

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In learning English, people need a strategy in order to master it well. Everyone has a different style to acquire the four language skills, namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each aspect might be studied with different strategy. At this research, the writer focuses on learning strategies to master speaking skill.

According to Tarigan (1990:3) speaking is language skill that is developed in child life, which is preceded by listening skill that at the period the speaking skill is learned which means that speaking as the basis of language. The process of the speaking skill has happened or preceded by listening skill.

Speaking is the very important skill for human being. The man can't live alone without others, because they have social characteristics required by the others help. Their way to get in touch with others is by communication.

Speaking is also one of the language arts that are most frequently used by people all over the world. The art of speaking is very complex skill. It requires simultaneous use of a number of ability which often develops at different rates.

Speaking, one of the language skills is not an easy skill to master. Some reasons may account for it. They are anxiety, nervousness, stress, clumsy tongue etc. To avoid the difficulties, people should know what learning strategies are suitable to master the skill. Cohen (1998:4) defines learning strategies as learning process which are consciously selected by the learner.

Specifically for speaking, the strategies that can be used for example before-speaking strategies including lowering anxiety (e.g. relaxation techniques and positive self talk), preparing and planning (e.g. identifying the goal and purpose of the task, activating background knowledge, predicting what is going to happen and planning possible responses) (Cohen, 1998:18-19). Here, the writer concerns with the strategies used by S to master speaking skill.

The subject of the research is a student of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta. Now, she is in the second year. She was born in Surakarta, Central Java. She lives at Nusukan, Surakarta with her parents.

Her father, F, is a photographer in Solo. He was born at that town and spent his childhood there, so the language that he acquired was Javanese. While working, he uses Javanese and Indonesian to serve his consumers. Her mother's name is M, a housewife. Her parents got a little bit English subject in their Junior and Senior High School. Therefore, they only learn a little about the basics English pattern.

Even though S does not get English in her elementary school, she is quite interested in it. English songs are her favorite program that she used to listen on the radio or on the television. At that moment, she tries to write it down in a piece of paper then compare it to the song's text to check whether it is correct or not. After that, S pronounced it so that she can get a good pronunciation as good as the speaker did.

In the junior high school, SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta, she gets an opportunity to learn English formally for the first time. This opportunity is used as good as possible. She does not follow any English course, just learns it by herself. Studying hard is her way to master English fluently. She collects 5 new vocabularies every day then memorizes them. Try to make many sentences from its vocabularies. Then, also practice her structure and her ability in writing. One way to make her speaking ability well is by taking conversation with her friends or just talking to herself. Her keyword is never to be shame in making mistakes while learning. Her habits in elementary school still used at this moment.

S speaking ability increase well because taking conversation course. Her self confidence to practice English is good enough of day goes to day. The writer have seen about S in developing her speech when speaking in English in two months after taking conversation course.

To sum up, S's capability in English especially her speaking skill is worth to be considered. It can be seen from her habitual learning strategies, such as memorizing 5 words every day and taking some conversations.

Moreover, becoming a language coordinator in her school and joining some English competitions are the additional proofs of her ability. Realizing the phenomena of S's language background, the writer is interested in observing her learning strategies to master English speaking skill.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: *Learning Strategies Used by Student of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta to Master Speaking Skill (A Case Study)*.

#### **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the background above the research problem is focused on: "What learning strategies are used by S to master English speaking skill?"

#### **C. Objective of the Study**

The objective of the research is to describe the learning strategies used by S in mastering English speaking skill.

#### **D. Benefit of the Study**

In conducting this research, the writer hopes that the study will have benefits as follows.

##### 1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. The finding of the research will be useful for students to master English speaking skill.

- b. The finding of the research also gives consideration for teachers who teach English at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta and other English teachers especially in improving the student's speaking skill.

## 2. Practical Benefit

### a. For English Teacher

This study will give consideration for English teachers at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta and other English teachers especially in improving the student's speaking skill.

### b. For Future Researcher

This study will give contribution for other researchers who are interested in analyzing and investigating the learning strategies of English language learners.

### c. For Other Students

The students can get more knowledge about learning strategies to master speaking skill.

## **E. Research Paper Organization**

The organization of research paper is given in order to make the reader understand the content of the paper, as follows:

The first Chapter is introduction which consists of the background of the study, research problem, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

The second Chapter is the underlying theory. It contains review of previous study and finds some related studies which deal with notion of language learning, notion of strategy, notion of learning strategy, and the last is classification of learning strategies.

The third Chapter is the research method. In this chapter the writer presents research design, data and data source, object of the study and data analysis.

Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion. In this chapter the writer shows the learning strategies used by a student of SMP Muhammadiyah I Surakarta in mastering speaking skill. At this occasion, she also will discuss the finding of the research.

The last is Chapter V deals with Conclusion and Suggestion. In this chapter the writer will draw conclusion and propose the suggestion taken from the result of the research.