

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Speaking is the way to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings orally. It is among the most important skills in English learning. However, other skills, such as listening, reading, and writing need to be taught all together (Oradee, 2012). This is understandable because in fact that in interaction we need to involve more than one skill, ranging from listening to the speaker reacting to what the speaker said and so forth. Even, fluency in speaking is a crucial component that need to pay attention by learners and teachers. English is divided into four skills which are as follows: listening, speaking, reading, and writing; therefore, speaking is the second skill and has an important role in communication. Speaking is a part of daily life that everyone should develop in subtle and detailed language. One of the most important factors about language is that it deals with social contexts and culture (Schmitt, 2012).

Teaching speaking means helping learners develop their ability to interact successfully in the target language. To do so, one must have communicative competence. Richards, Platt, and Weber (as cited in Nunan, 1999, p. 226) defined the characteristics of communicative competence as: Thus, to help students enhance their speaking skills, the teacher must help students improve their grammar, enrich their vocabulary, and manage interactions in terms of who says what, to whom, when, and about what.

A study has been carried out on what factors that positively affect students English speaking fluency. It was conducted by Hidayat and Herawati (2012) the results show that there are three factors influence students' speaking fluency, including enjoyable learning process, good self motivation, and good support from their friends.

This study is an extension to the previous researches which were conducted in the deficiency of English speaking. The researcher's main interest was to investigate this problem among the learners of English language at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta particularly among those who specialize in English Department. The researcher provided a number of factors that cause the deficiency then set out a group of suggestions to deal with it. Generally university students are not quite familiar with the different types of English language skills, particularly speaking skill. It is clear when they try to speak English.

Based on the description above, the researcher tries to investigating speaking ability in first semester students' of English Department of UMS. So, the researcher can analyze the students' ability to speak English. The researcher takes data from observing speaking classes in first semester. The researcher is interested in investigating the first semester students' ability in speaking skill in speaking class of English Department at UMS. Therefore the researcher proposes a research entitled : **Investigating Students' Ability to Speak English: a Case Study of the First Semester Students' of Department of English Education in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta in 2018/2019 Academic Year.**

B. Problem Statement

The problem of this research are:

1. What is the level of students' ability in speaking English measured by Cambridge speaking rubric?
2. What aspects that students' master better?
3. What are the factors that affect students' to speak English well?

C. Objective of the Study

There are two objective objective of the study. They are as follows:

1. To measure the level of students' ability in speaking English using Cambridge speaking rubric
2. To describe the aspects that students' master better

3. To describe the factors that affect students' speak English well

D. Scope of the Study

In this research the research focuses on the first semester students English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta in speaking I classes. The researcher analyzes used rubric speaking Cambridge by observation and documentation.

E. Benefit of the Study

This study has two benefit of the study that can be defined into:

1. Theoretical Benefits

It can be reference for next researcher who will conduct the relevant research and give new knowloedge about how the students' ability in speaking learning skill. Speaking has primacy in teaching English language, since it is the most frequently used skill among the other language skills and the greatest role that speaking plays in the communication process. Moreover, accurate use of English language is an indicator that a learner makes progress in his or her English language.

2. Practical Benefits

a. Students

The result of this study will help the students' to solve the problem in teaching learning activity. Therefore, the researcher investigating the students' ability to speak english in speaking I class.

b. Lecturers

Lecturers can find the problem and ability of students' in speaking learning process especially in speaking I class.

c. Researcher

This study is beneficial for the future researcher who want to have the same topic of the research. It is important to knowing

students' ability in learning speaking process. This research can be used as one of the references to conduct another researcher.