

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is currently becoming the first international language, and in this globalization era, millions of people want to improve their English speaking.

Speaking is one part of language skill, it is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving, and processing information. Speaking is the most important skill because it is one of the abilities to carry out conversation. Students should have the ability to speak English in order that they can communicate with others in English.

The use of English for speaking is not simple, because the speaker should master several important elements, such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Littlewood (1984, p.3) states the following:

Mastering speaking is not easy. The main problem faced by the students of high school when they speak is the difficulty in composing the words or sentences. When they are speaking, they constantly estimate the listener, knowledge and assumption, in order to select the language that would be interpreted in accordance with our intended meaning.

Therefore, in learning foreign language, students should be provided with materials and condition that can help them to improve their speaking ability.

There are four skills in English. Penny (1996, p. 120) states that “there are four skills in teaching and learning a language: listening, speaking, reading, and

writing, but out of the four skills, speaking seems intuitively the most important”.

Jack C. Richard and Willy (2002, p. 210) also write in their book that “speaking is one of the central elements of communication”. The most important thing that should be noticed in teaching speaking is how to activate all of language elements, such as vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, which students have possessed to communicate, since the main function of language is communication. It means that the goal for students in learning English speaking is that they are able to use language to communicate effectively and appropriately both social and academic.

Walter (2004, p.2) states that the students have to be able to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings orally in English without thinking for a long time before saying what they wish to say. From the reason above, teaching English especially in speaking is not easy because teaching speaking is not only learning about pronunciation but also making our language understood by other people.

In teaching English speaking, there are many techniques that can be applied by the teacher such as role play, picture story, discussion, sentence repetition, and etc. Those techniques applied in order to improve the student’s English speaking ability. By applying those techniques, it is hoped that the learning material could be more interesting and easy to be understood by the students.

In SMP Negeri 10 Malang there is an English program called English Conversation Club (ECC). In order to help students improve their speaking ability, this program focuses on speaking skill, and is specialized to learn how to communicate in the daily life in English based on the curriculum 2013.

All those explanations are the reasons which lead the researcher to conduct a research on the techniques of teaching speaking skills to the students in English Conversation Club (ECC) in SMP Negeri 10 Malang. The reason why the researcher chose ECC in SMPN 10 Malang was because this research only focused on the teaching speaking techniques, and also because SMPN 10 Malang is less popular school than the other high school in Malang, therefore, the researcher wants to show that this school also has attention in English. By conducting this research, the researcher wanted to know the techniques used by the teacher and how the techniques applied in the learning process of ECC class, the researcher also wanted to know the students perception towards the techniques used by the teacher. By knowing the students' perception, hopefully the researcher would know whether the techniques used by the teacher are appropriate or not for the students.

1.2 Problems of the Study

This study essentially wanted to figure out the techniques of teaching speaking skill in English Conversation Club at the eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang. This research merely focused on these following questions.

1. What are the techniques used by the teacher and how are the techniques applied in teaching speaking in English Conversation Club at eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang?
2. What are the students' perception toward the teaching techniques used by the teacher in English Conversation Club at eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with statement of the problem above, the purpose of the study are:

1. To know and describe the techniques used by the teacher in teaching speaking in English Conversation Club at eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang, the techniques used by the teacher in teaching speaking in English Conversation Club at eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang.
2. To know the students' perception toward the teaching techniques used by the teacher of English Conversation Club at eight grade of SMP Negeri 10 Malang.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give contribution as a feedback to:

1. The teacher of English Conversation Club (ECC) at SMP Negeri 10 Malang, thus, that he can find the solutions if the students are still having difficulty in learning speaking skill by using the techniques based on the students need
2. Teachers in general, thus, the other teachers who still have single technique can apply and develop other techniques in their teaching activities.
3. The further researchers, thus, that they can develop this research for better and various result by observing the teaching English from different skill.

1.5 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding of the terms used in this study, some definitions of the terms are states as follows:

1. *Teaching technique* is any of a wide variety of exercises, activities, or tasks used in the language classroom for realizing lesson objectives (Brown, 2001).
2. *Speaking* is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving, and processing information (Brown, 1994).
3. *Teaching speaking* is showing or helping someone to learn how to speak or communicate orally, giving instruction, guiding the study of speaking or how to speak using verbal language (Kimble & Garmezy, 2001).
4. *English Conversation Club (ECC)* is an English learning program in SMP Negeri 10 Malang, the teacher of ECC in SMPN 10 Malang explained that the activities in ECC is specialized in learning how to communicate in the daily life in English based on the curriculum 2013. Thus, the focus of this program is speaking skill.