

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

It is a general truth that humans are social creatures which means that they cannot live alone and/or in solitary. However, humans would prefer to tend living as parts of a society or approximately social groups. In almost everything humans rely on the other members of the society in completing needs as well as activities. To keep a good relationship among them, of course humans need a good communication, and to keep a communication good, then humans need specific codes namely languages.

Language is a tool to convey ideas, thoughts, opinions and feelings. English is one of the foreign language in Indonesia is considered important for the absorption and development of science, technology art and culture, and to build relationships with other nations.

According to Collins Cobuild Dictionary on CD ROM 2006, language is stated to be a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or region for talking and writing. In another way, a language can also be defined as the use of a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds or written symbols. One of the most significant roles of language is as a medium of expressing ideas and passing information. In many cases today, we can see languages serve news, advertise products, educate even influence people's way of thinking or perhaps ideology, etc.

Languages are arbitrary for all people. Nobody planned to create a new code of communication. It has gone along with its speakers' cultures, values, norms and ways of thinking and life. Besides, languages represent vocalic symbols although not all of those codes represent very complete ones. Speaking a language prevents it from disappearing and dead. As stated in *Contemporary Linguistics* written by William and Michael (1996), languages are also an important factor in nation building, language has been very crucial in unifying people and societies. Take Indonesia as an example. With hundreds of tribes and local languages, Indonesian people are unified by one main national language, *Bahasa Indonesia*.

Seeing the importance of the role of English, the English language incorporate into the educational curriculum. Educational curriculum aims to develop quality human resources. This is stated in the formulation of national education objective of article 3 UUSPN RI No.20 Of 2003 Chapter II Section 3 which reads:

Pendidikan nasional berfungsi membentuk kemampuan dan untuk watak siswa serta peradaban bangsa yang bermartabat dalam rangka mencerdaskan kehidupan bangsa. Bertujuan untuk berkembangnya potensi peserta didik agar menjadi manusia yang beriman dan bertakwa kepada Tuhan Yang Maha Esa. Berakhlak mulia, sehat, beriman, berilmu, cakap, kreatif, mandiri dan menjadi warga Negara yang demokrasi dan bertanggung jawab.

As a means of communication, language plays an important role in human living. Humans speak their languages for many reasons, purposes and situations. With languages, people can express their ideas or points of view, show their feeling, interpret something, interact with others, pass information, etc.

In *Principles of Language Teaching and Learning* Douglas (2000) stated that language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written, or gestural symbols that enable members of a given community to communicate intelligibly with one another.

Language also is the God's gift for human. He created different languages, as written by Yusuf Ali (1983, p.1056) in the Holy Koran *Translation and Commentary* in the Ar-Ruum Verse 22, as follows:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالاخْتِلافُ اَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَاللّوَانِكُمْ اِنَّ فِي ذٰلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِّلْعٰلَمِيْنَ

Human beings use different languages in their communication, these different languages show that Allah, the Creator and the Master of this world and all of everything for the happiness of human beings orders people to study His verses in this world.

And also verse explains to us that knowledge from God Allah the almighty is large, one of it is language. There are many languages in the world. One of them that have to pay attention is English. It is one of the foreign languages and almost used in many kinds of human activities in the world.

As we know that English is widely used in the world and because of that, English is one of the main languages for international communication. English that included as compulsory subject at formal schooling. It is taught and learned from elementary to university levels. The skills that are emphasized in the teaching and learning process include listening, speaking, reading and writing. The position of English at school is very important since it becomes one of four subjects that are examined in UAN and UNAS (National Examination).

In *Essential Speaking Skill* Joanna Baker (2003, p.5-6), stated that many teachers worldwide have to teach mainly grammar and vocabulary because these areas are tested in examinations. This means that speaking is a neglected language skill in many classrooms. Students may have a good knowledge of grammar and a wide vocabulary: they can use this knowledge to pass examinations, but they find it more difficult to speak English outside the classroom.

More and more educators, governments, ministers of education and employers need people who can speak English well. Companies and organizations want staff who can speak English in order to communicate within the international marketplace. Students who can speak English well may have a greater chance of further education, of finding employment and gaining promotion.

Speaking English well also help students to access up-to-date information in fields including science, technology and health. Good English speakers will be in a strong position to help their country's economic, social and political development. So by learning to speak English well, students gain a valuable skill which can be useful in their lives and contribute to their community and country.

There are also very good educational reasons to practice speaking during a lesson:

1. Speaking activities can *reinforce* the learning of new vocabulary, grammar or functional language;
2. Speaking activities give students to chance to *use* the new language they are learning;

3. Speaking activities give more advance students the chance to *experiment* with the language they already know in different situations and on different topics.

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 politics. Beside that English is an international language for communication. By mastering English enables us to communicate with other people that are from other countries.

In learning a new language, some people learn it as second languages while other learning it as a foreign one. These could be defined when a community has more possibility to get accessed or exposed to a new language. For new learners, sometimes it is hard to diminish local influence when they start learning a new language. For some cases, it sounds quite funny sometimes but it can be real mistakes if the learners can not adjust their language competence with the target language they are learning.

Nowadays, English is number one language people learn all around the world, and the obstacles people face in learning it are varied. One of those problems is spelling in speaking skill. It is quite difficult problems to the teacher to find any strategies to improve their students' ability in speaking skill.

English is taught in senior high school as a compulsory subject. English lesson has four skills there are; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is one of the skills that must be mastered by students. Because of speaking is one

of the communications media. L.G. Alexander (1975) in his book *Practice and progress: an integrated course for pre-intermediate students* stated that “The students must be trained adequately in all four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. If the teacher is to train his students in all four skills, he must make efficient of the time at his disposal.” (p.8)

As a senior high school, English is also learned in Darul Istiqamah as a general. It is not only in male school but also female school. There is no a differentiation for both schools in learning English, but the writer only did the observation in a male Boarding School, because the writer find some difficulties to do the observation in a girl school because of one reason, the writer is a boy.

In a male Boarding School the teachers find out some difficulties to improve students’ ability in speaking skill. Especial for the first year, most of the students never practice their English pronunciation before. Most of them are the beginner in learning Foreign Language (English), the students face in a new condition culture and society, they face with a new mixed classroom and friends. It causes the difficulties for the communication with others and also for teachers. Lynne Cameron (2001) states in her book *Teaching Language to Young Learners*, “when foreign language teachers faced with mixed classes of beginners and more advanced learners. The social, cultural and political issues around policies of teaching foreign language early are complex and influence teaching and learning at classroom level. Comparative studies of different socio-political context would be useful in investigating these influences and their impact”. (p.16-17)

She also stated that Language for young learners raises more problems with the notion of 'real' or 'authentic' language use (Cameron, 2001). Many children do not use the foreign language (English) outside the classroom, except perhaps on holiday, with tourist to their country, and when using computers. Beyond these limited domains, their outside lives do not readily provide a needs-related syllabus for foreign language learning. The other problems that the teachers have to work harder to control students' practicing English in students' daily life with students' basics background life. It is related on book *New Ways in Teaching Speaking* written by Kathleen M. Bailey and Lance Savage (1993): "the challenge of teaching beginning-level students largely lies in finding common ground among the students' diverse cultural background" (p.30). Confronting with those complicate problems, the teachers should make the right strategies for improving students' speaking skill.

In this research, the writer is interested in figuring out the teacher's strategies to teach speaking effectively by improving the students' ability. So, the writer decided to do this research entitled "TEACHER'S STRATEGIES IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' ABILITY IN SPEAKING AT TENTH GRADE OF DARUL ISTIQAMAH MALE BOARDING SCHOOL BARABAI".

## **B. Statement of Problems**

1. How are the teacher's strategies in improving students' ability in speaking at tenth grade of Darul Istiqamah male boarding school Barabai?
2. What are the problems or difficulties that the teacher finds in improving students' ability in speaking at tenth grade of Darul Istiqamah male Boarding School Barabai?

### **C. Objective of Study**

1. To analyze the teacher's strategies in improving students' ability in speaking
2. To find out the teacher's difficulties in improving students' ability in speaking

### **D. Significance of Study**

1. As a references for English teachers in improving their students' speaking skill.
2. To enrich knowledge for research and other reader, especially teacher's strategies in improving students' ability in speaking skill.
3. This research present information to the reader about the teacher's strategies in improving students' speaking ability.

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



To avoid misunderstanding of the title, the writer needs to explain some terms in the title as follow:

### 1. Strategy

In a dictionary *Advanced English Dictionary and Thesaurus* (jDictionary-Mobile, July, 2007), strategy is an elaborate and systematic plan of action. Strategy is an action that managers take to attain one or more of the organization's goals. Strategy can also be defined as "A general direction set for the company and its various components to achieve a desired state in the future. Strategy results from the detailed strategic planning process". In this research especially, the writer will describe the teacher's strategies in improving students' ability in speaking at tenth grade of Darul Istiqamah male Boarding School Barabai.

### 2. Speaking skill

Speaking is the active or productive skill that performed face to face interaction and occurs as part of a dialogue or other form of verbal exchange. (Widdowson, 1984, p.58). In *Testing English as a Second Language* book (Haris, 1974, p.81), speaking skill is a complex skill requiring the simultaneous use of a number of different abilities which often develop at different rates. He adds that there are five components of speaking ability. They are: *pronunciation*, including the segmental features vowels and consonants and the stress and intonation patterns; *grammar*; *vocabulary*;

*fluency*, the ease and speed of the flow of speeches; *comprehension*; requires a subject to respond to speech as well as to initiate it.

### 3. Ability

A.S. Hornby (1995), stated that ability means the mental or physical capacity, power or skill required to do something. Student's ability is meant that the student has skill to do something in himself / herself. (p.2)