

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some issues related to the topic of the research. They are research background, the research problem, operational definition of the terms, research significant and research scope.

1.1 Research Background.

Speaking is one of English skills. The ability of speaking skills in English is a priority for many foreign language learners. Consequently learners often evaluate their success in language learning as well as the effectiveness of their English course on the basis of how much they have improved in their spoken language proficiency (Richards, 2008. p.19). According to Maxom (2009, p.183) speaking is the most important skill in English language teaching and it is almost impossible to have true mastery of a language without actually speaking it. Moreover, it also involves putting a message together, communicating the message, and interacting with other people (Lindsay and knight, 2006. p.58). So, speaking is a difficult skill because it is used to practice how to produce and express ideas and feelings. The students have to be given many opportunities to speak in order to be able to speak English well and fluently. Therefore, this phenomenon must be treated by suitable technique in order that the students' problem is solved.

To design speaking activities or instructional material for second language or foreign language teaching, it is also necessary to recognize the different

functions of speaking in daily communication and the different purpose for which our students need speaking skill (Richards, 2008. p. 20).

Preliminary study was done by interviewing the English teacher doing speaking pre-test of SMK Muhammadiyah Jember. Based on the interview with the English teacher that most students have difficulties in improving speaking abilities such as, fluency, pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Based on the pre test, the average of speaking score is 66 and the target score for this research is 70. However, the biggest problem faced by the student is lack of vocabulary. Therefore, the phenomenon is that the students do not feel comfortable and relaxed in learning speaking. Even the students are afraid to make mistake and shy to speak English in the classroom.

One of the strategies to solve this problem is Problem-based learning. Problem-based learning is an instructional method in which students learn through facilitated problem solving. Students work in collaborative groups to identify what they need to learn in order to solve a problem. They engage in self-directed learning (SDL) and then apply their new knowledge to the problem and reflect on what they learned and the effectiveness of the strategies employed. The teacher acts to facilitate the learning process rather than to provide knowledge (Cindy E, 2004. p. 235). So that's why the researcher choose Problem-based Learning is one technique because it can give many advantages not only for teacher as a sender of information but also students as receiver. Students will feel easier and more interested in understanding the lesson that is being taught, because the students can get stimulus in expressing their idea by the information that they found and also by their teamwork.

Based on the above discussion, this classroom action research entitled as the use of Problem-based Learning of the class X in improving students' speaking ability at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year conducted.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the reasearch, the problem is formulated as follows:

1. How can Problem-based Learning strategy improve students' speaking Ability of the class X at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year?
2. How can Problem-based Learning strategy improve students' active participation of the class X at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objectvie of the research are to know :

1. How to improve students' speaking ability of the class X at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year using Problem-based Learning strategy?
2. How to improve students's active participation of the class X at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year using Problem-based Learning strategy?

1.4 The Operational definition of the Research

It provided a guideline to understand the variable of the research in operational form. In this research the variables are Problem-based Learning and Speaking Ability.

1.4.1 Speaking Ability

Speaking in this research is the speaking ability of students in class X at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember. The element that the researcher will be assessed in speaking are pronunciation, fluency, grammar and vocabulary. The reason of researcher choose speaking is because speaking is assessed as an important aspect for communicating in daily life.

1.4.2 Problem-Based Learning

In PBL, student learning centers on a complex problem that does not have a single correct answer. Problem-based Learning is an instructional method in which students learn through facilitated problem solving. Students work in collaborative groups to identify what they need to learn in order to solve a problem. They engage in self-directed learning and then apply their new knowledge to the problem and reflect on what they learned and the effectiveness of the strategies employed. The teacher acts to facilitate the learning process rather than to provide knowledge.

1.4.3 Significant of the Research

The result of the research is expected to be useful to improve the teaching and learning process, especially improving students' speaking ability by using Problem-based Learning.

1.5.1 For Other Researchers

Hopefully other researcher will use this new method for designing their research for the sake of improvement.

1.5.2 For the Teacher

This research can support the teacher to develop students' speaking skill. Teacher will be easy to teach speaking by using Problem-based Learning. They will get a simple way to teach it. The teacher can use this method to teach the students in order that the students will be more interested and motivated in teaching and learning process.

1.5.3 For the Student

The result can motivate the students to participate in teaching learning process. They can improve and build their speaking skill by using Problem-based Learning

1.6 Scope of the Research *

The scope of this research is the implementation of Problem-based Learning strategy to improve students' speaking ability. This research is conducted to the class X students at SMK Muhammadiyah Jember in the 2019/2020 academic year.