

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

In Indonesia, the teaching of English is based on the Emancipated Curriculum (or Kurikulum Merdeka in Indonesian). In reference to this Curriculum proposed by the Department of National Education in 2023, the objective of the English teaching as a compulsory subject at the junior high school level is to enable students to communicate in both oral and written forms. As the language is a means of communication, students have to be accustomed to speak utterances orally in the classroom even in the very simplest way, such as greeting answering, expressing ideas, giving responses, and the like. Thus, the students need to have a good speaking ability in order to achieve the objectives of English teaching and learning as stated in the current curriculum.

Education is a process to help people to obtain skills and knowledge. There are many methods in education such as teaching, exercising, storytelling, criticism, and research. Education can be divided into two types; they are formal and informal education. Formal education is when someone obtains skills or knowledge from the guidance of teachers. However, informal education is when students want to obtain skills or knowledge by educating themselves. Formal education in Indonesia is divided into several steps such as kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, and university. The English language is one of the important subjects that should be learned by

students in Indonesian formal education.

Speaking is one of the most demanding skills in the daily life. Every person needs to communicate with others through speaking. Speaking plays an important role in making a social interaction with another people in order to gain information. Thus, it is necessary for every people to have a good speaking skill. According to Harmer (2021, p.284) states speaking is the ability to speak fluently and pre-supposes not only knowledge of language features, but also the ability to process an information and language.

Speaking difficulties are difficulties that make someone lack in speaking proficiency. Oxford Dictionary (4th edition) defines difficulties as not easy, needing effort or skill, full of problems, causing trouble, difficult to do or to understand. We can say that speaking difficulties are full of problems that appear when someone speak or to understand the spoken language. Similarly to the definition above, Doris and Jesica (2020, p. 23) argued that language problems may become the obstacles reason for the students to improve their language performance. Language problem covers probably because poor in grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. Those problems belong to linguistics factors.

As the needs of English increase over the year, people do not only communicate with those who come from the same country, but also with those who come from different countries. In order to be able to convey meaning and talk to people around the world, they must be able to speak English since it is an international language. Due to its importance, it is very reasonable why English as a foreign language is taught as a compulsory subject from the elementary level to the university level.

Students' difficulties in speaking English according to Zhang (2020), who states that speaking remains the most difficult skill for almost all English students, and they cannot speak English well in English. According to Chens (2019), difficulties in English speaking students' common difficulties are that they lack confidence, limited fluency, and a limited vocabulary.

Based on the previous research there is a similar research aims at finding two things the main difficulties encountered by students while speaking English, and the causes of the difficulties encountered by students while speaking English. The findings show that there are two main difficulties encountered in speaking English, namely difficulties resulted from linguistic factors, such as lack of vocabulary, poor pronunciation and lack of grammar knowledge and those resulted from psychological factors, such as anxiety, shyness, motivation, mother tongue use, self confidence and fear of making mistake. The study also finds that the difficulties are caused by two reasons L1 and L2 Differences and Lack of Practice. And the result shows there are 2 aspects such as linguistic problem and non-linguistic.

Based on the explanation above the different research is the research focuses on the anxiety of students and afraid of making mistake to speak, it doesn't focus on vocabulary speaking.

From the previous research there is a similiar object that the researcher interest and will analyze An analysis of Students' difficulties in speaking English at tenth grade of SMK AL-FURQON Bondowoso 2024/2025 Academic Year which are focusing on lack of vocabulary, pronunciation, self confidence, lack of grammar , lack of practive , and motivation.

1.2 Problem of the Research

The formulation of the problem is related to the research background which is specified as follow:

What are the factors cause students' difficulties in speaking English?

1.3 Object of the Research

Based on the problem above, the objective of this study are to know the factors cause students difficulties in speaking English.

1.4 The Operational Definition

- 1.4.1 Speaking: It is a two-way oral activity where people exchange meaningful messages. It allows listeners to respond directly. Effective speaking includes several important aspects, such as speaking fluently, expressing ideas clearly, and staying focused on the main topic.
- 1.4.2 Students' Difficulties: It refer to the problems or challenges that students face when trying to speak English. These may include lack of vocabulary, poor pronunciation, low confidence, fear of making mistakes, limited grammar knowledge, and anxiety when speaking in front of others.
- 1.4.3 Factor in Students' Difficulties: are the causes or reasons that make it hard for students to speak English. These factors can come from inside the students, such as lack of confidence or motivation, and from outside, like limited practice, peer pressure, or teaching methods.

1.5 The significance of Research

The significance of the research will be useful theoretically and practically namely:

1) Theoretical

The results of this research can be a scientific contribution in education science and also as a basis and reference for further research that is related to students' difficulties in speaking English or related research.

2) Practical

For the English teachers, the result of this research is expected to show how is students' competence of speaking so they can more pay attention to their students and it is also expected to motivate the teachers to be more creative so the students will be more enthusiastic in learning English in the class.

1.6 Scope of the Research

In this research, the researcher analyze Students' difficulties in speaking English at tenth grade of SMK AL-FURQON Bondowoso 2024/2025 Academic Year.