

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Speaking is one of the most important skills in learning English. Bahadorfar and Omidvar (2014) stated that in learning English, student must master speaking skills. Speaking as the ability to express oneself is considered as difficult aspects of language learning. Many language learners find it difficult to express themselves in spoken language. They generally face problems to use a foreign language to express their thoughts effectively. In learning English, students can develop their skills in speaking English. Students who can speak English can compete in competitions in English such as debates in English, and speeches in English. With the skill of speaking English students can participate in several activities related to English.

In Indonesia, English is a difficult language to learn, because what is written is different from what will be pronounced. In this era, English plays an important role in education. The 2013 curriculum really understands the importance of a balance between attitudes, skills and knowledge competencies, including students' speaking skills. Speaking skills are one of the language skills that must be learned by humans, one of which is through education in schools. Speaking skills in English are also necessary in the lesson. One of the objectives of learning English is to develop the ability to communicate in English in spoken and written form. When students cannot master English, it is difficult to create good communication. For this reason, it is important for students to master English language skills, so that the learning process goes well and the learning objectives can be achieved.

Based on the objectives of the syllabus in the 2013 curriculum, students of SMPN 19, especially grade 8, are expected to be able to apply linguistic elements to oral and written interpersonal interaction texts. It's

clear speaking has an important role in achieving learning objectives based on the syllabus at the school. However, based on short interviews conducted by researcher with English teachers at SMP 19 Pontianak, not all student speak actively, and they have low participation in the class. Through the previous research that the researcher includes below will become an example for researcher to find out speaking problems in research subjects.

The first previous study which has investigated the speaking problems encountered by EFL learners was conducted by Jaya (2022) with participants from English language education program students at universities in South Sumatra. Based on the results of the data obtained, there is a significant relationship between speaking problems and the factors that cause them. Speech problems were categorised as affect-related problems such as self-confidence and anxiety and social-related problems (difficulties finding opportunities to learn English). and speaking comprehension in the class), and language related to the problems such as a grammar, fluency, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Factors causing speech problems are lack of general knowledge, lack of speaking practice, fear of being wrong, lack of word use and grammar practice, low motivation, low participation, lazy reading, shyness, lack of dictionary use, nervousness, fear of criticism, and unfamiliar pronunciation of words.

Another previous studies conducted by Al Hosni (2014) who found that there are three major speaking difficulties encountered by the students at this level such as: linguistic difficulties, mother tongue use, and inhibition. Students are unable to speak in English because they lack of vocabulary and grammar structure. They also lack sentence formation skills, which result in using the mother tongue. Students also think of making mistakes in speaking in front of their classmates very embarrassing, which results in preferring not to speak to avoid such situations. And there are some essential factors that contribute to the existence of these difficulties revealed by the class observation and interviews, such as: teachers“

perceptions and tacit beliefs about teaching speaking, teaching strategies, curriculum, extracurricular activities, and assessment rules.

And the last, previous studies conducted by Riadil, in his title “EFL Students In Speaking Skill: Identifying English Education Students” Perceptions of Psychological Problems In Speaking”. In his research aims to provide the answer from the background of the research questions. The result is most of the students are having lack of speaking ability whether in psychological, linguistics, and instructors related problems

Based on the previous study above are used as a reference for researcher in obtaining research idea. This study aims to investigate the problems faced by EFL in speaking skills. And researcher provided information about problems that often occur when speaking in English. This research is certainly helpful for teachers in school and can be used as a reference to give a information to the teacher, so that English teacher can apply a strategies to practice students” speaking skills. In this case researcher will examine the problems that influence students in their English speaking skills.

B. Research Questions

1. What are the speaking problems faced by the students in speaking skills?
2. What are the dominant problems that the students face in their speaking?
3. What are the factors that influence students speaking dominant problem?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research questions, the research purpose of this research is:

1. To investigate the students' problems in speaking skills at the 8b of SMP N 19 Pontianak.
2. To find out the dominant problem that the students face in their speaking skills
3. To know the factors that becomes the reason for their dominant speaking problems

D. Research Significance

The significance of this research is as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research give more information and knowledge about students' problem in Speaking English.

2. The Practical Significance

This research hopes this research will give benefits for the teacher, Students, and other researchers.

a. To the teacher

This research hopes that this research can provide information for English teachers what the students' problems in speaking English and the researcher hope information provided, teacher can apply strategies to the students in order to increase students' skills in speaking English.

b. To the students

The researcher hopes when the students know their problems in speaking english, they can increase their speaking skills. So that students will get better cooperative learning and they will be able to improve their speaking skills by teacher guidance and motivation.

c. To other Researchers

The researcher hopes this research can give information to the next researcher who has the similar topic.

E. Scope of the research

This research focuses on analyzing students' problems and their causes

1. Research Variable

Variables are research objects that have varying values, without variables, there will be no research. Variables are conditions or characteristics that are manipulated, controlled, or observed by researchers; they are the main material of research and the basis of research work. It is therefore implied that, without variables, there can

be no research. According to Ary (2019: 8) stated that “ A variable is a construct or characteristic that can take on different values or scores across people or things”. This research using single variable. The variables in this study only focus on problems in speaking English.

2. Terminology

The researcher provide the following explanation which are used in this research. The terms are below:

a. Speaking Skills

To speak means to say/speak, or make a sound to say something or speaker's ability to express something. Speaking skill is a language ability in pronouncing articulation sounds or uttering words to express, state, convey ideas, thoughts, opinions, ideas, and feelings to other people as speaking partners based on self- confidence, honesty, correctness, and responsibility. Answer by eliminating psychological problems such as shame, low self- esteem, tension, heavy tongue, and others.

b. Problem in speaking

Speech problems are things that make someone difficult to speak. According to Middleton in Nakhalah (2016), some students are afraid to learn foreign languages, one of which is English. In this context, he continued, students don't want to look stupid in front of the class and they are also worried about how it will sound, and they are afraid if it sounds funny and so on.

c. SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak

SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak located in Jalan Ampera, Sungai Jawi, Kec. Pontianak Kota, Kota Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat. The subject of this research are consist of Seventh Grade of SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak in the Academic Year 2022/2023.