

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a symbol of human communication. People use language to communicate with other. Language as means of communication has an important role in daily life. A language can absolutely enable people to express their ideas or thoughts in communicating with others. In addition, people can also convey their intention through communication using a language among one another. Brown (2000: 5) state:

Language is systematic, language is a set of arbitrary symbols, those symbols are primarily vocal, but may also be visual, the symbols have conventionalized meanings to which they refer, language is used for communication, language operates in speech community or culture, language is essentially human, although possibly not limited to humans, language is acquired by all people in much the same way; language and language learning both have universal characteristics.

So, language is symbols that have the meaning for communication of community or culture and not limited for a human.

In this globalization era, people should be able to understand some foreign languages, especially English. As an international language, English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. Beside for communication, English is the key to the international currencies of technology, commerce, and knowledge. In addition, English can support one's career and study both regionally and globally. Because of the importance of English, "millions of people today want to improve their command

of English or to ensure that their children achieve a good command of English” (Richards, 2006: 1). To improve the language especially in English, we need to learn English language.

English consists of four basic skills; there are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is one of the productive skills and also one of the basic skills in communication which has to be considered as the judgment for knowing if students are learning a language. Speaking is the main skill that has an important role in learning language because it can indicate one’s fluency. There are some aspects that must be considered such as vocabulary, fluency, accuracy, pronunciation and grammar, confidence to speak and so on. Those aspects cannot be separated because they support each other. The skill of speaking refers to the student’s ability to express mind or feeling orally.

However, some learners still get difficulty in learning speaking. There are some problems in teaching and learning. Students are fear to make mistake, students feel shy, anxiety, lack of confidence, and lack of motivation. Students can’t speak any word because they are afraid to talk wrong words. When they speak, they think about whether their grammar is true and they use good sentences. There are many imaginations about the mistake of their sentences. Students have not confidents in the class, so it makes them shy to speak.

Another problem occurs, in speaking class had not been interactive and communicative. When students work in pair and groups, they use their first language more than English. In conversation, some of them are hard to speak out or to respond. They also have low level of the language (vocabulary, skills and

grammar). We can say that learning is very much seen as under the control of the teacher. The students do not have chance to express their idea through speaking. They often focus on grammar usage that can make students become more passive, afraid to speak, and unable to use the language communicatively. All these problems show that learning is not successful.

Similar problem also happen in SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo. Based on observation in SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo, the students' speaking ability is low and they are not able to communicate well with each other using English. They also have difficulty in sharing ideas with each other. It is showed when the researcher observes the students in teaching and learning process, some of them do not speak seriously and cannot convey their ideas.

The problems above are caused by the students. "Some learners feel shy, even shameful, to speak in English as they are afraid of making mistakes. Instead, they usually use their own language while working in pair or group" (Socheath, 2010: 62). The students have lack of confidence and motivation to speak English. So, the students are not interested in English class.

The fact above really becomes the biggest challenge for us, how to teach our students' speaking skill as effective and interesting as possible. Learning language especially for Indonesian students is learning the role of the language and the use of it in real communication.

The background of the students and teachers influence this problem. However, the teacher uses Vocabulary Cards in teaching speaking. Vocabulary Cards are the media that make the students get the spirit to learn English

especially in speaking, because Vocabulary Cards are the fun media that can improve the students' idea, so they do not feel bored. The students can improve their speaking skill from the word to sentences and they can make their own sentences. They also can share their idea with their group. So, it can make them learn to speak English.

Teaching students how to speak English as a foreign language is not a simple way. Because "the goal of foreign language study is to learn a language in order to read its literature or in order to benefit from the mental discipline and intellectual development that result from foreign language study" (Richards and Rodgers, 2001: 5). The way of teaching may help this problem. One of the ways is using game. Game will help the student understand the material easily relax but still serious. Students also feel happy if the teacher uses fun methods. Learning game is able to generate motivation, interest or passion to learn the students and ensure the progress of the student's personality is the technique of discussion. Discussion technique is a way of teaching which is characterized by an attachment to a topic or subject of questions and problem. In which members of an honest discussion with trying to achieve or obtain a decision or opinion of mutually agreed upon. Students also must have motivation so that they can improve their speaking skill. Motivation is a crucial factor in successful language learning. Motivation is useful in speaking learning. By motivation the students can practice English by giving their ideas to their friend. The students will be given a fun activity where they can not feel depressed.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher conducts the research at the tenth grade because students' speaking skill in this class needs to be improved. So, the researcher would like to carry out the research entitled "The use of Vocabulary Cards to improve students' speaking skill at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo in the academic year of 2015/2016".

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the statements of the problem as follows:

Can the use of Vocabulary Cards improve students' speaking skill at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo in the academic year of 2015/2016?

C. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is as follows:

To know whether the use of Vocabulary Cards improve students' speaking skill at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo in the academic year of 2015/2016.

D. Scope and Limitation

This research is focused on the use of Vocabulary Cards. There are many media that can be used for teaching speaking like, picture, video, music, etc, but the researcher uses Vocabulary Cards because this media is easy to learn and enjoyable.

The scope of this study is limited in discussing about improving students' speaking skill using Vocabulary Cards. The subject of this research focuses at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Badegan Ponorogo in the academic year of 2015/2016.

E. Significance of Research

The research is expected to give some advantages and contribution in teaching and learning process as follows:

1. For the Researcher

The study will enable the writer to have experience in performing the technical study, composing report study and increasing the researcher's knowledge toward developing students' speaking skill

2. For the students

a. The students will be aware of enjoyable learning and will improve their motivation in studying English.

b. To give more description about learning English, it is not only from book but also with fun learning process.

3. For English Teacher

a. The teacher can apply and develop this research as a new way of teaching and learning English especially in speaking.

b. To give additional description about the effectiveness of using "Vocabulary Cards" in teaching speaking. So, teacher will be more enthusiastic to create a fun learning process.

c. To help teacher in teaching speaking in enjoyable situation so that students are not bored with learning activity.

4. For the Institution

To help school in developing students English proficiency.

5. For the Next Researcher

This research expected to give a new knowledge of the next researcher to do the better research of teaching and learning cases, and to solve the students' speaking problems, and also the teachers that have the similar problem with this researcher.

F. The Definition of Key Terms

Speaking : is the ability to communicate using the target language (Saifuddin, 2013: 85).

Vocabulary Cards : these are small cards (about 4cm x 3cm) with the second language word on one side and the first language translation on the other (Nation, 1995: 9).