

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is a system of communication with a set of sounds and written symbol which are used by the people of a particular country for talking or writing, (William Collins, 1988; 439).

There are many languages in the world. One of them is English Language. English is a global language. It is used by almost all people in all over the world. People use it to communicate with other people in other countries. In this global world, it is necessary to understand English because it can connect all people who have different languages. Therefore, English is very important language to be learnt. Knowing that English is very important, the government decides to put English in the curriculum of education in Indonesia. It becomes a foreign language which has to be learnt in secondary schools, senior high schools even in elementary schools.

Learning a foreign Language like English language, is an integrated process that the learner should study the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We use language to understand our world through listening and reading and to communicate our feeling, needs, and desire through writing and speaking.

Speaking is an activity used by someone to communicate with other. It takes place everywhere and has become part of our daily activities. When someone speaks, he or she interacts and uses language to express his or her ideas,

feeling and thought. He or she also shares information to other through communication.

As one of four basic skills in learning a foreign language, speaking is also taught in the class room by a teacher when she or he teaches English subject. Based on the writer's experiences when he was in junior high school and senior high school, most of English teachers teach English (speaking skill) by using a traditional and monotonous strategy in which she or he reads loudly a dialogue that has been written on the students' textbook in the front of the class. After reading it, the teacher instructs students to repeat after her/him till the overall dialogue is read.

To measure students understanding of the lesson, the teacher asks students to practice the dialogue in pairs by using the textbook. The teacher seldom asks students whether they really understand the use of those expressions. On the other hand, students activities in the classroom only reading a dialogue, write its meaning based on what teacher is saying, and then practicing it in the front of the class with their friends without knowing when they have to use the expression in real situation. Hence, when they are asked by someone else about things by using expression they have never read or memorized before, they will be speechless.

The way to teach used by the teachers as explained above completely cannot help the students expand their knowledge in spoken language. And it possibly becomes an ongoing problem for students when they come into the higher level. This strategy also causes other problems such as; firstly, in Indonesia, English is as a foreign language, which brings about students feeling better to use their first language that is Indonesian language. Moreover, limited

vocabulary and don't master English grammar make students difficult to say anything in the classroom. Therefore, the only thing they do is keeping silent. Secondly, students feel bored because the teacher always uses the same strategy.

Based on the problem above, the writer as an English teacher in the future tries to find out the way to overcome the students problems' and figure out students' difficulties that they face in learning English especially in speaking skill. Here the writer tries to propose the strategy in teaching English especially in teaching speaking namely 'communication game'.

Communication games are activities set up in the classroom to create opportunities and purpose for verbal communication practice (Herrel et al, 2002: 94). These games not only encourage students to be actively participated in the activities in the class room, but also enhance their confidence to talk with their friends.

Based on the statements as described above, the writer would like to propose the following topic: **USING COMMUNICATION GAMES TO INCREASE SPEAKING ABILITY OF SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NYIUR MELAMBAI ILE BOLENG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015.**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

This study is conducted in order to answer the following question: Can communication games activities increase students' ability in speaking?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the question above, the objective of this study is formulated in the following statement: to find out whether or not the communication game can increase students' ability in speaking in the seventh grade students of SMP Nyiur Melambai Ile Boleng in the school year 2014/2015.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study is as follows

1. For the English teacher

This study may be considered as supplementary reading for those who will teach speaking in English.

2. For the writer

This writing is useful for the writer in developing and enriching his knowledge in the field of language research, particularly in teaching speaking.

3. For the students of English Educational Study Program

This writing is a reference for those who will conduct the same research.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is focused on the classroom action research of teaching speaking using communication games. The games that were used to teach speaking by the writer are: matching game, guessing game and exchanging game. This research is conducted on the seventh grade students of SMP Nyiur Melambai Ile Boleng in the school year 2014/2015. The speaking ability is measured by

using the standard of measurement proposed by Harris (1969:18) covering: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

In order to understand the terms used in this writing, the writer presents some definitions below:

1. Communication games.

They are activities set up in the classroom to create opportunities and purpose for verbal communication practice (Herrel et al, 2002:94). In this study, communication games mean activities set up in the classroom to teach speaking to the seventh grade students of SMP Nyiur Melambai.

2. Ability.

It is capacity of someone physically or mentally that can be developed through optimal exercises (Hornby, 1987: 2). This study, ability refers to the capacity of seventh grade students of SMP Nyiur Melambai in speaking.

3. Speaking.

Speaking is an activity which is done by a person to communicate with others in order to express ideas, feelings, as well as opinion to achieve a particular goal (Brudden, 1995:85). In this study speaking means saying something to express ideas in classroom between the students based on the games that will be done in classroom.

4. SMP Nyiur Melambai

It is one of private junior high schools located in Riawale village, Ile boleng district, East Flores regency.