

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English nowadays is undeniably important for facing the globalization that grows rapidly. The various changes in the world industry make people learn how to master it by finding many kinds of ways. One of the ways that could be the best choice is learning English language, since English language is a global language used by almost people all over the world to communicate.

The need of people in learning English for facing the globalization leads to what is called with the language learning. Before defining language learning as a whole, the researcher wants to explain both words one by one first. According to Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, as cited by Brown (2000: 4-5), language is a systematic communication by vocal symbols. Then Pinker in Brown (2000: 5) defined language as a complex skills develop spontaneously in an individual without he/she notices it. Both definitions imply that language is an individual's skill about detail symbol of communication. The second one is learning, Brown (2000: 7) stated that learning is acquiring or getting knowledge of a subject or a skill by study, experience, or instruction. By those definitions, language learning is the involvement of an individual in the process of learning in which he/she tries to study and to experience about symbols of communication in a certain language.

Learning English language is becoming more relatively difficult because of the fact that there are some skills to be mastered in it. English language has many aspects or skills to be learnt; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Since those four skills are a unity, people have to learn all at once in order to master the language. For example; a person should be a good listener in order to be a good speaker (listening-speaking) or a person can be a good writer for they read a lot of books before (reading-writing). All the skills support one to another and can't stand alone though four of them may have its own way on what people will use them in daily life.

One of the skills that seem to matter most toward the globalization is speaking skill. Speaking skill is needed by people to be engaged with the outside world in order to get in touch with the social life. In the smaller scope it is the learners in formal education that soon will be engaged on how to speak the English language well, since the learners are ones to whom the teacher gives the knowledge about the language. Besides, in formal education learners may find many sources for enhancing their ability of speaking English language that is; student organization.

Many sources can be found in formal education while learners try to learn the language. Currently as the level of the education's system has been being enhanced, school provides many extracurricular in which the learners may join and explore their interests. In college there are plenty of extracurricular or student organization which can be joined by the learners. The learners who join the student's organization usually have many activities such as; attending the regular meeting, holding events like annual competitions in sport and science, holding seminars related to the subject in the academy up to the evaluation phase where they evaluate the whole performances. By those activities learners can get a lesson to enrich their language ability and further get their proficiency improved. In the organization learners may not learn as the way they learn formally in the class, but learners still have to learn maximal in order to get the maximum amount of knowledge from the organization. Due to the reason learners can apply several learning strategies that will help them to gain more, the application of it is important because basically learning strategies help learners to be well-prepared and to be well-organized in learning.

Oxford (2006: 1) defined learning strategies as "steps taken by students to enhance their own learning. Strategies are especially important for language learning because they are tool for active, self-directed involvement, which is essential for developing communicative competence. Appropriate language learning result in improved proficiency and greater self-confidence." Further a strategy is useful for learner if it suits well with the learner's task, fits with the learner's learning style, and links it with another relevant strategy (Fauziati, 2010:

150). As stated by Oxford and Fauziati it's clear that learners have to know what learning strategies are and what learning strategies which fit them best. There are plenty of learning strategies which can be chosen by the learners themselves since the learning strategies are "learning process which are consciously selected by the learner" (Cohen, 1998: 4). And anywhere the learners probably at or anytime the learners probably in such as; in the student organization, they must have been used certain learning strategies though they are not fully aware of it.

Based on the above explanation the researcher has a need to do a research in finding out the learning strategies that might be used by one of the members of the student organization in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta named EDSO (English Department Student Organization). The reasons why the researcher chose the organization because, it has several activities or events that can indirectly enhance the members' academic achievement, the activities such as; competition in English (debate competition, speech contest, etc), seminars like PPKM (*Pelatihan Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa*), PIMPEL (*Pekan Ilmiah Pelajar*), and so on. Also, it's a common thing to see whenever people meet a person from the organization and he/she always has that confident, that courage, and that determination to present his/her self in front of the public without doubt and anxiety. Those were things that finally made the researcher curious and decided to do an observation to a person in organization.

The subject of this research is SA who is currently registered as one of the members of the student organization. There're reasons why the researcher decided to take only one subject and when she does activities in the organization not when in classes of English Department. Firstly, the previous researches usually observed the learning strategy done in class and this researches' researcher wanted to conduct a bit different research by observing the learning strategies done in organization. Secondly, the researcher thought it'd be too difficult to do an observation on more than one subjects in a relatively short period, and since each member of an organization usually has different schedule. Thirdly, SA actually is

a high-achiever learner for she has got mostly good scores in each semester and had been the one to whom the organization entrusted many events to.

To sum up, this research is important because the researcher hopes that this research gives contribution to the scientific research toward the social life of a person in organization and what ones can get by living in the middle of that. The researcher decided to examine this research under the title *Learning Strategies Used by a Member of EDSO in Gaining Speaking Skill Achievement: (A Case Study)*.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background study above, the problem that arises from this research is “What are the learning strategies used by SA in gaining the speaking skill achievement?”

C. Objective of the Study

This research aims at describing the learning strategies used by SA in gaining the speaking skill achievement.

D. Limitation of the Study

This research has broad scopes for both the subject and the object. Due to the fact the researcher limits both of them into; the subject of this research is one of the high-achiever members of EDSO, while the object of this research is the learning strategies used by a member of EDSO.

E. Significance of the Study

From this research, the researcher outlines the significance of the study into theoretical significance and practical significance, the significances are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

- a. This research can be the additional information about the learning strategies.
- b. This research can increase the understanding about the learning strategies for those who is learning the English language.
- c. This research can be a referential research for those who want to conduct a research with the same topic.

2. Practical Significance

- a. This research can be useful for the teacher of the English language to get to know the learning strategies which can be applicable during the teaching-learning process.
- b. This research can be a benefit for the subject to get informed on what the learning strategies that she uses.
- c. This research can probably give a determination for other researchers to conduct a further research about the learning strategies.

F. Research Paper Organization

The researcher displays the research paper organization in order for the readers to be able to understand it. The organization is elaborated as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction. This chapter consists of background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, also research paper organization.

Chapter II is the review of related literature. This chapter includes previous studies, the explanation about language learning, the notion of learning strategies, the classification of learning strategies, the explanation of speaking skill, and the explanation of organization.

Chapter III is the research method. This chapter consists of type of the research, subject and object of the data, data and data source, method of collecting data, technique of data analysis, and credibility of data.

Chapter IV is the result of the study. This chapter consists of presenting the research finding and the discussion of the finding.

Chapter V is the conclusion and the suggestion toward the whole research that will be done by the researcher.