

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

In Indonesia, English is taught as a compulsory subject for the students from the lower level secondary school up to the university level. English has four required skills to master, which are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From the four skills that should be mastered, the researcher is interested in studying speaking skill because there are many problems concerning the development of the skill such as students' lack of confidence and vocabulary. According to Ur (1996), there are some problems faced by the learners in speaking activities. The problems include students' inhibition, nothing to say, the low of participation, the theme to be spoken, and the use of mother tongue.

In the Government Regulation no 19/25 on NES (National Education Standards), it is stated that every school may give an opportunity to develop its students' competency by applying an extracurricular program. Extracurricular is a program which is not part of the course that a student is doing at a school, different schools may have different extracurricular program. The main reason of the establishment of extracurricular program is to accommodate or give spaces for students in developing their talent and interest. Since it is not a compulsory subject, students have right to join it or not.

One of the extracurricular activities at school is English club. The English club program is aimed to improve the students' assessment in English subject. English club is a place for students to use English in a fun environment. In the English club, the students will have an opportunity to practice many different skills based on real situation. Moreover, the English club will encourage and support students to help each other to

develop their English skills. However, the English club is included the extracurricular at school. It is not compulsory subject, so the students have right to join it or not.

This study will be held in SMPN 7 Kota Jambi. The researcher chose this school as the site to take the data because previously, the researcher has been involved in the English club at that school when the researcher was in pre-service teacher program. This school has an English club as an extracurricular activity which is held every Thursday in a week. The activities that included in this club are practicing and preparing for speech contest, storytelling, watching video, playing games, role plays, and other activities. This club is led by one teacher and participated by some students as the members of this club. The benefits that students get from joining this club are they can encourage and support to help each other to develop their English skills. In this research, students' perception on the English Club in their speaking practices will be identified based on their learning activities in that club.

When the researcher was in pre-service teacher programe, the researcher has been involved in English club activities. The activities are storytelling and speech contest which held by another school. From these activities, the researcher saw the student's speaking ability were said very good because who had selected to join is the student of choice even win it. Besides, there was also student who joined the first time and strong-willed to try to win.

## **1.2 Research Purpose**

The purpose of the research is to find out the students' perceptions on English club extracurricular in speaking practices.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

Based on the background of the research above, this research question is formulated as "What is students' perception on English club in speaking practices?"

#### **1.4 Research Limitation**

This research focuses on investigating students' perception on English club in speaking practices and for the students who joined the English club. The scope of discussion is to the students' perception whether English club takes a role in their speaking practices. This research use qualitative method to describe students' perception on English club in speaking practices. The researcher will get the data from doing an interview for students in SMPN 7 Kota Jambi and one teacher to know their perception on English club in speaking practices.

#### **1.5 Research Significances**

The researcher hopes this study will provide some significances. First, for school, this study is expected that the English club can keep improving the quality of English students, especially in speaking and many students more motivated to join the English club and follow some contest such as speech contest, storytelling, and debate competition. Second, for the students, this study is expected to know about students' perception on English club in their speaking practices. Third, for other researchers, this study hopes can be a reference when they are doing their own research that the topic related to this study's topic.

#### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

**Perception** : a process to organize, interpret physical and psychological condition and past experience. (Oxford Dictinoary)

**English club** : an opportunity for English language learners to practice using English in a relaxed and friendly setting. English club give students a chance to practice English in a relaxed, informal environment, and to meet new people. English club program is supported by the implementation of games, classroom and pair's discussion, whispering games, story

completion, story telling, concersation, and role-play as the classroom activities.