CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this first chapter, the researcher presented the background of the research, formulation of the research problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

In this globalization era, English is important for our lives. Apart from being an international language, English is one of the most important elements in education to develop human resources. Speaking is one of the main skills in English besides reading, writing, and listening skills. Speaking skills are communication skills that a person has in expressing ideas and thoughts to be conveyed to the other person, especially when we need to communicate with foreigners, it becomes one of the most important skills that we should be able to. According to Wibowo (2014) language is the effective communication to express an idea, message, feelings, or opinion to others. As the non-native English learners, learning speaking skills is important for us, because it can train students to speak in a good and correct language in conveying messages or meanings in the form of ideas orally. The act of speaking face to face to the audience, in front of a person, group or large people including daily conversation and speech commonly known as public speaking.

English is taught in Indonesia from the kids until being adult. Nurhayati (2016) said that from the fact, it shown that speaking is one of difficult problem for students in conducting communication. The students should know about how to use the language, but they could not to use it well if they do not practice in daily communication. Thus, practicing daily communication for speaking is an important thing to do when we learn English. That is also a part to build the students' confidence to speaking actively in front of other or in public. The difficulties that often face when learning to speak English are they do not know the use of grammar properly, do not have good pronunciation and vocabulary, so they have less confident.

One of the most important ways to facilitate students in the speaking learning process is direct interaction because they are able to improve their speaking skills in a classroom setting. When the students speak, they construct ideas in words, express their feelings, perceptions, or intentions. By interacting directly, the students train themselves to answer or respond directly to what they have been received from the other person. When the students are given the topic, they would looking for their material that would be delivered to the audiences in their own way. While presenting their speech, indirectly the students improve their vocabularies when arranging the speech and improve their pronunciation when present their speech. Usually, at the end of the speech, the audiences should to give some feedback or they can say a message from the speech. Indirectly, both speaker and audiences are taking the same chance to improve their public speaking skills.

Good public speaking skills are important to increase self-confidence, develop interpersonal skills like to make interaction with other people in everyday life individually or in groups, help to be a good leader, for career development, and business growth. For students, public speaking is needed when they are doing presentation, speak in front of the class, or delivering some speech. Especially, as the students of English Education Department, they are as the educators to be, required to be able to convey information or material well in front of their students. Rice (2017) stated that public speaking is one of communication skills that universal applicable to all types of majors and occupations, if it developed well, then public speaking will provide benefits in the personal intellectual.

Public speaking course activities can be done easily when life goes normally. Nowadays, we are faced with a situation where people are very limited to interact directly with others. We must always keep our distance from other people and almost all activities are carried out online at home, including work and school from home. This condition is known as the Covid-19 pandemic. It began from last year when the Coronavirus disease spread rapidly in March, 2020. In this pandemic situation, all of learning activities must be

rearranged so that the learning process can continue well even though in a different way. Teachers and students should change their learning method from offline or face to face learning to face to face online learning through devices.

Due to the pandemic, the learning process at the Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah State Islamic University of Tulungagung must be carried out online since the beginning of March 2020. So that, the learning process for the public speaking courses which taken by students in the fourth semester of English Education Department were not run as usual. Students learn about public speaking skills through online due to the pandemic. In this case, there would definitely find many problems or difficulties that students face during learning public speaking through online. Based on the observation, there were many problems when learning public speaking through online which was very difficult for students to interact directly with others. The researcher did observations twice on November 2021 and April 2022 in different public speaking classes. The first class was using Google Classroom and the second one was using WhatsApp Group as an intermediary media for online learning. The results of observations which was conducted through online, public speaking learning activities showed that lecturers more often provide material through e-books, YouTube, and several sources of material from the web during the teaching and learning process. The students were required to be able to practice public speaking through video recordings within a certain deadline when did assignments. There were several different characteristics of students in participating in online public speaking learning, there were some students who become active like responding quickly when the lecturer asked questions and collecting the assignments on time, but there were also passive students who only follow at the beginning of learning activities by filling out the attendance list and did not respond to questions that had been given by lecturer or submit assignments late.

Success in the learning process is not only seen from a technical side but also depends on the characteristics of each student. Nakayama (2007) stated that from all the literature on e-learning was identified that not all students will be successful in online learning. This is due to the factors of the learning

environment and the characteristics of each student. Moreover, in this pandemic condition, it must be very impactful for the learning process which cannot be done because it is required to always implement physical distancing, as *United Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)* stated that the Covid-19 outbreak had an impact on the world of education as well (Hendra Irawan, 2020). In anticipating so it can still take place, an online learning process is carried out, including public speaking skills courses. As we know, that public speaking itself requires several aspects that must be mastered before doing it. Then, learning during a pandemic nowadays must be very influential on mastery of skills because it is limited by conditions that make it impossible to interact directly with each other.

There were several studies related to analysis of problems, difficulties, or challenges in speaking skills that have been carried out by previous researchers. Sayuri (2016) described the problems faced by fourth semester students of English Department at Mulawarman in speaking. The result of the study based on the speaking test and questionnaire were the students faced some problems, those are pronunciation, fluency, grammar, vocabulary, speaking performance, and some factors that affecting the problems. The second researcher is Moulida (2019), he found out the students' challenges and the way students cope with the challenges in English public speaking program at Dayah Darul Ihsan. Based on the data that the researcher took from questionnaire and interview, there are six challenges faced by students and some way how the students cope their challenges. The third study was to analyzed students' problems in speaking English daily language program at Husnul Khotimah Islamic Boarding School that written by Rahayu (2015). The strategies that were used by the teacher in overcoming students' problem, and the strategies used by the management in applying the daily language program. The result from the study, there are more than five problems that faced by students in speaking English daily language program, the teacher chose difference strategies to make students enjoy in learning speaking, and the strategies management also has an effect to improve students speaking.

The previous studies above were related to analysis of problems, difficulties, or challenges in speaking skills that have been carried out by normal situation and condition. In this research, the researcher wanted to find out what the problems that students face when learning public speaking through online mode are and to investigate how the students cope the problems they face when learning public speaking through online mode. Public speaking course that was conducted during online learning and meet through devices would definitely find many problems, so it could affect the students' comprehending. The researcher expected by knowing and understanding the problems that students faced when learning public speaking through online mode, there were conclusions that can be used as solutions to the problems faced and the learning process are improved.

B. Formulation the Research Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the problems that students face when learning public speaking through online mode?
2. How do students cope the problems they face when learning public speaking through online mode?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the research problem, the objective of this research are:

1. To find out the students' problems they face when learning public speaking skills through online mode;
2. To investigate how the students cope the problems they face when learning public speaking through online mode.

D. Significance of the Research

By knowing the problems faced by students, the researcher hopes that this research are able to give some benefits to the students, lecturers, and English education department of Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah State Islamic University of Tulungagung.

First, by the result of this research, the researcher hopes that by knowing the students' problems before they can improve their public speaking skills in the next courses, even though the conditions are not as usual, because mastering public speaking skills is important for them now or in their career after they have graduated.

Second, the finding of the research can inform the English education lecturers generally about the problems of the students faced when learning public speaking through online to improve the effectiveness of online learning.

Third, the researcher hopes that this study also give benefit for English education department of Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah State Islamic University of Tulungagung. The result of this study can help the students to find out their problems when learning public speaking through online, so it is able to support the English communication skills at academic activities.

E. Scope and the Limitation of the Research

This study focuses on the problems that students face when learning public speaking through online in pandemic situation. The scope and limitation of this research are conducted at English Education Department students of Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah State Islamic University of Tulungagung, focus on the students that took public speaking courses in fourth semester which are learned it through online.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The definition of key terms are given in order to avoid misunderstanding. The definition of key terms based on the title of this research as follows:

1. Problem

   Problem is a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome. Klein (2002: 354) stated that problem is "situation in which a person is motivated to reach a goal, but some obstacle blocks the attainment of the goal". Thus, the problem in this

study means the problems which are faced by students when learning public speaking skills through online.

2. Public speaking

Public speaking has traditionally meant the act of speaking face to face to a live audience. Restu, Elok, Rohfin (2017) said that public speaking is oral communication in front of people that combines the skill of speaking.

3. Public speaking skills

Public speaking skills refers to the talent of effectively dealing with the audiences. Whether it is in front of the group of people you already know or strangers. Thus, public speaking skills is the ability to communicate to others with clarity and confidence.

4. Online learning

Stem (2019) clarified that online learning is the education that take place over the internet. It is often referred to as e-learning. Online learning is a distance learning or the general term for any learning which takes place across distance and not in a traditional classroom.