

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the Introduction of this writing that consists of: 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 has become the primary language of communication. It is used by millions of people all over the world. English has become the dominant language in many fields of activity such as Industry, Military, Business, Tourism, Transportation, Sports, International Relation and etc. In Indonesia, English is adopted as the foreign language. It involves into education curriculum that every school runs. It becomes a local content in Elementary School, a compulsory subject in Junior and Senior High School and a complementary subject of the higher education institution. This is because of the situation we are facing now; globalization era, which is very competitive. In learning English language, learners need to master four language skills. Those are Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Listening and Reading skills are regarded as receptive skills while Speaking and Writing skills are considered to be productive skills. The four skills are all important. However, of all the four skills, Speaking seems intuitively the most important.

The curriculum is called *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan* (KTSP). In this curriculum, the aims of the English teaching in Indonesia especially teaching English to Senior High School is to enable students to have the ability in developing communicative competence in both oral and written form in achieving functional literacy level, to have the awareness about the essence and the important of English in increasing competition global community, and the last is developing the students' comprehension about interrelatedness between language and culture. It can be concluded that Junior High School students are demanded to develop the communicative competence both in spoken and written form in order to compete in the globalization era. The writer is interested in carrying out a study entitled **“A Study on Speaking Skill of Eighth Grade Students of SMPK Sta. Theresia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

1.2 Problem Statements

This study is conducted to answer the following questions.

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

1.3 Objective 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. Theresia able to speak English or not.
2. To find out the speaking ability level of the eighth of eighth grade Students of SMPK Sta. Theresia 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. Theresia 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. Theresia 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. For the Institution

It becomes a source of consideration for the official institutional policy as an effort to produce better outcomes especially to increase students' speaking ability.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This study is ability where the writer wants to find out the students' speaking ability. In the speaking test, the writer used certain material i.e. Greeting (*Menyapa*) and Leave Taking (*Berpamitan*) and the students were asked to role play. The writer focused On 3 aspects of speaking that are measured: Grammar, Pronunciation, and Vocabulary.

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. Skill

A skill is the ability to carry out a task with determined results often within a given amount of time, energy, or both skills can often be divided into domain-general and domain-specific skills would be useful only for a certain job. Skill usually requires certain environmental stimuli and situations to assess the level of skill being shown and people need a broad range of skills to contribute to be a modern economy.

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking skill means the learner understanding about a language and can be imitated and practice (Bygate, 1987). In this study, speaking skill dealing with the ability of the students in using English orally in term of correct Vocabulary, Grammar, and Pronunciation/Accent.

4. Grammar

According to David Crystal (2004), grammar is the structural foundation of our ability to express ourselves. The more we are aware of how it works, the more we can monitor the meaning and effectiveness of the way we can and others use language. It can help foster precision, detect ambiguity, and exploit the richness of expressions available in English, and it can help everyone – not only teachers of anything, for all teaching are ultimately a matter of getting to grips with meaning.

5. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the stock of words used by or known to a particular people or group of persons. In the other words, vocabulary is a list or collection of the words of a

language is a list or collection of the words or phrases of a language usually arranged in alphabetical order and defined.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Vocabulary>.

6. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way in which a language is spoken, the way in which a word is pronounced, the way a person speaks the words of language (Hornby, 1995).

7. Sta. Theresia Catholic Junior High School Kupang

It is a private Catholic Junior High School in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province. It is located at Jend. Ahmad Yani Street No. 52 A.