

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents and discusses several topics to reveal the main problem of this study. This chapter discusses the background of the study. The next discussion is statement of the study. The next discussions are research questions, purposes of the study, significances of the study, and the last discussion is about organization of the study.

Background of the Study

Speaking in learning English is very important for learners because it is a vital communication skill. According to Gani, Fajrina, & Hanifa (2015), “speaking is an ability to orally express opinions, thoughts, facts and feelings to other people, animals and even to oneself” (p. 19). The Board of National Standards for Education (Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan) or BSNP (as cited in Abdullah, 2016, p. 309) in Indonesia argued that speaking is a crucial skill that is needed in the wider world of work. Speaking skills are measured to complete a conversation in a language especially in EFL. In Indonesia, English is used and taught as foreign language. Even though English is difficult language to learn and to use, it keeps attracting people to learn English, especially the English speaking skills.

Nowadays, most of senior high school students are learning English speaking skills using their-own learning strategies in their learning process. Language learning strategies are commonly explained as the processes that learners choose or employ to reach their achievement in learning process. During

the internship program at a private senior high school of Yogyakarta, the researcher found some students facing difficulties or challenges in learning English speaking skills; for instance, there are some students less participated in English learning process, it means that they may have some difficulties or problem when they speaking English in the classroom. Less participation in speaking make them having low achievement in the classroom. On the other hand, some students at a private senior high school in Yogyakarta were active in speaking English. Students who were active in speaking English may also have good achievement in the learning process.

Moreover, in learning English speaking skills, there are some difficulties faced by students. However, some students are fluent in speaking English. In fact, at one of a private senior high school in Yogyakarta, some students were active and fluent in speaking English during teaching and learning process. These facts were found while the researcher had an internship program to be an English teacher at one private senior high school in Yogyakarta; the researcher observed the learning environment including students' response in speaking English.

The researcher is interested with the students who speak English actively and fluently in the classroom. Based on the researcher's observation, some proficient students seem to apply certain strategies in learning English speaking skills. On the other hand, there are some strategies in learning English speaking skill can be seen from the students' learning process. According to Oxford, (1990, p.8) (as cited in Ghani, Fajrina & Hanifa, 2015, p. 19), students can choose their strategies while learning or using the second language that affects their learning process; "steps taken by the learners to make language learning more successful,

self-directed and enjoyable”. There are so many types of learning strategies used by individual of different background, such as the differences of age, behavior, environment, motivation and the aim of the learners. So if students think more critically, they can consider what the suitable of learning strategies are in learning speaking skills for their own-self successful. It can employ many students to know and be able to be good at second language learning.

After observing the students, the researcher was interested to explore the students’ strategies in learning English speaking skills. The researcher was getting inspired to conduct a study on this field because the researcher is doing teaching practice or the Internship Program in one of a private senior high school in Yogyakarta. In other word, the researcher explored the condition of students at that school and there were some students who were good at English speaking skills when they used strategies in learning English speaking skills. In addition, the researcher chose this field because she wanted to explore the student difficulties and learning strategies employed by students of a private senior high school in Yogyakarta in learning speaking skills.

Statement of the Problem

In this era, the researcher realized that English speaking proficiency is one of the challenges faced by students in learning English. In addition, the researcher had experience when doing internship program at a private senior high school in Yogyakarta. There are many students who do not have good English speaking skills such as less fluent in speaking, lack of confidence, and inaccurate pronunciation whereas there are many ways to mastering the English speaking proficiency. One of them is by using of appropriate language learning strategies.

The strategy is needed to make the language learners feel motivated to master in learning speaking skills. This is the reason why the researcher is interested to conduct research on the students' difficulties and what the language learning strategies employed by students at a private senior high school in Yogyakarta in learning English speaking skills.

Research Questions

This study was conducted to look for the answers of the following questions:

1. What are the common difficulties faced by students of a private senior high school of Yogyakarta in learning English speaking skills?
2. What are the common learning strategies employed by students of a private senior high school in Yogyakarta in English speaking skills?

Purposes of the Study

In this study, the researcher focused on looking for the students' learning strategies in English speaking skills. Based on the previous research questions, purposes of this study are:

1. To investigate the common students' difficulties in learning language English speaking skills.
2. To find out the common learning strategies employed by students of a private senior high school in Yogyakarta in learning English speaking skills.

Significances of the Study

The results of this study will be beneficial for:

Students: From the results of this study, it can be helpful for students in terms of the application of learning strategies in order to increase speaking skills proficiency. Therefore, students also can explore and apply their learning strategies to succeed in learning English speaking skills.

Teachers: The results of this study can be helpful for teachers to know about students' challenges in learning speaking skills. The teachers also can encourage and increase the ability in teaching process in order to help students in mastering English speaking skills. From this study, the teachers can explore the strategies in improving the students' speaking skills in the classroom

Future researchers: It would add some knowledge for the future researcher. The future researcher can obtain some knowledge related with the difficulties and the learning strategies that employed by students in learning English speaking skills. Besides, this study can be used as the reference in supporting other researchers' research that were conducted the research under the same topic.

Organization of the Chapters

The organization of the chapter is described as follows. In the first chapter, the researcher described the introduction of the study that consist of the background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, the significances of the study, and the organization of the chapter. The next chapter presented a review of literature related to the students' difficulties and learning strategies in learning English speaking skills. In chapter three, the researcher focused on research methodology of doing this study that consist of research design, research setting, population, sample, and sampling

technique, data collection method, data collection procedures, and data analysis. Next, in chapter four, the researcher presented the result and discussion of the research. The chapter five was about conclusion and recommendation.