

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some points including background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of them.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of thinking and transferring culture from one generation to another as well as from one nation to another. It is also a means of communication among people.

Over the last three decades, English has become the most important foreign language in the world. English is used as an international language for sharing information, knowledge, culture, and communication among people worldwide. Although Indonesian people do not use English for communication, in globalization era, students are insisted to master it.

One of the English skills which take an important role of learning English is speaking. Practically, speaking is important for students to explore their understanding and to send idea. According to Girt and Hans (2008: 207) speaking is a speech or an utterance with the purpose of having intention to be recognized by speaker and the receiver to processes the statements in order to recognize their intentions. Based on the statement, the researcher thinks that speaking is an important and interesting skill for the students. Thus, the researcher believes that speaking is an important lesson to be improved.

Teaching speaking needs more preparation. The teachers should provide practice of English speaking after explaining the lesson in the classroom. The teachers should decide the topic. The topic of speaking practice must be appropriate with the lesson taught so that it will make students easier to perform. Thus, the teachers need consideration to apply it in the classroom.

In the speaking class, the students need to think about what they want to say in the target language and feel confident enough to express it. In speaking activities, the students can explore the ideas about something in their mind. Therefore, the students need to be guided. On the other hand, they also say in the target language that makes other can understand that language. Therefore, it is not only to say the language, but also to understand the function of language in a correct way.

Based on the writer's experience, during teaching practice in SMP Negeri 1 Kupang, the writer found that many students committed errors in speaking especially in pronunciation, vocabulary, fluency and grammar.

Here the writer gives some examples of pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and fluency errors in speaking:

1. Pronunciation

Example:

- Good morning (gud morning) incorrect sentence
- Good morning (gud moning) correct sentence
- Error happens on the wrong pronunciation of word "morning"

2. Vocabulary

Example:

- I go to school using Bemo (incorrect).
- I go to school by Bemo (correct).
- The error happens on the use of using means menggunakan.

3. Grammar

Example:

- They is astudents (incorrect sentence).
- They are students (correct sentence).
- The error is on the subject verb argument.

4. Fluency

- I am a....a...a student.(incorrect sentence).
- I am a student. (correct sentence).
- Error classification: word *a* shown a speaker itself. But word *ain* the sentence above consist repeating.

Based on the statement above, the writer make this proposal with the title :

“A Study on The Speaking Ability of the Seventh Grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the School Year of 2017/2018.”

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to identify the statement of the problems as follows:

1. Are the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupangin the school year 2017/2018 able to speak English well?
2. What is the ability level of the seventh grade students ofSMP Negeri 1 Kupangin the school year 2017/2018 in speaking English?

3. What are the difficulties that might be faced by the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 in speaking English?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

To objectives of the study as follows:

1. To find out whether or not the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 are able to speak English.
2. To know the ability level of the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 in speaking English.
3. To know the difficulties that might be faced by the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 in speaking English.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be beneficial of the following persons:

1. The students

Through this study the students can be motivated to learn and speak orally with correct grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

2. The teacher

This study is beneficial for the English teacher to know about their students' ability in speaking.

3. The writer

This study is useful for the writer to improve her own knowledge particularly about speaking especially in grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are four English skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In this study the writer describes about speaking ability, and the writer focuses on pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and fluency.

Limitation of this research is the students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang able to speak English with use the simple past tense.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In other to help the readers understand her study this section offers definition of the terms used in the title of the present study.

1). Ability

The quality of being able to perform: a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment. (Lewis, 2011). In this study the writer refers to the ability of students in speaking English.

2). Speaking

It is a dialog by expressing thoughts and ideas in terms of oral and writing (Hornby, 1974: 824). In this study speaking means provide opinion oral or written.

The writer can experiment the speaking ability manner oral or written.

3). Speaking ability

It is productive skill that can be directly and empirically observe (Brown, 2001: 140). In this study the writer wants to know the ability of students in speaking English.

4). SMP Negeri 1 Kupang

SMP Negeri 1 Kupang is one of the junior high schools that is located in jalan Cak Doko Kupang City in east Nusa Tenggara Province.