

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Research

Speaking is one of the important aspects in learning language, because speaking is the important tool for communication. Lyle (1993) states that “oral language is a very important link in the process of students' learning and thinking development”. Oral language provides a foundation for the development of other language skills. As children talk about themselves and their experience, they are learning to organise their thinking and to focus their ideas. Speaking in a second language has been considered the most challenging of the four skills as Bailey and Savage (1994:vii) say that speaking in a second or foreign language has often been viewed as the most demanding of the four skill; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students in elementary school to senior high school are demanded to acquire and master English. One of the language skill which is considered as the required one is speaking.

Thai students tend to use Thai speech patterns or styles when speaking English. Some will not speak out because they are afraid of making mistakes and are embarrassed. The most difficult skill in teaching is speaking. It is also argued

by Zhang (2009) speaking remains the most difficult skill to master for the majority of English learners, and they are still incompetent in communicating orally in English. According to Ur (1996), there are many factors that cause difficulty in speaking, and they are as follows:

1. Inhibition: Students are worried about making mistakes, fearful of criticism, or simply shy.
2. Nothing to say: Students have no motive to express themselves.
3. Low or uneven participation: Only one participant can talk at a time because of large classes and the tendency of some learners to dominate, while others speak very little or not at all.
4. Mother-tongue use: Learners who share the same mother tongue tend to use it because it is easier and because learners feel less exposed if they are speaking their mother tongue.

Those kinds of problems are also found in the fifth grade class of Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand. It was found that the students still have some problems in speaking ability. They had difficulties in expressing ideas and opinions orally as they were afraid of making mistakes and do not confident to speak English. They still had difficulties in pronouncing certain English words. However, most students lacked of vocabulary mastery and only few students in the classroom consulted a dictionary. Their competencies in grammar were also poor. Therefore, they preferred to be silent, monotonous, less fun learning activities and not fully participate in the classroom activities.

As mentioned above, the fifth grade students speaking ability of Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand were low. It must be solved because

it can be bigger problem for students to continue for the next level or grade. This research is to find the effective solution to improve the students' speaking ability by using Snakes and Ladders Game. It can be interesting activities to help the students speaking ability. The Snakes and Ladders Game became an effective strategy that could be used by teachers to improve students' speaking achievement. Chen (2002) said that the students found their ways to express themselves in the speaking activities. Therefore, to make the speaking class more interesting, fun and enjoyable atmosphere, it is decided to use Snakes and Ladders Game to Improve Students Speaking Ability in Fifth Grade students' of Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the problem is formulated as follows: How can the use of snakes and ladders game improve students' speaking ability at fifth grade of Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand 2017/2018 academic year?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The Objective of the research is to know how Snakes and Ladders Game can improve the fifth grade students' speaking ability at Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand 2017/2018 Academic Year.

1.4 Operational Definitions of the Research

The function of definition is making easier in determine the purpose of writing thesis. It's why the writer decided to choose the key terms of the title to be defined. The terms are speaking ability and snakes and ladders board game.

1. Snakes and Ladders Game

Snakes and ladders game is a children's game in which players move counters along a board, gaining an advantage by moving up pictures of ladders or disadvantage by moving down pictures of snakes. This game can also be used as a tool to educate, entertain and to build up interactive communication among the players.

This game includes numbers and illustration, which are dominated by the pictures of ladders and snakes; the ladder illustrates the go-up and the snake illustrates to go-down step. In this game, there are not only pictures of snake and ladder, but in can be any pictures. It includes message, direction, question related to the topic. The topic is about things arround us or vocabularies based on the students book especially for fifth grade. By using this game, students should follow the rule based on the dice they have played. Then, the students should make a question based on the teacher instructions and the other answer the question correctly.

2. Speaking Ability

Speaking is the delivery of language through the mouth. Speaking is one of the most important and essential skills that must be practiced to communciate orally. Speaking has some aspect there are fluency and accuracy in pronunciation,

vocabulary and grammar. So, the students have to improve their speaking ability especially for those aspects.

In this research, speaking skill deal with the student's speaking test after being taught the proposed actions. In this research students are required to study through the snakes and ladders to make them fun and more interesting in the class. The researcher use some game related to the material/lesson. The game is not only individual but there is group work game. During learning process the students require to follow and active in the class especially in speaking. The measurement of the students' is oral test.

1.5 Significances of the Research

It is expected that this research contribute some significant progresses in teaching speaking. The significances of this research are:

1. For the students in general, the study could enhance the students' motivation and improve the students' speaking ability.
2. For teachers, the study gives input in enriching their teaching media to be implemented in the classroom.
3. For the school, the study will enrich teaching media in the school.

The research findings can be references for the further researchers who conduct the similar studies.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of this is the implementation of Snakes and Ladders Board Game to increase students' speaking ability. This research is conducted to the fifth grade students' speaking ability at Tarbiatulwatan Mulniti School Yala Thailand 2017/2018 Academic Year.

