

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Mastering English requires some skills. For more than six decades till now, research and practice in English language teaching have identified the “four skills” as of paramount importance namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Brown, 2000: 232). These four English skills must be mastered by the students in schools and university gradually. Speaking is one of the important aspects in learning language, because speaking is the important tool for communication.

Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves produce - receiving and processing information (Brown, 1994; Burns and Joyce, 1997). There are many problems faced by the students in speaking. It is because their ability, interest and motivation of speaking English are less. Students are lack of motivation underlying rare practices affecting on the speaking ability. In fact, the researcher believes that it is too late to begin building motivation in adults or teenagers learner. Since motivation plays a very crucial role in learning English especially in encouraging people to speak English, motivation should be built from the children age.

Based on the writer’s own experience in learning English when she was in junior high school, sometimes teacher did not give a chance to students to practice speaking. Many teachers just following the text book without making the creation in teaching English so that the students can be motivated in learn English especially

to speak. Because the teachers were not serious to achieve the student needs, students felt that English is difficult to learn.

The writer thinks that the students need visual media to stimulate them to speak. Students felt confused when they were asked to speak. They need an aid of instrument as media to stimulate and guide them to speak. Pictures are media which can help students to speak.

Miarso (1999) says the functions of pictures as media are making abstract concepts concrete, representing objects that are difficult to find, representing objects that are too big, representing object that are difficult to use, giving the same experiences and motivating students to learn. Teachers have wide opportunities in using pictures. They can set, modify and combine pictures with many techniques and games to reach the goal of speaking classes.

Based on the reasons and problems above the writer would like to make a study under the title **‘A Study on the Use of Describing Picture Strategy In Improving Speaking Ability Of The Eighth Grade Students Of SMP Negeri 2 Soe In The School Year 2015/2016’**.

1.2 Problem Statements

The problems of the study are formulated in following questions:

1. Is the use of describing pictures strategy able to improve the speaking ability of eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Soe in the school year 2015/2016?
2. To what extent is the improvement of students' ability in speaking after being taught using describing pictures strategy?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To know if the use of pictures can help in improving the speaking ability of eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Soe.
2. To know the extent of the improvement of students' ability in speaking after being taught using describing pictures strategy.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance. Such significance is offered to the writer, students and the teacher of English.

1. The writer

This research can be used to enrich her knowledge of teaching especially in using the pictures for teaching speaking.

2. The students

This research can be used to increase the student achievement in speaking English.

3. The Teacher

This research can be used as an item to enrich the inventory of English library and the result of this study are also expected to be the guidance for the teacher in constructing and using the pictures to teach speaking in Junior High School. Besides, it is expected that the pictures can help teachers to make the teaching of speaking more interesting and can be helpful to raise students' motivation and interest in learning speaking.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many strategies in teaching speaking, such as interview, discussion, storytelling, describing pictures, jigsaw, information gap, role play, simulation, and so on. Teachers use these strategies to help students not just to improve their speaking ability but also they used these strategies to build students motivation and interest in learning English especially to speak.

In this study, the writer only limits to the teaching speaking using describing picture strategy. The writer also limits the evaluation on three speaking elements. They are vocabulary, grammar and the content (Hughes, 1990).

1.6 Definitions of the Terms

In this part the writer would like to present some definitions of terms that are used in this study to help the readers' understandings. They are presented below:

1. Ability

Hornby (2007) defines that ability is the capacity or power (to do something physical or mental). In this study ability means the capacity or power of the students of SMP N 2 Soe to speak English after being taught using pictures strategy.

2. Speaking

According to Jill (2000: 96) speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information. In this study speaking means an interactive process done by the eighth grade students of SMP NEGERI 2 Soe to communicate with others.

3. Pictures

Sadiman (1990: 29-30) states that picture is a general verbal communication that can be understood and available everywhere. Picture gives the real description of an object which portable and can be used anytime and help an understanding on object which difficult to observe.

4. Describing picture strategy

It is a strategy used by the teacher in teaching and learning process of English to stimulate and motivate the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Soe in order able to speak English.

5. SMP Negeri 2 Soe

It is one of state Junior High School located on Jalan Prof. W.Z. Yohanes in Soe, Timor Tengah Selatan Regency.