

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols (Sapir, 1921).

Language has a significant role in human communication. It is through language that people can convey ideas, opinion, thought, and feelings one to another. Human communication is mainly through languages beside the other ways of communication. Communication that makes use of language can be done or performed through oral language and written language.

English is a lingua franca. Then, the need of English as a means of communication is widespread all over the world including Indonesia. English particularly has become a source of language for all range of science and education because there have been a lot of scientific books and educational information written in English. The importance of English is more obvious since it has been widely used as an international language in which many communities in many countries use it in everyday aspect of human life, such as communication, economics, education, science and technology (Huebener, 1965: 2).

In Indonesia, English is one of the subjects that is included in teaching learning process. The aim is to help and to facilitate Indonesian students specially uplift their quality to be able to entering the international labour markets.

English as a language has four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills may function more effectively as a means of communication if

the learners are able to employ them (skills) in everyday life specially in the need or in the moment in which English is used as the main language to communicate to each other. In this study the writer intends to find out the skills of students, particularly in speaking.

One of so many ways in teaching speaking is storytelling. Storytelling is an interactive performance art form. Direct interaction between the teller and audience is an essential element of the storytelling experience. An audience responds to the teller's words and actions. The teller uses this generally non-verbal feedback to immediately, spontaneously, and improvisationally adjust the tones, wording, and pace of the story to better meet the needs of the audience. (National Storytelling Association, 1997). It means that storytelling technique can be an effective way to facilitate and create a direct interaction between students and give the enthusiasm to the student in learning English speaking when it is applied.

Based on the background above, a research on storytelling technique was conducted. It was conducted under the title: **“IMPROVING ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY USING STORYTELLING TECHNIQUE OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMAN 3 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015”.**

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, this study is meant to answer the following questions:

- 1) Is storytelling technique effective in improving speaking ability in eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupang?
- 2) To which degree does the effectiveness of storytelling improve the eleventh grade students speaking ability of SMA Negeri 3 Kupang?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above the objectives of study are as follows:

- 1) To know whether storytelling technique can improve or not the eleventh grade student's speaking ability.
- 2) To know in what degree the students of SMAN 3 Kupang get the speaking ability improvement.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to present some valuable contribution to the following persons:

1. To provide the English teachers with some information about students problems and weaknesses in speaking English.
2. To increase the writer's knowledge in English speaking ability specially in using storytelling technique.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are four skills in learning English. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. But in conducting this study the writer only chose one of the skills above namely speaking especially English speaking ability using storytelling technique produced by the Eleventh Grade Students of SMAN 3 Kupang. The writer implemented storytelling technique using pictures of narrative text (folktale). The speaking ability that the writer focused on are grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

The following are the terms that need to be explained to help the readers to understand the study as a whole:

1) Improving

It lexically means getting higher or more vigorous (Lewis, 2011).

The term improving in this study means to get higher level of students ability in speaking English.

2) Speaking

Speaking is a language art which involves the selection and organization of ideas, and the ability to communicate the ideas orally. (Grolier: 1981). In this study speaking refers to the students ability to convey the ideas orally by telling the story.

3) Ability

The quality of being able to perform; a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment. (Lewis, 2011). In this action the writer refers to the ability of students in speaking English.

4) Storytelling

Storytelling is uniquely a human experience that enables us to convey, through the language of words, aspects of ourselves and others, and the worlds, real or imagined, that we inhabit. Stories enable us to come to know these worlds and our place. In them we are all, to some degree, constituted by stories: stories about ourselves, our families, friends and colleagues, our communities, our cultures, our place in history. McDrury and Alterio (2003:30). In this writing storytelling is the activity of retelling story both by a teacher and students as well.

5.) Technique

Technique lexically means skilfulness in the command of fundamentals deriving from practice and familiarity. (Lewis, 2011). In this study, technique that the writer means is storytelling technique in which the writer used to improve the student's speaking ability of SMAN 3 Kupang.

6.) SMAN 3 KUPANG

It is a senior high school which is located in Oebobo subdistrict East Nusa Tenggara Province.