

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1. Background**

The main language skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. All of them are important to improve students' English competency. This study focused on a mining the Speaking Ability of a Junior High School. This speaking skill is related to how a person is able to pronounce clearly word for word so that what is conveyed can be understood by the interlocutor and does not cause misunderstanding in communicating. (Nunan 1999: 14) states that speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving and processing information orally. For many second language or foreign language learners, the mastery of speaking skills in English is very important.

The ability to speak foreign languages, especially English, is a basic skill needed by someone in the era of globalization, related to the introduction and mastery of science and technology. As a basic skill that needs to be mastered, teaching English has received special attention from various academics, practitioners, entrepreneurs, and the government. Therefore, several school learning curricula in Indonesia make English lessons a subject that students must master starting from the elementary school level to higher education (Sukamerta, 2011).

According to the Ministry of National Education (2003) speaking skills are taught with the aim that students have the ability to express ideas, ideas, opinions, ideas to be conveyed to others. In elementary school speaking

skills are skills that are emphasized in the development, in addition to reading, writing and listening. For this reason, the English teacher must be able to explore the potential of students by providing reinforcement on how to convey ideas and information in English. The ability to speak is an effort made by students to be able to express ideas or information that have been received in the form of words that are easy to understand and correct in the compilation of sentences. Learning to speak a foreign language requires more than knowing the rules of grammar. Students must acquire knowledge of how native speakers use language in the context of structured interpersonal exchange.

Based on the writer personal experience, it is possible that students feel embarrassed and afraid of making mistakes, making it difficult for them to express their ideas through speaking. Factors such as a lack of vocabulary, lack of understanding of grammar patterns, and incorrect pronunciation can be sources of bottlenecks and reluctance to talk to Junior High School Students. Therefore speaking skills must be practiced. In learning English, you definitely encounter various difficulties from everyone who learns it because that is the result of some research on difficulties in learning English. The results of the research from "Difficulty in Learning as a Second Language or Foreign Language" stated that Meanwhile, it is acknowledged that some people cannot use English well, especially when talking to other people. Most Indonesians are neither fluent in English nor fluent in conveying information or explaining something in English. As a language skill, speaking must be mastered in order to communicate with other people. Therefore, in preparing children to have good communication skills.

Pursuing speaking is a key requirement to be taught not only about adults but also young learners. That is why English should be given to young learners when they are in kindergarten as well as when they enter primary and secondary schools. Harmer (2007: 123) states that there are three main reasons that make students able to speak in class. The first is talking to get a chance to practice speaking in real life. Second, when students try to use one of these languages, they know to provide feedback for teachers and students. Everyone can see for themselves how successful they are and what language problems they have. And finally, the more students have the opportunity to activate various elements of language in their brains, the more automatic they use these elements. Good speaking activities should be attractive to students.

Based on the description above, the writer wants to do a research entitled "ENGLISH SPEAKING OF STUDENTS AT A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN FATULEU IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2021".

## **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

This study aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the speaking ability level of Junior high school students in Fatuleu in the school year 2021/2022?
2. What are the difficulties in speaking English faced by students of SMPN 4 Fatuleu Class VIII A in the school year 2021/2022?

### **1.3. Research Objectives**

Based on the above problems, the objectives of this study are as follows;

1. To find out the speaking ability level of Junior high school students in Fatuleu in the school year 2021/2022.
2. To find out the difficulties in speaking English faced by students of SMPN 4 Fatuleu Class VIII A in the school year 2021/2022.

### **1.4. The Importance of Research**

This study has important meaning for English teachers and writer, as presented below:

1. To the English teacher: This study can be used as a strategy in teaching English, especially in the use of films to teach speaking.
2. To the writer: By conducting this research, the writer enriches her knowledge on evaluating students' speaking ability. This evaluation process in her study will help her preparing her future teaching career especially in helping improving her students' speaking skill.