CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Hornby (1974:1289) speaking is the way to convey message to other people and speaking is a tool to deliver the message directly to the listener even if the listener understand or not with the messages. Burgess (1994), share the similar ideas about speaking that it is an activity in which someone is talking about something or tells others about something that interested even though writing is also the way to communicate and to deliver our message, but for daily life conversation, directly or in distance, speaking is considered faster and more efficient.

Nunan (1998) said that to master in speaking is important for second language learners (L2) and English as a foreign language learners and its achievement is measured by the ability to speak. It comes to the practical discussion about why speaking in English is so important. Nowadays, to achieve the scholarship across the country, one of the test that will be faced by the examinees is related to English, the purpose is to measure their English proficiency. Interview in English usually included in that test. To be able to answer the questions asked and reassure the ideas that wanted to be delivered are all the important point, because it means that the examinee understand the questions. Interview in English is not only happen there, some job interview for some specific positions in some big companies also regulate that their employee must
be able to speak in English. Business presentation might not only for Indonesia, but also them from other countries. So it cannot be denied that speaking English is an important skill to be mastered.

Speaking is the most difficult skill for English foreign learners. It was supported by Hinkel (2005, p. 485), he said that speaking skill is considered as a hard skill to master-the most complex and difficult skill to master. The element of speaking is not only about to speak in English with appropriate grammar, beyond everything is to build students’ confidence first to speak, because based on the finding from the research of Maulana, Daud and Heriansyah (2016), the problems that students faced in speaking English is their less of confidence to speak and they are afraid of making errors or inaccuracy while speaking besides other problems like their lack of vocabulary and poor pronunciation. According to dash (2012) and Floriasti (2013) stated that there are some problems that may caused low ability in speaking such as te students’ knowledge, students’ motivation, students’ linguistic knowledge, students’ personality, and speaking materials. The first problem faced by secondary school students’ is lack of pronunciation, then the second one is students’ lack of vocabulary, it was caused by lack of practice and the last is lack of students’ confident.

Students felt shy to speak English and to express opinions and ideas because they were afraid of making mistake in pronouncing the words. So, that students became not confident. In learning speaking, many students felt bored because the teaching strategy was not interesting. According to Harmer (2001 : 275) in learning strategy,
teacher should pay more attention to the technique that suitable for students. Murray & Christison (2010) observed that many students think English is only a school subject and they do not see its significance for their prospective employment.

The senior high school that become the location of this research is one of favorite high school in Jambi, besides its strategic location and its popularity on social media, some extracurricular activities are also established by the school and resulted to some achievement too, but to be specific in all competition related to English, the name of this school quite seldom appear as the conqueror. This school has language laboratory to facilitate the students and teacher during language teaching and learning activity. With this case, the curiosity then appear related to what are students’ difficulties in learning English, especially speaking, with all the facility and the availability of the English teacher there. The target in this research are the eleventh grade sains programs students only, since they have learned almost all topics related to English at this stage. The twelfth grade students are not chosen because they are prepared for national examination and most of the time they only review the previous lessons on all subjects including English.

Since there are variation of research result conducted all over the world related to difficulties in learning speaking English, and new problems can always be identified and discussed to find the way to solve it, the researcher is interested in conducting the similar research about with the title “Students’ difficulties in learning English speaking skill at SMAN 5 Jambi”.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the research question as follow “What are students’ difficulties in learning English speaking skill at SMAN 5 Jambi?”.

1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this research is to identify students’ difficulties in learning English speaking skill at SMAN 5 Jambi.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

This research will only analyzed students’ perception about difficulties in learning English speaking skill. The difficulties that want to be identified are divided into two, which are intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic here means the difficulties that come from the students themselves and in the other hand, extrinsic means the difficulties that come from external factor in which it can be human and non-human. The target of this research are the sains program eleventh graders in SMAN 5 Kota Jambi only.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The results of this research may provide some benefits that are categorized into two frameworks. The first is theoretical benefits, this study is expected to provide face information for the readers about the difficulties that the students at SMAN 5 when
they learn to speak in english. This research also will be useful for the English researchers in next research. The second is practical benefits, the results of this study can be used as a reference or guidance for school policy, especially in difficulties in English speaking skill.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

1. Perception: The perception that want to be analyzed in this research is students’ perception related to English, to be particular, in speaking. The researcher want to find out about what the students have in mind about why learning speaking English is difficult for them.

2. Speaking Skill: Among other language skill, the researcher only focus on analyzing students’ difficulties in learning ‘speaking’ English only.

3. Difficulties: The researcher try to analyze the ‘difficulties’ that students face in learning speaking English only. The difficulties that want to be analyzed are intrinsic and extrinsic, to be more specific about the students’ difficulties, they can only be known after the questionnaire related to it is analyzed.