CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Speaking English can help students access up to update information in fields including science, technology and health. The understudies need to dominate all parts of talking expertise Sari (2019). This ability is a significant pointer for the accomplishment of somebody to have the option to communicate in English accurately and smoothly. Particularly for the more youthful age overall and understudies specifically in learning English (Budiarta and Krismayani, 2014, Antony *et al.* 2015). This assessment obviously demonstrates that talking abilities infer somebody knows a language (Moussu and Llurda, 2008, Sulam *et al.* 2019). By dominating great talking abilities, understudies can convey their thoughts, both in class and with unfamiliar speakers, and furthermore keep up with great relations with any others.

Although speaking is considered as the main language skill that students should improve, it is widely known that most of the students face difficulties in speaking English. Students' lack in speaking is also seen in SMPN 2 Sungai Kakap. The results of the observations revealed that students have difficulty in pronouncing English words. Even many students do not know how to pronounce commonly used words. They have difficulty forming sentences in English. Their sentences are grammatically wrong. Observation results also show that student participation is still low. Many of them not willing to participate in the speaking activities or just sat silently at the desk without desire to get involved in the speaking activities. They rarely raised their hands to answer the teachers' questions voluntarily. Even, some of them often missed the chance when they were asked to speak in front of the class. During the learning and teaching process, the students did not get sufficient English exposure too. The teacher explains the material, gives the meaning of some words, and gives instructions mostly in Indonesian. They only uses English expressions to open and end the class. Not surprisingly, students prefer to use

their mother tongue rather than English. They tend to change the language using Indonesian when speaking in class during the learning process. Obviously, it is necessary to support students to develop their speaking skills but, in reality, it is less emphasized on teaching. The main focus of this teaching is to train students' activities in speaking using English when the learning process is in progress. As we know, learners often do not have the opportunity to speak English outside the classroom. Textbooks are the only medium through which they can learn English. Here the researcher has an idea to improve students speaking skills by promoting the use of comic strips. Among various media, comic strips were chosen considering the many advantages and can attract students' interest in learning. Kohnke (2018) comic strips can impart a complex story in a few images, provide comments and provoke thoughts, and give an example of vocabulary relating to specific sections while at the same time exploring the theme.

From the statement above, the researcher is interested in researching more about how the second grade students of SMPN 2 Sungai Kakap are able to speak using new and different learning media in the classroom entitled "Using Comic Strips to Improve Students Speaking Skills".

B. Research Problem

Based on the background explanation above, researcher conclude that the research problem of this study is "how can comic strips be used to improve the speaking skill of second grade students of SMPN 2 Sungai Kakap in the academic year of 2021/2022"?

C. Research Purpose

The general objective of this research is to improve the English speaking ability of second grade junior high school students in the 2021/2022 academic year, using comic strips as the media. Increase students' motivation and active learning of English subjects in the classroom using comic strips.

D. Scope of the Research

    1. Research Variabel

Research variables in this study often involve the relationship between variables (variables can be considered as constructions, operationalized constructions certain characteristics that are of interest to researcher) to analyze students speaking ability through comic strip media. Variables can be defined in terms of measurable factors through a process of operationalization. It use change over troublesome ideas into effectively reasonable ideas which then, at that point, can be estimated, experimentally. It is fundamental to characterize the term as factors so they can be evaluated and estimated. A research variable is a character or nature of a person, object, organization, or activity that has a certain variation determined by the researcher to be studied and then drawn conclusions Sugiyono (2016: 68).

    2. Research Terminology

The researcher provides an affirmation that describes clearly and does not cause misinterpretation in this study. Speaking is one of the four skills that play a role important in mastering English. Speaking is considered a skill most complex in learning. The researcher determined the method of learning English in the classroom by using Comic Strips Media at SMP N 2 Sungai Kakap which is in the administrative scope of Sungai Kakap Village, Sungai Kakap District, Kubu Raya Regency, West Kalimantan Province.

E. Signifiance of Study

The findings of the study are important for:

    1. Theoretically

Theoreitically the research findings would contribute to strenghthening teaching theory on how to improve speaking skills and can help improve students speaking in the classroom.

2. Practically

    a. The main objective of this study was to determine the level of students speaking skill through comic prepare in the classroom learning process. With the results of this study, researcher to increase interested in speaking in class VIII students of SMPN 2 Sungai Kakap, it would be an effort to improve their speaking skill.

    b. For English Teacher at SMPN 2 Sungai Kakap, to improve the quality of the teaching and learning process in classroom using comic strips media to practice students' speaking skill.

    c. For Other Researcher, the result of the research can be use reference for any researcher who wants to research the similar field.

    d. For Students, to increase students interest in learning to speak English in class.