

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is an important part of human life because it is essential for communication in all activities with others. Everyone uses language as a tool of communication with each other to express their feeling and to stimulate a response from others. It means that language is a communication tool to express what have thought. Language also allows to give and receive information.

English has becomes a compulsory subject for students from elementary school to high school level, even at the higher education level. This show how important it is to understand foreign languages, especially English, as a means of achieving success in one's academic field and advancing one's professional career. Learning English has the following goal about students' understanding of English as a system and general knowledge. In this globalization era, English is one of important language. It is used as the language for international communication.

In learning English language, there are four skills which are important to learn, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Speaking is one of the four skills in English subject as a tool to communicate each other. Speaking is considered to be able to be the most important skill. Learning to speak becomes the greatest interest for foreign language learners.

Speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts. Speaking also explain in the Qur'an which in Q.S Ar-Rahman verse 3-4

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ ۚ ۓ عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ ۚ

Based on pieces of the verses of the Qur'an above says that Allah Almighty who created man and taught the humans are good at talking. This means, our speaking ability comes from God Almighty. Humans can only dig our potential in speaking.

Speaking skills give students the ability to communicate effectively in English. Hosni (2015, p.22) stated that the students should improve speaking because speaking is considered a major language skill, it is widely known that they found difficulties in speaking English. In Indonesia, speaking skill is the most difficult skill in learning English because English is an international language. So, students usually do not speak English in their daily activities, even though that they are an English students. Students use English only in the classroom, and less frequent outside the class.

Speaking skill is considered as most complex and difficult skill to students who learn English language. According to Masbiran and Fauzi (2017, p.198-205) stated that speaking is a complex skill because at least it is concerned with components consist four components: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency. The element of speaking is not only about to speak in English with appropriate grammar, but also to build students' confidence. However, students' confidence in speaking skill is still lacking

because they are afraid of making some errors or inaccuracy, lacking of vocabularies and having bad pronunciation. It is compatible to Maulana, Daud, and Heriansyah (2016, p.34) said that students' concerns in speaking English include a lack of confidence to speak and a fear of making mistakes or inaccuracies while speaking, as well as other issues such as a lack of vocabulary and bad pronunciation.

Because of students' difficulties in learning English speaking skill, a teacher needs to find a solution to overcome those difficulties. The difficulty always have a solution. It is explained in Sura Al-Insyirah verse 5-6, Allah said:

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝ ٦

It is clear that Allah stated that everything that is difficult must be accompanied by convenience. The same thing is applied for the difficulty in English speaking skill. It is a normal thing to encounter some difficulties and problems while learning foreign language. Learning to speak in a new language does not have to be a chore. Although it has its fair share of difficulties.

The researcher choose this school as the research location because based on the researcher previous observation and interview in teaching practice 2 at the eighth grade of MTs Al-Istiqamah Banjarmasin, the researcher found that the students had some difficulties when they spoke in English and it always happens in every meeting of English teaching and learning process. The researcher found that the students had difficulties to speak or pronounce the words correctly besides students were lack of idea to express their thoughts into English language. They did not know how to use sentence

structure properly. When the reasearcher asked the students to practice a dialogue in front of the class, the students showed that they lack confidence to speak loudly. The students also felt worried to make mistakes when they pronounced English words in front of the class. There are still many students who cannot pronounce words or sentences correctly and they do not know how to say the word in English. The students preferred to use their mother tongue to answer question when the researcher asked them about the material.

Starting from this problem and study of the previous researcher, the researcher is interested in discussing the study entitled **“THE CAUSES OF STUDENTS’ DIFFICULTIES IN SPEAKING ENGLISH”**

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, the writer will investigate and focus on:

1. What are the causes of students’ difficulties in speaking English?
2. What effort does the English teacher do in overcoming the causes of students’ difficulties in speaking English?

C. Objectives of Study

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

1. To find out the causes of students’ difficulties in speaking English.
2. To find out effort does the English teacher do in overcoming the causes of students’ difficulties in speaking English.

D. Significance of Study

The result of this research is expected to contribute to the field as follows:

1. For the students

It is hoped that this research can provide awareness about the important of speaking skills in English students. The students have a motivation to understand the material related to speaking skills such as pronunciation or speech production, vocabulary, etc.

2. For the teacher

In this reseacrh, English teacher can increase their understanding about students' difficulties in learning speaking, and the outcome of the study will serve as feedback to them about the difficulties of teaching speaking implemented in this Junior High Schools. By knowing the difficulties, they may hope that they are motivated to discover ways to solve them.

3. For the researcher

The researcher has a new reference about the difficulties in learning speaking by knowing the students' speaking difficulties. So, to overcome student's difficulties the researcher can choose some method.

E. Definiton of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation of the title, the researcher explains the technical terms such as below:

1. Speaking

Speaking is the way to convey message to other people and speaking is a tool to deliver the message to listener even if the listener understand or not with the messages. Speaking is a part of daily life that everyone should develop in correct and detailed language.

2. The causes difficulties in speaking English

Speaking remains the most difficult skill to master for the majority of English learners. In this study, the causes refer to some factors affecting students's difficulties in speaking English

3. Efforts

In this study, efforts refer to some method and strategies applied by the English teacher to overcome the causes of students' difficulties in speaking English.