

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a common communication tool that has many functions in human interaction and has benefits in expressing meaning. The main function of language is for interaction and communication. Because God created humans in different conditions and personalities, they need interaction with one another. Communication is a basic human activity, and language is the basis for everyone interactions. Language serves specific purposes in people's lives and daily activities. Language is used by people to introduce them, interact with others, and improve their knowledge. It is difficult to think of how humans are able to interact and get along without language. According to one perspective, language is an instrument for communication between regions and individuals, and it is going to be used to express somebody's notion, feeling, emotion, and idea to the other person.

As a foreign language in Indonesia, English may be studied seriously by many individuals to have high chances in the global world. English has recently gained importance. Since it is significant, English is taught frequently at formal education environments, which range from elementary schools to universities, as well as in informal environments such as tutoring. Learning English involves four skills: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Speaking is crucial for human beings and speaking have no separation. Speaking is how they convey their ideas and interact with others in the civilized world.

According to Ilham, et al. (2019), speaking is a significant component of

second language acquisition and education. As a result of that statement, students frequently assess their achievement in language acquisition and the success of their English subject based on how much they believe their spoken language fluency has increased. The components of speech, such as vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and fluency, should be mastered by students when speaking.

A lot of students which are learning English in class are not paying attention because they are not interested in the subject. Although having words in their minds, students lack enthusiasm to talk or express their opinions. Students become less engaged In the process of learning as a result. When speaking English, a lot of students have trouble. This resulted from students' inability to learn the speaking component. In addition, students seldom ever practice speaking English. Due to the fact that the majority of their environment speaks Indonesian, they seldom get the chance to practice speaking English outside of the classroom.

Giving students lots of opportunities to practice their English in the classroom can help them solve their speaking issues. To help students enhance their speaking abilities and the learning process to be interesting, practice speaking English in class should be engaging and use the proper technique. Debate may be used to educate speaking. Students that participate in debates might be inspired, motivated, and influenced comfortable with speaking.

According to The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, defines debate as: 1) a formal discussion of an issue at a public meeting or in a parliament; and 2) an argument or discussion expressing different opinions. Debate directs students to speak by arguing from two groups that have been arranged to always disagree.

This debate learning style is highly useful for supporting and improving the abilities that students must acquire. Furthermore, the debate learning paradigm can help students improve their higher level thinking skills, often known as HOTS. Debate can also train and familiarize students to think ahead or make predictions about a problem. Students will also be accustomed to presenting arguments or ideas in a coherent and systematic manner, and trained and accustomed to defend their opinions with logical and accountable reasons. In addition, debate also can improve the ability of students to speak in public ethically, both verbally and body language and can increase students' self-confidence.

Several previous studies related to student's perspective of the use of debate in improving speaking skills. The research on student perception was conducted by Awalya, S. et al (2020). He used questionnaires and interviews to collect data. The result of this study is that students have a positive perception of the use of English debate in improving their speaking and critical thinking skills. Zare, P and Othman, M (2015) also researched the benefits of debate classes in improving critical thinking, oral communication, and teamwork skills. As a result of his research, debate classes have several positive impacts or benefits in learning English by increasing learning motivation, critical thinking, and teamwork skills. However, some students also feel that sometimes debates are not interesting.

This research was conducted based on the researcher's ideas on students' perceptions of using debate in speaking. The researcher also searched for to know students' perception and difficulties after taking part in the debate. Through this research, researcher also wants to see and prove directly that debate has a good

impact for students' speaking. Based on the explanation above, the researcher decides to carry out the research entitled “*Students’ Perceptions of Using Debate in Speaking at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Jambi.*”

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, researcher focus on several research questions, as follows:

1. How are students’ perceptions of using debate in speaking at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Jambi?
2. What are students’ difficulties of using debate in speaking at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Jambi?

1.3 The Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To explain students' perceptions of using debate in speaking at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Jambi.
2. To know the students’ difficulties of using debate in speaking at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Jambi.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This research is useful for contributing and informing to:

- 1.) English Teachers

This research was designed for English teachers so that they find alternative ways in teaching English.

- 2.) Students

This research can inform students about the importance of using debate in speaking.

3.) Readers

By reading this research, the researcher hopes that the readers will also get useful information and this information can provide their insights and knowledge.

4.) Other Researchers

This research can serve as a reference for them and could contribute to previous studies on students' perceptions of using debate..

1.5 Limitation of the Research

In this research, the researcher has a limitation. The limitation of this research are the researcher only focuses on the students' perception and difficulties of using debate n speaking at SMAN 1 Kota Jambi.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1.) Speaking

Speaking is one of language skill which is very important to be mastered by students' in order to be good communicator (Fitriani, 2019). It can be concluded that speaking is a person's ability to use language in conveying opinions and expressing meaning.

2.) Debate

Debate is a situation in which different perspectives are presented based on various points of view (Laela, 2019). From the definition above, it can be concluded that debate is an activities to express opinions, as well as listen and receive opinions from various points of view.

3.) Perception

Perception is a process that is preceded by the sensing process or the process of receiving stimuli by individuals through the sensory apparatus or also

called sensory processes (Saleh, 2018). It means that perception is a person's ability to perceive a stimulus that comes from outside oneself or from his or her environment through his or her sensory apparatus and then, it is processed to produce meaning from the stimulus.