

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

One of the expressive language elements is speaking skill. Speaking is the most common and important means of providing communication among human beings. Speaking is linked to success in life for both individual and socially. But, there are many problems for some people especial for the students when they want to explore their idea orally but they have difficulties to express their capability in English.

According to Jenep (2010: 54) there are two factors that cause low levels of student skills in speaking namely, external factors and internal factors. External factors, including the use of Indonesian influence in family environment and society even in everyday communication, many students still use the mother tongue that contaminate the use of English speaking. Internal factors include, lack of interest of students to learn to speak with the correct pronunciation, intonation, fluency, and grammar, and then the students lack of confidence to speak in public.

Therefore, to guide the students to speak English in the classroom, teachers should have good and interesting technique of teaching. It means that the teachers of English are required to create appropriate learning strategies.

Speaking is very important in learning language including English. It is so because speaking is widely used in daily communication using language. Dealing with language use, most of the time of human being is speaking. Therefore, speaking English is very important in learning English.

Based on the reasons above, the writer wants to conduct a research entitled:
A study on Speaking Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the Academic Year 2014/2015.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The questions needed to be solved in this present study are as follows:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015 able to speak English through dialogue?
2. What is the level of speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015?

1.3 Objectives of Study

Going in line with the problem statements above, this study has two objectives as shown in the following:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015 able to speak English through dialogue or not.
2. To find out the level of speaking ability through dialogue of the eighth grade students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015.
3. To find out the areas of difficulties in speaking through dialogue faced by the eighth grade students of SMP Angkasa Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is expected to give some useful information to teacher, writer and the students. They are presented below:

1. For Teacher

To inform the English teachers about the speaking of students in dialogue, so they can improve his teaching of English especially in teaching speaking.

2. For the Writer.

This study hopefully give solve valuable inputs for the writers further knowledge about English.

3. For Students

Based on the finding of this study, the students will be informed about their general difficulties in speaking that deals with the aspect of grammatical, structure vocabulary and pronunciation.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is focused on students speaking skill though dialogue. There are four language skills to be taught to students. Such language skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This study focuses on the skill of speaking. The aspects of speaking ability are vocabulary, grammatical structure, pronunciation, fluency, and accuracy. In this study, the writer focused on the aspects of grammatical structure, pronunciation, and fluency of speaking skill.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is considered important to define some terms concerning this study. The terms are:

1. Speaking

Speaking is a language art which involves the selection and organization of ideas and the ability to communicate the ideas orally. Grolier (1981).

2. Speaking Ability

Speaking Ability is the ability to express oneself in the life situation precisely or the ability to converse or to express a sequence of ideas fluently. Lodo (1961).

3. Dialogue

Dialogue is a conversation in a group that is used for discussion and the participants of group conversation can give some opinion or suggestion about something that they are talking about. Nugroho (2010).

4. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the way for students to produce clearer language when they speak. It deals with the phonological process that refers to the component of a grammar made up of the elements and principles that determine how sounds vary and pattern in a language. (Hornby, 1987: 9).

5. SMP Angkasa Kupang.

SMP Angkasa Kupang is one of the private junior high schools in Kupang. It is located at Penfui Street, Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.