conversation practice, public speaking, language corner and many others. With the programs of habituating the students in speaking English, Darul Hijrah for Female has more strength compared to other boarding schools in Borneo.

Unfortunately, the programs do not run effectively. Many students in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female still have some difficulties in speaking English. This issue is not only suffered by the first year students but also the senior students who have spent about 2 till 6 years in the boarding school and have been implementing speaking English. Most of the times, the students are not able to produce utterances to express their specific intention appropriately. Sometimes, they mix English words and Indonesian morphemes together in a sentence. Moreover, some of them speak English in Bahasa Indonesia structure. As a result, they cannot communicate well in English.

There might be some general factors affecting this failure such as age, aptitude, intelligence, cognitive style, attitude, motivation, and personality. However, considering all influential factors affecting second or foreign language acquisition simultaneously is an extremely complex task. Therefore, Mirhadizadeh (2016) said that it seems reasonable to categorize these factors into two groups of external and internal variables.

In general view, external factors of EFL acquisition refer to environmental, curricular, and pedagogical domain. Nation & Macalister (2010) identified that external factors are generally dealt with curriculum development, course design, materials format and presentation, and evaluation while Richards (2001) underlined the roles of institutions and teachers in providing effective learning.

On the other hand, internal factors involve cognitive and affective domain such as motivation, anxiety, and attitudes which come from inside the individuals. Language learners' psychological tendencies and conditions, such as motivation, play a very crucial role in acquiring the language. According to Cohen (2010) motivation is an unstable dynamic process but in a continuous change.

In this case, the students must have different psychological perspective toward the implementation of speaking English which must be affecting their communicative competence in English speaking skill. In addition, the instructional process of teaching and learning English in the class may also give a significant input for the students to support them in improving their speaking skill. Thus, it is such an interesting issue and hopefully useful to be investigated.

Starting from this problem and study of the previous researches, the researcher is interested in exploring students' pedagogical and psychological perspective in developing their communicative competence in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female.

B. Research Question

The research questions are stated as follows:

1. How are students' pedagogical perspectives on developing their communicative competence in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female?
2. How are students' psychological perspectives on developing their communicative competence in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this research are stated as follows:

1. To explore students' pedagogical perspectives on developing their communicative competence in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female.
2. To investigate students' psychological perspectives on developing their communicative competence in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female.

D. Significance of Study

This research is expected to be beneficial not only for the researcher but also for the students and teachers in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female.

1. For the students

This study aims to explore the pedagogical and psychological aspects influencing the students' communicative competence. It is expected to be able to help and support the students in optimizing and maximizing their abilities in speaking English fluently and confidently.

2. For the teachers

The researcher highly expects that this study may help the English teachers in deciding the best teaching technique and model when they plan their teaching process. Moreover, they can consider many aspects before conducting a teaching and learning activity. Thus, it will maximize the results of teaching process.

3. For the other researcher

It is hoped that this research may become one of the considerable foundation for future researchers in conducting another researches of the same topic in different point of view.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation toward the title and topic of this study, the researcher feels necessary to provide the explanation of some terms involved in this study as follows:

1. Pedagogical Perspectives

It refers to a set of factors that instructionally influence every improvement in students' communicative competence. It implies to methods used by the English teacher in the class, the materials, and learning environment in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female.

2. Psychological Perspectives

It refers to a set of factors that are mentally concerned with the aspects in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female students' language acquisition. It involves anxiety, attitude, aptitude, and motivation especially on their view about speaking English in their daily life conversation.

3. Communicative Competence

It refers to the ability of Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Female students to communicate in English by implementing their grammatical and social knowledge and to communicate naturally in English with the appropriate use of utterances in their daily life conversation.