

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

In communication, it is inevitable that people can make mistakes, such as pauses and repetitions. In fact, speakers of many languages use pauses when it is necessary (Erten, 2014). It is usually called filler. Filler pause is a part of speech whose purpose is to fill the void of time because someone has difficulty saying the next word (Kock, 2007). Explained that in speech there is a breaker called filler. (Navratilova, 2015). In communication, fillers are usually used to fill in the blanks when the speaker is having a conversation, besides that speakers also use fillers to reduce doubt (Santos, Alarcon, & Pablo, 2015). Additionally, filler is also a tool that speakers use to fill in the blanks in their speech unconsciously to think about what they should say next (Rajabi & Salami, 2016). Fillers are often perceived as meaningless noises, speech disorders, or even as cut-offs while the speaker is speaking in a psycholinguistic view. and in short filler is a flaw in speech. (Erten, 2014). In contrast, Clark and Tree (2002) who stated that fillers served a very communicative function, even if, it has no primary meaning. In addition, filler is a pause that indicates that the speaker has not finished the conversation and is still trying to think of what to say next. Where in conversation, speaker often use *uh, er, um, ah, uhm, I mean, you know,* and other filler expressions.

The same as in everyday conversation, fillers can also occur during presentations. Presentation is one of the oral activities where a student can develop their speaking skills in front of listeners, whose activities aim to communicate with others about a topic either with the help of the media or not. Presentation is the ability to explore ideas, intentions, thoughts, and feelings with spoken or oral language as a way to convey messages so that audiences can understand clearly (Kartimi, 2005). In practice most presentations require practice before starting. In the Holy Qur'an Allah Almighty says about good communication in Surah An Nisa (4:63):

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

Based on the verse it is explained that we should communicate well. It is the same as presentation. Apart from that, hesitation and pauses that make speaking not fluent are unavoidable in speaking a language, few people are able to speak really fluently without raising hesitation and even pauses (Khojastehrad, 2012).

As it happens in daily conversation and presentation, fillers normally occur when a student presenting their thesis. Thesis is a long academic process of arranging, observing, analyzing and concluding a phenomenon to complete final requirement for students at the end of their study period in university. After completing their research, the students have to present the findings of their research in thesis examination. Thus, they are expected to be able to present their thesis well in thesis defence presentation.

In the thesis defence process there are several stages that must be faced by students. First, the students are given 15 minutes to explain the results of their research clearly and systematically using Power Point media through a projector. The second is question and answer session. In this session, students are asked some questions by the examiners, which is definitely related to the content of the thesis they have described earlier. After that, the students answered the questions from the examiner. The third step is assessment. After the examiners give questions to students and students answer, the examiners ask the presenter and the audiences to leave the room while the examiners discuss the result of examination.

As explained earlier, this filler can also appear in the thesis presentation, regardless of the factors of the students who use this filler. Especially in this regard, considering that this research takes students from the Department of English as the subject, where most of the lecturers use English in the learning and teaching process. Therefore, they are also required to be able to speak English, even students of the Department of English are required to use English in presenting their thesis. Moreover, if the fact is that English is not their mother tongue, and the possibility of filler appearing in the thesis presentation will be greater.

Based on these reasons, the researcher focuses on the fillers used by English Department Students in their thesis defence presentation. And the reason for choosing UIN Antasari in this study is because they require their English

Department Students to use English in presenting their thesis examination or thesis defence presentation. Based on these reasons, the researcher conducts the research entitled "Fillers Used in Thesis Defence Presentation by English Department Students at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the researcher investigated and focused on:

1. What are the types of filler used by English department students in their thesis defence presentation at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. What are the factors that cause fillers to appear in thesis defence presentation by English department students at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

## **C. Objectives of Study**

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

1. To find the types of filler used by English department students in their thesis defence presentation at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. To find the factors that cause fillers to appear in thesis defence presentations by English department students at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

## **D. Significance of Study**

### 1. Theoretically

The results of this study is hopefully can give information about what are the types of filler and the causes of filler being used in thesis defence presentation by English Department Students.

### 2. Practically

#### **a. For Reseachrer**

The researcher did get benefit in this research. It may enlarge the knowledge about the types of fillers and the cause of filler being used in thesis defence presentation.

#### **b. For Students**

The result in this research is expected to give new or more information to English Department Students about the types of fillers and the cause of filler being used in thesis defence presentation.

#### **c. For Lecturer**

The result in this research is expected to give more information to lecturer about the types of fillers and the cause of filler being used in thesis defence presentation.

## **E. Definition of Key Terms**

### 1. Filler

It refers to words or sounds that use by English department students in their thesis defence presentation in certain circumstances. It can occur in everyday conversation even in presentations.

### 2. Thesis Defence Presentation

It refers to the oral presentation and discussion of the thesis study, that conducted by English Department Students at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.