

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language as a means of communication seems to have played an important role in human life. Language and human beings cannot be separated. English is spoken all over the world. It is used as a means of international communication such as in daily life and international affairs among countries for example in United Nation Organization. Beside that English is applied in many aspects of life like book are written in English, information about technology often uses English, etc. That's why Indonesian government obliges English to be taught in every school from Elementary school until Senior High School.

Language consists of four elements: listening, speaking, reading and writing. These elements are called language skills. Besides, there are five language sub skills: grammar, pronunciation, spelling, fluency and vocabulary. When a person tries to understand something he/she must well master the said language sub skills.

Teaching and learning English is one kind of activities which is expected to improve someone's ability in English. Teaching and learning speaking skill is aimed at improving student's skill or ability in speaking. Speaking is one of the language skills that should be acquired in learning a language.

Teaching speaking in Junior High School can be effective if we use appropriate method. Method as one of strategies is very important in enriching the quality of students learning. Method can make communication in a teaching learning

process more effective especially using role play as method to improve students speaking.

There is a new type of research meant to improve the effectiveness in teaching and learning process that is called Classroom Action Research (CAR) or Penelitian Tindakan Kelas (PTK) in Indonesia. The CAR is useful for the teachers to improve their professional knowledge about teaching and learning.

In learning English for communication, especially in oral communication or speaking, learners find it difficult in mastering English as language because it consists of some rules. Because of that, the writer knows that the fluency in speaking becomes the problem in learning English. Here, the use of appropriate techniques in teaching and learning English is one of the ways to solve the problem. It is needed in order to make the students be motivated in speaking English and in the classroom. There are many techniques provided to make English teaching especially speaking fun, interesting and active. So the students are encouraged to expose themselves to speak English. One of the techniques which can be used in English speaking is a role play which is meant to improve student's speaking. So the teachers have to analyze the most appropriate technique to teach English in their class. Because of that, the writer focuses her study on Role Play as a method to improve students speaking.

Considering the ideas above, the writer is interested and motivated to conduct this research which specifically focuses on the use of role play to improve the students speaking under the title : “ **The Effectiveness of Role Play Method in Teaching Speaking Skill to The Eighth Grade Students of SMP N 8 Kupang in the School Year 2014 - 2015**”.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the background of the study, the formulation of the study can be stated as follows : “ How far does the Role Play method improve the speaking skill of the eighth grade students of SMP N 8 Kupang in the academic year 2014/2015 ? ”.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to measure how far the role play method can improve students speaking skill.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide some information for the English teachers, the students, and the writer herself :

1) For the English Teacher

The result it is expected to be useful for the English teacher in giving information and feedback in his or her teaching.

2) For the Students

The result of this study can give good information to the students about their proficiency in speaking English.

3) For the Writer

The result of this study gives the writer some valuable inputs about Classroom Action Research pronunciation, vocabulary and gramatical structure of English. The writer is also trained in how to write scientific writing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many aspects of language skills that can be taught to students. Such language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language sub skills cover vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and spelling. This study concentrates on speaking. There are several components in speaking such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. This study focuses to four components, they are pronunciation, grammar, fluency and vocabulary.

There are many methods or techniques for teaching speaking. This study only focuses on role play method to improve the speaking skill of the Eighth Grade students of SMP N 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

1.6 Definitions of the Terms

There are some terms used in this writing that should be defined. They are as follows :

1) Role Play

It is a technique in English teaching in which students learn in an imaginary situations or roles in order to develop the student's fluency, and role play in the classroom involves students actively in the learning process by enabling them to act as stakeholders in an imagined or real scenario (Greenblat, 1988; Crookall & Oxford, 1990). It means that Role Play can helps students to learn in an imaginary situations.

2) Speaking

It is a activity to produce some words or sentences to express the feeling, ideas, wish, etc. then, it's so to deliver some message to listener for achieving information

(Brown, 1994; Burn & Joyce, 1997). It means that speaking is a crucial part of language and it became a communicative skill for the students.

3) Classroom Action Research (CAR)

It is one way of improving reflectivity which in turn helps improve various aspects of learning in the classroom (Falk & Blumenreich, 2005; Alber & Nelson, 2002; Mills, 2003). It means that Classroom Action Research (CAR) can help teachers to explore and examine aspects of teaching and learning to take action to change and improve any teaching.

4) SMP Negeri 8 Kupang

It is one of state Junior High School in Kupang located at Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan, Kupang.