

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

English is the most spoken language in the world. English is used by almost all the people from many countries around the world. Speaking skill is a crucial issue in term of communication. As one of the four English skills being developed, speaking is pivotal for students (Bright & McGregor, 1970) There are four of basic skills that student should master in language: they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. English speaking skill is the most important skill that student should master.

According to (Horwitz et al., 1986), Speaking in the target language is a threatening aspect of foreign language learning. English is not the student first language or mother tongue, speaking English can be a stressful activity for the student. (Al-Saraj, 2014), state that in an English classroom, students don't feel comfortable to speak in front of others. Students tend to be silent if they are asked by their teacher in the classroom. Many times they keep silence even if they understand the questions and could actually answer the questions from their teacher.

Most of the students become more anxious when they are asked to speak in front of the classroom. (Sinaga et al., 2020), found that students feel afraid and embarrassed to speak in front of the class, because they think that other students will laugh at them when they try are speak in front of the class. This might make the student still stay silent instead of speaking.

This phenomenon happens because of many factors and anxiety is one of the most influencing factors. Anxiety is the main problem of learning process in foreign language especially in speaking English. As suggested by (Horwitz et al., 1986), teachers and also students feel strongly that anxiety is the main factor of obstacle to speak another language especially English. Speaking is an activity that makes students anxious while in class, many students are highly anxious because they participate in speaking activities. Speaking in front of the class is the biggest cause of anxiety that faced by the students. Speaking in front of the class is one of the factors that cause anxiety in speaking English that makes students feel anxious when they make mistakes in speaking English.

There are some reasons why the researcher chose the students of SMP Adhyaksa 1 in first grade as the participants:

1. The researcher observes the learning activities in classroom, and found several problems that related to speaking anxiety. The researcher observes the sign of language anxiety experienced by the students to find out which students feel anxious when speaking in front of the classroom based on the three characteristic of anxiety illustrated by nevid et al., (2005), such as physically, behaviorally, and cognitively.
2. Pengenalan Lingkungan Persekolahan (PLP)
3. The similar research has been never conducted in this school.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher could identify the factors or situations that make students feel anxious when they speak English in an English classroom and the strategies to minimize students' anxiety in speaking English in the classrooms to understand the issue of anxiety in learning English more deeply.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the factors affecting students' speaking anxiety in English classroom?
2. What are the strategies to minimize students' speaking anxiety in English classroom?

1.3 Objective of the Research

1. To identify the factors or situations that make students feel anxious when they speak English in an EFL classroom.
2. To find out and describe the strategies to minimize anxiety for the students.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

This research focuses on the factors that cause anxiety and strategies to reduce students' anxiety in speaking English at first grade students of SMP Adhyaksa 1 Jambi.

1.5 Significant of the Research

This study is expected to give more contribution in students' speaking ability. The information could help educators or teachers to understand more information about factors that trigger students' anxiety or situations that make students feel anxious when they speak especially in English and also to finding out the strategy to help them in reducing students' anxiety and feel more relax when studying in the classroom. This study is expected to help students to find out ways to overcome their anxiety problem when speaking English.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

1. Speaking

Nunan (2003), stated that speaking is the productive oral skill. Speaking is the process of conveying information, express thoughts and sharing meaning using words in spoken language. Speaking is the way we utter words or articulate sounds with the ordinary voice.

2. Anxiety

According to Ormrod (2011), anxiety is a feeling of uneasiness and apprehension concerning a situation with an uncertain outcome". Anxiety is feeling of fear or worry about everyday situations characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts, and physical changes like increased blood pressure, sweat, feel restless and tense, and have a rapid heartbeat.