

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the introduction of this research comprising the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, research questions, the purposes of the research, the significance of the research, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 The Background of the Problem

English is one of the important subjects in Indonesia. Some of us are learning English from elementary school until university. It is good for strengthening our English knowledge and we become accustomed to using it. However, Indonesia has various languages in every city and region. Indonesia is a country that has a wealth of languages. According to Wikipedia data in Widiyanto(2018:3), not less than 748 regional languages are recorded in Indonesia. It makes it a little bit hard to make a habit of using English because not all the people use it every time, just in the school and when they are out of the school they will go back to using their mother languages.

One of four English language skills which is very important to be mastered by students is speaking.. It is widely known that speaking is the tool or bridge for people to interact with others directly and orally. According to Muklas in Putri(2019:1), speaking has an important role in social life. It is used as a means of

direct communication among people in society in order to keep a relationship among them.

According to Nunan in Arifin(2017:15), many people feel that speaking in a new language is harder than reading, writing, and listening for two reasons. First, unlike reading or writing, speaking happens in real-time, and as a matter of fact, the person you are talking to is waiting for your response. Second, when you speak, you cannot edit and revise what you wish to say, as you can do if you are writing. Because of that, learning to speak needs more chances to practice the target language. Relating to this, the teachers should provide enough speaking activities for their students to support their efforts to learn to speak. Furthermore, they should also motivate and give them sufficient speaking opportunities to improve their speaking ability.

Many ways to learn and practice speaking skills, one of them is Speaking For Argument. This subject is great for beginners majoring in English. In this subject, students can apply lessons regarding the basic concepts of English that they have learned to express their arguments or point of view on a topic. They are asked to talk or express what they think on various topics. As an illustration, every session of this subject is started with the teacher's activity of giving one topic and then the students continue to respond and develop it based on their own arguments or their thinking. For example, the teacher gives the topic 'smoking' or the statement "*Smoking is dangerous and can cause various diseases*" to all groups. All members of the groups should develop and give their arguments about it. However, some students have problems during learning this subject such as; the

content of the argument is out of the topic and lack of vocabulary. Especially during Covid-19 pandemic, now all of us are required to study online because of the lack of opportunity to practice or students tend to be too lazy to practice their speaking skills in this subject because of the limit of the time and space.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in conducting a research with the title “An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Problems in Speaking for Argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University“

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

As widely known that for many students speaking for arguments is difficult to be mastered since it requires them to have sufficient ideas or opinions about the content or topic of the argument, master the grammar structure and have sufficient storage vocabulary. According to Brown in Yendra(2018:29), there are some students' problems in speaking activities such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. During Covid-19 (*Corona Virus Disease 2019*) pandemic, students are required to study online from home. This makes them have a lack of opportunity to practice their speaking skill or they tend to be lazy to practice their speaking skills because of the limit of the time and space.

Furthermore, some researchers about problems in speaking have been conducted by some researchers. One of them was conducted by Baiq Rahmawati Yendra, and it was done at SMAN 3 Kota Bumi Lampung Utara. The result of her study was that the problem faced by the students were; the students were shy and

afraid of making mistakes in speaking English, the students were difficult and confused in organizing the structure of words to express the ideas in speaking English and the students were still low in speaking skills. The second study was conducted by Farah Sumawati Wahidah at the second semester students of English Department of Swadaya Gunung Jati University. She concluded that the students' problems in speaking English were concerned with the difficulties in getting meaning or understanding the conversation, vocabularies, pronunciation, and being shy and afraid of making mistakes in speaking.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Due to the broad scope of this study, the researcher limited her study to the students' problems in learning speaking for argument. This study was conducted to the second year students of the English Education Department at Bung Hatta University. Furtherly, it focuses on the components of speaking which comprise content, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and fluency.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem as already discussed above, the formulation of the problem in this research is formulated as follows; 'do the second year students' have problems in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?

1.5 Research Questions

This research was conducted to answer the following specific questions:

- a) Do the second year students' have problems with content in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?
- b) Do the second year students' have problems with vocabulary in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?
- c) Do the second year students' have problems with pronunciation in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?
- d) Do the second year students' have problems with grammar in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?
- e) Do the second year students' have problems with Fluency in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University ?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

Generally, this research was aimed at describing second-year students' problem in learning speaking for argument. In more specific, it is conducted to find out;

- a) the second year students' problem dealing with content in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University
- b) the second year students' problem dealing with vocabulary in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University
- c) the second year students' problem dealing with pronunciation in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University

- d) the second year students' problem dealing with grammar in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University
- e) To find out the second year students' problem dealing with fluency in speaking for argument at the English Department of Bung Hatta University

1.7 The Significance of the Problem

The researcher believes that this study is very significant to be conducted since its findings would become scientific information that can be used to increase the quality of teaching and learning process. Specifically, they would be beneficial for lecturers, students and researchers.

- a) Lecturers have empiric data or information about the students' problems so that they can find better ways of developing the students' speaking ability.
- b) Students are aware of their own problems in expressing their ideas or opinions, using the correct grammatical structure, the accurate pronunciation and appropriate vocabulary when they speak for argument.
- c) For the further researchers, this research can be used as an additional reference and they can do further research related to this problem.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher operationally defines the key terms used in this research as follows :

- a) **Learning** is the process of acquiring new understanding, knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, attitudes, and preferences.

- b) **Speaking** is people's way of transmitting and sharing thoughts verbally to others.
- c) **Argument** is a series of statements called the premises intended to determine the degree of truth of another statement, the conclusion.
- d) **Problem** is a situation preventing something from being achieved.
- e) **Pandemic** is an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across a large region.
- f) **Covid-19(Corona Virus Disease -2019)** is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2(SARS-CoV-2).