

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, statement of research problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation and definition of key term.

A. Background of the Research

As an International language, English has important role in the world. Most people use English to communicate among people with different background of language from many part of the world, as a mean to gain knowledge, information, science, technologies and other. Harmer (2007:11) stated that many people learn English because they think it will be usefull in some way for internatioal communication, wish to learn to speak, read, listen and write the language effectively for wherever and whenever things might be useful for them.

Because of the importance of English, our government makes a policy about the use of English in our education system. The standard of content for the Junior High School states that the target of English instruction in school is to enable the student to gain functional level of literacy (Depdiknas, 2006 : 277). At this particular level, students are expected to be able to communicate in both written and oral forms to overcome their daily challenges. This

objective is clearly reflected in the English standard of competencies and the basic competencies.

To communicate well, students must have good capabilities in speaking. Some strategies should be made to enhance the students' success in improving their speaking proficiency. The learning process of English in senior high school should be supported by qualified learning strategies used by the students, the readiness of the students, and suitable teaching equipment. In fact, not all teaching is always supported by qualified teachers, not all students are ready to learn the materials, and not all schools have complete equipment and appropriate materials. Nowadays, in several senior high schools students employ learning strategies in learning English. They can get successful result if they employ good learning strategies.

Speaking practice is probably the most reliable route to true communication in developing the learners' proficiency. The students need good preparation to express their feeling and ideas in speaking and discussion. They feel that speaking is the hardest skill in English learning. That is why, they need to employ learning strategies to improve their speaking. English learning strategies are an intentional behavior and thought used by the learner during learning English to help them understand, learn and remember new information. Learning strategies are procedures undertaken by the learners in order to make their own language learning as effective as possible. According to O'malley (1990:188) good learners are aware of the learning process and themselves as learners, and seek to control their own learning through the use

of appropriate learning strategy. Styles are general characteristics that differentiate one individual from another and learning strategies are the special behaviors that individual use to help them learn new information.

In learning English, the students have various strategies. They apply their own strategies to master it. The differences of the learning strategy show that there are many different levels of learning difficulties of each personal, for example, the different of speaking proficiency. Some of the students are fluent in speaking, because they have good grammar, enough vocabulary, and good pronunciation but others are unable to speak English, because they do not have enough vocabulary and poor on grammar. Understanding speaking depends on themselves in learning speaking.

Referring to the fact above, it is believed that learning a foreign language especially English really needs serious efforts. It requires the learners to be more active in involving themselves to any kinds of English practices. Moreover, they have to be more selective and able to improve their own learning strategy to overcome the possible problems in learning English, especially in speaking. The classroom activities can model the behavior exhibited by successful language learners (Brown, 2001:210). All classroom tasks and activities will contain some implied learning strategy (Nunan, 1991:185). Therefore, their ability to choose and commit to their own learning strategy is expected to be contributive in improving their speaking performance.

Because of the reason, some institutions establish speaking program which is intended to encourage the students to use English in their daily activities in order to improve the students speaking skill. One of the institutions in Tulungagung that establish speaking program is Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah. This modern Islamic boarding school has bilingual system of language use in daily communication. They use Arabic and English in daily communication every day. Therefore, in this case it is interesting talking about learning strategy. Hence, the students do not only learn the theory of speaking, but also they practice of speaking English directly. Some of the students were active in speaking activity, they also have good achievement in speaking. They believe that what they have done in learning would help them enhance their achievement in speaking. It means that students have different characteristics on their learning process and they learn in many different ways. The nature of learning strategies has been tried to define by some experts. Oxford (1990:1) defines learning strategies as step used by the students to improve their own language. Besides Nunan (1999:171) defines that learning strategies are the mental and communicative procedures learners use in order to learn and use language. The strategies of English learning in Modern Islamic Boarding School are much better to improve students' skills in speaking.

In this research, we only focus in English speaking. Speaking by using English is one of Modern Islamic Boarding School characteristic. Speaking is used by the students to talk with the others and to deliver information in their daily activities. The instruction given by the teacher to use English in their

speaking is done in order to give a model for them to practice and try to learn the pattern of English itself.

In this study, the researcher believes that proficiency of the students are not only determined by the teachers' performance but also, by other factors, one of them is the students' learning strategies they employ. This way demands the students to use their own learning strategies so that they are successful in speaking. Therefore, this research entitles **“Students' Strategy in Improving English Speaking Proficiency at Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah Tulungagung”**.

B. Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulated the question as follows :

1. What kinds of learning strategies are employed by the students to improve their speaking proficiency at Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah Tulungagung ?
2. How are the strategies employed contributive to improve their English proficiency?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question above, the purpose of this study are :

1. Describe language learning strategies are employed by students at Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah Tulungagung
2. To know the contributive of students' learning strategies employed to improve speaking proficiency.

D. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that the results of the study are contribution for students, teacher, and future researcher.

1. For the students

The results of the study can be used as one of references in learning English language, especially in speaking and the students get better studying supported by learning strategy.

2. For English teachers

The findings are expected to be useful contribution that can be transferred to learners based on their characteristics. By considering that each student may employ different learning strategy, teachers can take students learning strategies as the basis of instruction. On the basis of the findings, it can give opportunity for teachers to support students in improving their learning strategy.

3. For the future researcher

This study can be used as reference to other researcher who wants to investigate about students' learning strategy in improving their speaking skills. Hopefully, the finding will become a reference in conducting future research about learning strategies in speaking. The future researchers can develop this study to apply to different levels of students in their effort to improve their speaking performance.

E. Scope and Limitation

1. Scope

The scope of the research was focusing on learning strategies is used by English students in learning English at Modern Islamic Boarding School.

2. Limitation

There are some limitation in this study, those are:

1. The researcher only observes in learning strategy by the good students female at Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah Tulungagung in speaking proficiency.
2. The researcher only done observation in the male dormitory, because it is not allowed to come to the female dormitory.

F. Definition of Key Term

In this part, there are some explanations from the title mentioned in the previous item. The title is “Student’s strategy in improving speaking English proficiency at Modern Islamic Boarding School of Darul Hikmah Tulungagung. In order to avoid misunderstanding of the readers . It is important to define the key terms as follows:

- a. Speaking proficiency is described as the ability to express oneself in life situations, or the ability to report acts or situations in precise words, or the ability to converse, or to express a sequence of ideals fluently.
- b. Language learning strategy has been classified by many scholars. O’Malley and Chamot (1990) define learning strategies as “the special thoughts or behaviors that individuals use to help them comprehend, learn, or retain new

information”. Rubin (1987) later defined language learning strategy as those strategies that “contribute to the development of the language system which the learner constructs and affect learning directly”. Speaking learning strategy is tricks of the learners how to help them speak about somethings better or to do tasks more efficiently.