CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In Indonesia, English language learning has been playing an important role in educational context. English language learning has become one of the requirements to graduate from every school in junior high school and senior high school. Thus, the students should master English subject. In essence, language is a skill in life that is continuous with one another. Language skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Muthoharoh, 2017). These four skills are skills that cannot be separated and are continuous with each other. As a language, English is learnt for communication. As stated by Thompson (2003: 1) that communication is a basic feature of social life, and language is a major component of it. Speaking is the most important English skills that students have to masterSpeaking skills are the ability to compose sentences because communication occurs through sentences to display differences in behavior that vary from different societies (Saputra, 2017). By mastering good speaking skills, students can communicate their ideas, both at school and with foreign speakers, and can maintain good relations with other people.

In many contexts, a skill that is often used to judge someone directly is speaking. In other words, people often make judgments about our language ability using our speaking fluency rather than from other language skills (Lukitasari ;2008). Therefore speaking is the skill that the students use most in the real- life situation. Speaking skill is an important part of the curriculum in language teaching, and this makes them an important object of assessment as well. So, speaking should be mastered by the students because it enables them to communicate with others.

However, there are many cases where it is found that learning English is a difficult subject for students. students still have difficulty speaking and communicating in English. Students have the assumption that speaking English is difficult, so they are very afraid of making mistakes in speaking. Speaking is a separate problem that must be mastered by students, which is a combination of abilities between the brain, word or sentence processing and listening skills (Rahayu & Astutie, 2018). Because of this, students do not dare to express opinions or speak in English.). In the learning process students find it difficult to convey ideas, thoughts, questions and so on in English by using a variety of spoken language properly and correctly. The interest and ability of students in speaking English is still very low, this can be seen from the scores obtained by students in the learning process. Then, some students were still confused about what they should say when speaking verbally. Thus, this has an impact on the teaching and learning process to be less conducive.

Not only in formal schools, but also in informal schools such as Islamic boarding schools, there are also many who apply English as a mandatory language that must be used even for everyday use. For example, in the Darul Hikmah Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung uses 2 languages, namely English and Arabic to be used in daily conversation. The schedule is made in 2 weeks using English and 2 weeks later using Arabic. For every morning all students have a conversation class so they must be able to speak in English. However, not all students can speak English and practice their English in class because there are many problems in speaking.

Moreover, teaching and learning process cannot run well. If teacher cannot deliver all the material should be taught because she only spends the time in making students speak. These problems might appear because students are still in the process of acquiring a foreign language. Although students have some difficulties in delivering their ideas, they always try hard to communicate each other and participate in the class. To minimize problems in speaking and make conversation fluently, students should apply some strategies, such as paraphrasing

their sentences and using gesture to deliver their meaning. These efforts are called communication strategies. According to Littlewood (1984: 83) communication strategies are ways that learners use in copying with the situation to get across the meaning, when foreign language learners face difficulties to deliver their intensions in communication. The purpose of communication strategies is to overcome communication problems by applying some kinds of strategies. Unfortunately, finding opportunities to speak English in a country in which English is not as native language can be difficult for the students. The school seems to be the only place where they can be forced to learn English and practice speaking. Therefore, many schools try to improve students' ability in speaking through conversation in class.

In this study, the writer investigated **Students' Strategies in Developing Speaking Skill at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung** because students in there has some difficulties in speaking and they tried to overcome it by using some strategies.

B. Research Question

1. What are the problems faced by the students' in developing speaking skill at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung.

2. How are the students' strategies in developing speaking skill at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung.

C. Objectives of the Research

The objective of the research are as follows :

1. To know the problems faced by the students' in developing speaking skill at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung.
2. To know the students' strategies in developing speaking skill at Darul Hikmah Modern Islamic Boarding School Tawangsari Kedungwaru Tulungagung.

D. Significance of the Research

The significance of the study will be useful for:

a. For the students, The result of the study is expected to give contribution for the science in teaching and learning speaking, especially for students, since speaking is the important skill in learning another language. The information about the speaking learning strategies can make people who are interested in speaking know and understand the various learning strategies used by the students. This research will give more information about speaking problems and the strategies which can be uses to deal with the problems. Through this research, students who want to communicate each other and find difficulties can learn about their problems and the strategies to keep the communication going on relevant to their own speaking problems. It also enables students to help their friends to overcome their speaking problems. Forstudents, they can apply and develop speaking learning strategies used by the students to solve their speaking problems.

b. For English teacher, This research can enable them in designing appropriate materials and activities that are suitable for their

students" need. Besides, teacher could teach students some technical how to tackle a language specially in speaking skill using the strategies. So, it can ease English teacher in the process of teaching and learning. English teacher can have knowledge about communication strategies if teacher face some difficulties to express the meaning in conversation.

c. For the researcher, the result of this research can develop her experiencerelated to her knowledge in research on education and English teaching, especially for speaking For the next researcher, the writer hopes this research can give additional literature in making depth investigation about speaking problems and strategies in overcoming those problems. In addition, this research will help reader to understand about communication strategies that are employed by foreign language learners in order to improve speaking skill.

E. Scope of the Research

This research is limited to know strategies used by the students' in overcoming English conversation problems. The writer wants to investigate the strategies used by the students' in developing speaking skill, because students are considered to have some problems in making English conversation like lack confidence, afraid in making mistake, less motivation, lack of vocabulary, difficulties to pronounce English word, and worry about grammmar.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are some operational terms used in this study: Student's strategies, overcoming, speaking, problem, speaking problem, conversation. Each term are defined as follows:

1. Student's strategies

   (Richards; 2001) The method and activities that will be used by students to attain the goals.

2. Overcoming

   (The New Thesaurus;2002) to get the better of in competition, struggle. In this study, overcoming is considered as an effort to make speaking skill is better.

3. Speaking

   Hornby (1974:1289) 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.

4. Problem

   Something that is difficult to deal with or understand.

5. Speaking Problem

   (Brown; 1994 and Oxford Dictionary; 1995) something difficult in an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving, and processing information.

6. Conversation

   Interactive communication between two or more people