

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some sub-chapters, such as Background of the Study, Problem Statements, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation, and Definition of Terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English in Indonesia is considered as a foreign language. It is indicated by the phenomenon that English in Indonesia is studied in formal setting . English is taught a compulsory subject in junior high school, senior high school, even in university levels to acquire certain four language skills, there are Speaking, Writing, Listening, and Reading.

At SMP Katolik Santa Familia Kupang English skill of students are also considered, one of which is the speaking skill. They are required to practice English speaking during teaching and learning English. But, in fact still many students can not speak English well. They showed less interest in learning English because the teaching method is not attractive.

As stated in School-based Curriculum 2013 (K13) in junior high school, one of the English learning objectives is understanding and/or producing speech and/or written texts which are realized in four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Among the four skills, speaking skill is considered as the most essential skill to be mastered because it is one of the indicators of successful

language learning, which means that success in “language learning is often measured in terms of the ability to carry out a conversation in the target language (Richards, 2008: 19).

Therefore, human being will use this skill if they want to express everything that they have in their mind. Human speak to tell people about their wishes, intentions, or needs. Therefore, the correct way of speaking will make sure the success of interaction among people. Junior High School curriculum emphasises the teaching of English integrated through the three language skills. They are speaking, reading, and writing. This curriculum also emphasis that teaching English as foreign language should be based on the communication approach. This approach is based on the teaching of the language as a means of communication. Based on the interview to the student of SMP Katolik Santa Familia, students are not interested in studying English because they think that English is difficult, especially in speaking. They said that speaking are difficult because in speaking there make grammatical sentence so students were worried if their sentence were not correc. However, this is the problem for Junior high school students, particularly students of SMP Katolik Santa Familia. They might have lack of vocabularies, so they tent to keep silent and even avoided talking or being asked by the teacher.

They said that English are difficult and very complicated because the material used were not interesting and the material were also difficult to understant by they students. So they felt difficult to create their idea to speak up. The students at SMP Katolik Santa Familia were still unable to produce English

during the English session, only few of them were able to do so. Beside that, their knowledge were limited about vocabulary, grammatical, pronunciation, and fluency.

Based on the facts presented above, the writer is interested in carrying out a study entitled **“A Study on Speaking Ability of Eighth Grade Students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

1.2 Problems Statements

This study is conducted to answer the following questions.

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019 able to speak English?
2. What is the speaking ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives are actually the aims or purpose of what a study wants to know or to find out. The objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Familia able to speak English or not.
2. To find out the speaking ability level of the eighth of eighth grade Students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide some valuable contribution for the Students, Teachers and Writer. Hopefully this study will be the ground for those components above to make a future plan to be successful and reliable. Thus, the significance of this study has some benefits for the following people:

1. For the Teacher

To give the information to the English teachers at SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang about the students' ability level in speaking English. This information is hoped to be a reference to English teacher of school researched to improve his/her teaching.

2. For the Students

Give motivation for the students of eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang to build their speaking and support them to use English orally.

3. For the Writer

This writing can hopefully give some important inputs for the writer's knowledge about English especially in speaking ability.

4. Other Readers/ Researchers

The result of this study can become good information for the readers or the researchers to be the material for the review of related studies of their studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study is about teaching speaking to the students. Based on the explanation of some experts about speaking skill, the researcher can explain about the component of speaking in each theory as follows: There are three aspects below has a great influence in speaking skill that the writer will use in this study to measure the students' speaking ability as Hormaililis (2003 : 6), they are: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

The following are the definition of terms in relation to the topic of the speaking. Their intention is to assist the reader to understand and study more comprehensively.

1. Speaking

Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information. In this study speaking means an activity used by someone to communicate with other (Jill, 2000: 96).

2. Ability

Ability is defined as the competence to adequately perform a task, duty or role (Roe, 2001: 73).

3. Sta. Familia Catholic Junior High School Kupang

It is a private Catholic Junior High School in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province. It is located at Oebolifo Street III No. Sikumana.