CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Every teacher in this world is expected to be a professional in his or her field as a teacher. To be a professional English teacher requires some skills. For more than six decades till now, research and practice in English language teaching have identified the four skills as of paramount importance namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Brown, 2000: 232). These four skills must be mastered by the students in schools and university gradually. Speaking is one of the important aspects in learning language, because speaking is the important tool for communication.

Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing receiving and processing information (Brown, 1994; Burns and Joyce, 1997). There are many problems faced by the students in speaking. It is because their less ability, interest and motivation of speaking English. Students are lack of motivation underlying rare practices affecting on the speaking ability.

Based on the writer's experience in teacher training in SMPN 16 KUPANG the writer found many problems of students in speaking. Some students in classroom were passive, when the writer chose one of them to pronounce some words in front of class, they were always afraid to present it and always made the same mistake to pronounce the words. Some students said that sometimes their teacher did not give a chance to students to practice their speaking. Many teachers just follow the text book without

creating the chance to speak in teaching English so that the students can be motivated in learing English especially to speak. Because the teachers were not serious to achieve the student needs, students felt that English is difficult to learn.

The writer helped the students with visual media to stimulate them to speak. Students felt confused when they were asked to speak. They need an aid of instrument as media to stimulate and guide them to speak. Pictures are media which can help students to speak.

Miarso (1999) says the function of pictures as media are making abstract concepts concrete, representing objects that are difficult to find, representing objectives that are difficult to use, giving the same experiences and motivating students to learn. Teachers have wide opportunities in using pictures. They can set, modify and combine pictures with many techniques and games to reach the goal of speaking classes.

Based on the explanation and the teaching experience during my teaching practice above the writer is interested in carrying out a study entitled:

"**The Use of Pictures to Improve Speaking Ability of The Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 16 Kupang in the School Year 2017/2018**"

1.2 Problem statements

The problem statements of the study are formulated in following questions:

1. How is picture implemented to improve speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang in school year 2017/2018 ?

2. Are the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang in school year 2017/2018 able to describe pictures properly ?

1.3 Objective of the study

1. To describe how picture is implemented to improve speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang in school year 2017/2018.

2. To Find out whether the eighth grade students in school year 2017/2018 of SMPN 16 Kupang are able to describe picture properly.

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1.4 Significance of the study

This study has some significance. Such significance is offered to the writer, students and the teacher of English.

1. The writer

   This research can be used to enrich her knowledge of teaching especially in using the pictures for teaching speaking.

2. The students

   This research is useful to increase the students' achievement in speaking English.

3. The teacher

This research can is good as an item to enrich the inventory of English library and the result of this study are also expected to be the guidance for the teacher in constructing and using the pictures to teach speaking in junior high school. Besides, it is expected that the pictures can help teacher to make the teaching of speaking more interesting and can be helpful to raise students motivation and interest in learning speaking.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study is classroom action research about using pictures to improve speaking ability. There are many media used by a teacher to teach the students especially in speaking like interview, discussion, storytelling, describing pictures, jigsaw, information gap, role play, simulation, and so on

In this study, the writer only limits to teach speaking by using picture. In order to do her research the writer also limits the evaluation on three speaking elements. They are vocabulary, grammar, and the pronounciation (Hughes, 1990).

1.5 Definition of the terms

In this part the writer would like to present some definitions of terms that areused in this study to help the readers' understanding. They are:

1. Ability

Hornby (2007) defines that ability is the capacity or power (to do something physical or mental). In this study ability means the capacity or power of the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang to speak English after being taught using pictures strategy.

2. Speaking.

According to Jill (2000: 96) speaking is an interactive process of constructingmeaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information. In this study speaking means an interactive process done by the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang to communicate with others.

3. Pictures

Sadiman (1990: 29-30) states that picture is a general verbal communication that can be understood and available everywhere, picture gives the real description of an object which portable and can be used anytime and help an understanding on object which is difficult to observe.

4. Describing picture strategy

It is a strategy used by the teacher in teaching and learning process of English to stimulate and motivate the eighth grade students of SMPN 16 Kupang in school year 2017/2018 order to be able to speak English.

5. SMPN 16 Kupang

It is one of the state junior high schools located on Jalan Supul Raya, Pasir Panjang, Kupang city.