

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is an important language in Indonesia, particularly in education and the job market. It is also a common language for communication. In English education, students are expected to develop proficiency in four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Harmer (Widyasworo, 2019) describes speaking as the ability to speak fluently presupposes not only knowledge of language feature, but also the ability to process information and language. It is an important skill because in speaking, someone is able to say what he/she wants to express.

According to Kurum (2016), speaking ability is composed of three areas of knowledge: 1) Mechanics, which includes the proper use of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary; 2) Functions, which includes the ability to use language for both information exchange (transaction) and relationship building (interaction); and 3) Pragmatics, which includes understanding and adhering to social and cultural rules and norms such as turn-taking, rate of speech, and the relative roles of the speakers and the context in which the conversation takes place.

Based on the experience of researchers when teaching at MAN Bintan, it is very difficult for students to communicate in English when studying. Ahamadi and Widodo (Widyasworo, 2019) said that difficulties in learning refer to a condition where students are unable to learn effectively and make progress in their

studies as they should. They are reluctant to speak and more silent. They feel that speaking in English is very difficult because when speaking they have to use the appropriate grammatical and correct pronunciation so they are afraid of making mistakes. They may also be weak in vocabulary mastery. According to the students, the material designed was not attractive enough so that it made students bored and not interested in responding much, and even tended to be more silent. During the learning session, there were only a few students who responded to the teacher in English. This is a point that makes researchers feel the need to find out more about the difficulties students face when learning speaking.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates the research problem are:

1. Students are lack of vocabulary.
2. Students are afraid of making mistakes.
3. Students are feeling shy because of they are less confident.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the background and identification of the problem above, the writer limited the research problem. The limitation of research focused on the difficulties that English students faced in learning speaking.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the limitation of the problem, the research question can be formulated as “What are the difficulties faced by English’ students in learning speaking at Tenth Grade students in MAN Tanjungpinang?”

1.5 Purpose of the Research

This study aims to find out the English students' difficulties in learning speaking.

1.6 Signification of the Research

The research is formulated as an effort of finding some uses. The uses of this research are:

1. Theoretically

The theoretical significance of this research is as the overview of the difficulties faced by English students.

2. Practically

This study is beneficial for the future English teachers and other researchers.

They are as follow:

a. English Teachers

This beneficial for English teachers, can be used as a reference and overview in the preparation and implementation in teaching speaking, so that the teaching and learning process can be carried out more prepared and well structured.

b. Other researchers

For other researchers, it can be used as additional knowledge in conducting further research in the same field.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

This operational definition is used to clarify the research to readers so that they do not get confused. Among the words listed are:

1. Students

Students are people or children who currently studying English in grade X at MAN Tanjungpinang.

2. Speaking

Speaking is a skill to use a language appropriately to express someone's idea, opinions, or feelings in order to give or get information and knowledge from other people who do communication.

3. Difficulty

Difficulty is a condition or fact of being difficult or hard to do. The difficulty is a condition where students cannot learn because of interference. According to Djamarah (2011, p. 235), difficulties in learning refers to a condition where students are unable to study well due to the presence of threats, obstacles, or disturbances that impede their ability to learn effectively. These can be internal factors such as lack of motivation or learning disabilities, or external factors such as a poor learning environment or lack of resources.