

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents six topics related to the introduction, namely background of study, research question, research objective, scope & limitation, significance of the study, and definition of the key terms.

A. Background of Study

Speaking is the most important thing in the aspect of language skills. Speaking is an oral communication tool that plays an important role in the form of human interaction and communication when someone expresses ideas, thoughts, and feelings to others through a sequence of sounds, words, and sentences. Someone who speaks requires several elements that are used as the rules for forming speech, namely vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and fluency.

The problem that often occurs in the aspect of speaking skills is the inadequate fluency of speaking. Inadequate speaking fluency is usually caused by a lack of understood vocabulary. In addition to inadequate speaking fluency and insufficient vocabulary, other problems in speaking skills are less fluent pronunciation and incorrect grammar.

Seeing this problem that often occurs, the researcher made three observations at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar during internship 2. The first observation was made on Monday, October 3rd 2022. In this

observation, the researcher made observations in class when the researcher was an intern teacher. This observations were made during the learning process. At that time one by one the students in pairs read the results of their assignment in front of the class, the text of the task was read in the form of a conversational dialogue in front of the class. The researcher saw and listened, after that the researcher found a problem with the students' speaking ability, namely the students' speaking ability was not fluent. the students' lack of fluency in English can be seen from the student presentation during study. When the students presented the results of their assignment, their speaking ability was still less and not fluent at all. Even though during the presentation, they presented by read the presentation material, both reading ppt, books, etc.

The second observation was carried out on Thursday, October 6th 2022. In this observation, the researcher made observations in class when the researcher was an intern teacher. Observations were made during the learning process. The result of the observation is the students have a lack of vocabulary. The lack of vocabulary can be seen from they respond during learning. During the learning process researcher always provide feedback to students. Therefore, it can have a relationship with the material being discussed. So that, the students can understand and got it about the material being studied during learning. Unfortunately, the responses shown by students to researcher when answering some questions were often not

understood by students. And when students asked, for example "what the meaning of this word?". They often say that they don't know.

The third observation was carried out on Monday, October 10th 2022. In this observation, the researcher made observations in class when the researcher was an intern teacher. Observations were made during the learning process. The result of the observation is that the students' pronunciation was not fluent and correct. It can be seen when the students talked. There are many words that are wrong and less correct in pronunciation. Likewise, the grammatical structures that they use are often wrong. It can be seen from the text they wrote when there was an assignment from the researcher to write a text about personal experiences using English.

Based on the observations, the problem of speaking skills at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar is the same as the problems that often occur in general. These problems are inadequate fluency, inadequate vocabulary, poor pronunciation and incorrect grammar.

According to Nurhayati (2018), as an educator and teacher, English teacher are required to always develop their abilities, knowledge, thought, and attention. So, english teacher must also chose the effective and interesting method to teach. To support speaking skills in students, a learning process is needed using effective and interesting method to improve speaking skills. Many learning methods can be applied to English speaking skills using interesting materials, media, and techniques. There are several techniques or ways to teach speaking, for example games, pictures,

dialogues, role play plays, songs, movies, etc. One of the effective and interesting techniques is used the picture. The writer chose pictures for this research because pictures are good visual aids in classroom learning and are considered effective in attracting students' attention. According to Huebner (1990, p.37), "picture, one of the visual aids, is every type of pictorial presentation." Pictures can be designed and used in teaching materials. Picture media will made it easier for students to capture the content of the material and the teacher can master the material presented. In addition, students can practiced speaking fluently by using correct pronunciation in explaining the contents of the picture in front of the class.

The researcher chose the description picture model to improve speaking skills because the picture is a real object and is not difficult to found. Pictures can be used to stimulate students to be more active. So, they are used to expressing their ideas in English by describing a picture.

One of the activities in teaching speaking is describing pictures. The purpose of this activity is to train students' imagination and retell the story in speaking English. Munadi in Jaya Nur Iman (2016) said that picture made it easier for people to capture ideas or information conveyed in them clearly, more than if only expressed verbally. When students observe the picture, they are able to talk more and build new ideas by describing the picture.

According to several articles or thesis that the researcher have read, the first was on Anggia Murni's research. Anggia Murni (2018) said the test results showed that there was an effect of the picture strategy on English

speaking skills. Students' speaking skills improved after using this strategy. The second is in the research of Mira Wahyuni Lubis. Mira Wahyuni Lubis (2017) said the results of the study showed an increase in students' speaking skills in describing picture strategies as media pictures. The third is in the research of Zulfi Zumala Dwi Andriyani and Mega Apriliyana (2021) said the results of the research that describing pictures can be used to stimulate their imagination and motivation to learn English, especially in speaking skills. The fourth is in the research of Zakiyah Farhanah Pratiwi and Mutiara Ayu (2020) said the results of the research that with qualitative data, describing a picture strategy can improve students' speaking skills. With some of the results of this study, the writer feel that Describing Pictures is an appropriate and recommended way or method to be used to improve students' speaking abilities.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher chose to try to investigate “describing pictures strategy to improve students’ speaking ability of the eight grade students at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar”.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of study above, the formulated of the research question is “How can describing pictures strategy improve the students’ speaking ability of the eighth grade students at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar?”

C. Research Objective

Based on the research question above, the formulated of the research objective is “To found out wether the using describing pictures strategy improve the students speaking ability of the eighth grade at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar”.

D. Scope and Limitation of the study

There are several activities that can improve students’ speaking ability, such as games, pictures, dialogues, role play plays, songs, movies, etc. the researcher used describing picture to improve student’s speaking ability of the eighth grade at MTs Darussalam Kademangan Blitar. Then, the research was focused on the speaking skill using describing pictures.

E. Significance of the study

1. For the students

For students this study can help to develop student skill and understanding characteristic of student, so that the student can be motivated to study English and made them think that English is very easy subject to learn, it is not difficult but only need more practiced. The reseacher hopes that they can be more active in English class whether they are able to speak or not. It is to increase their braveness to use their skills in speaking class or everywhere.

2. For the teacher

From this study, educators especially Teacher in school. Institutions will get useful information about student's anxiety level in English. The information will help them to design effective teaching methods that can help to reduce language anxiety and to create less stressful learning atmosphere. The findings from this research also can be used to help students to found suitable strategies to overcome their anxiety problem. It is very important to ensure that they can perform well in English so that they will have competency in the second language. And they can perform well more.

3. For the researcher

The researcher can use the by using describing pictures strategy to teach in the future teaching-learning. The study also gives insights to the researcher about what things which have to be considered in every teaching and learning process.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

There are some key terms in this study that must be interpreted as clearly as possible to avoid misunderstanding. The key terms are:

1. Strategy

According to Tjiptono (2011) Strategy is a set of overall ways related to the implementation of an idea, a plan within a predetermined time.

2. Describing pictures

Describing pictures is one of the activities in teaching speaking English where in describing the picture, students must describe one picture and explain it in front of their classmates.

3. Improve

According to Stevenson (2010) "Improve means making profit, increasing value; then made greater in number or degrees". In other words, it can be called making or getting better (Bull, 2008). In this study, the word "improve" is used to say that speaking skills can be achieved and developed by using the strategy of describing pictures.

4. Speaking ability

According to Ladouse (in Nunan, 1991: 23) "speaking is an activity to explain someone in a certain situation or an activity to report something." "Speaking is a way of communicating that affects our daily lives." (Tarigan, 1990: 8) Based on this statement, it can be concluded that speaking is an activity that involves two or more people, one of which is a listener and one of the others is a speaker.