

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

As an international language, English has very important role in communication between the various countries and group of the people in the world. In Indonesia English is regarded as the first obligatory foreign language. English is given to the student of junior and senior high schools level as a compulsory subject. Until now English has been taught from the elementary school level as a local content up to the high school as a compulsory subject. It means that a student has some opportunities to learn English and hopefully master it. But it is still hard to find qualified graduates who have good English mastery. Harmer states that great deal of academic discourse around the world take place in English. It is often a lingua franca of conference, for example, and many journal articles in fields as diverse as astrophysics and zoology have English as a kind of default language.¹ As Allah says in A Holy Koran surah an nisaa' 165²



“We sent messengers whose names We have mentioned to thee and messengers whose names We have not mentioned to thee, and Allah spoke to Moses at length”

¹Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*, (London: Pearson Education, 2001). P.1

²Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *the Quran*, (Britain: R.J. Acford Ltd. Chichester Sussex, 1985). P. 97

As the target language, English is different from Indonesian. Thus students may face trouble in learning English. There are four skills to be achieved in learning English, i.e. reading, listening, speaking, and writing. In addition, there are also some components to be mastered in learning English; those are sound systems (pronunciation), grammatical systems (structure), and lexical system (vocabulary).

In traditional English teaching patterns, the speaking teaching methods used do not achieve the target for they are focused on language form instead of language function. What the teacher teaches is how to make the students able to complete all the questions in the national final test. Classroom interaction is still lack, most students are passive and they are shy to asks for or argue about the teacher explanation or statement. In other words students do not have opportunities to practice speaking English in communicative way and they become bored with the monotonous of classroom activity.

In order to teach satisfactory, a teacher should concern about the quality of the teaching, student's motivation and interest. There are some techniques, which can help the teacher construct a strategy in teaching such as discussion, demonstration, direct experience, and audiovisual media. When an objective is given, the teacher has to consider and decide which technique will be the most efficient and effective one.

In this thesis the writer tried to present one of the techniques that can be used by English teacher, especially in teaching speaking at senior high school. The technique was called Information Gap. It was a technique in which one or more of the students had to get information from somewhere or someone else. In Information Gap activity one person had certain information that had to be shared with others in order to solve a problem, gather information or make decision.

Using Information Gap in teaching spoken English means that the teacher give the students a chance to be active, creative, and let them express their own

attitude, feelings, emotion, etc. On the other hand, the teacher should also be creative in using interesting technique in order to make the process of teaching learning more interesting.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are several reasons which become the writer's concern in choosing the topic. They are as follow:

1. Students don't have the opportunities to practice speaking English in a communicative way and they become bored with the monotonous classroom activity.
2. Information gap would create conducive learning atmosphere, so the students would have the bravery in expressing their idea, although in short and simple expression.
3. Information gap also help students build their confidence in order to make them active and do not shy to ask for or argue about the teacher's explanation or statement.
4. The teacher's lack of understanding of the importance of using method in the classroom.

C. Questions of Study

The problems of this study are as follow:

1. How is the implementation of Information Gap technique in improving students' speaking ability in MA Nrul Islam Kriyan Kalinyamatan Jepara?
2. How is the improvement of students' speaking ability before and after being taught by using information gap technique in MA Nrul Islam Kriyan Kalinyamatan Jepara?
3. Does implementation of information gap can improve students' speaking ability in MA Nrul Islam Kriyan Kalinyamatan Jepara?

D. Objective of Study

The Objectives of this study are as follow:

1. To describe the implementation of using Information Gap technique in improving students' speaking ability.
2. To find out the improvement of students' speaking ability after being taught by using information gap technique.
3. To describe the implementation of information gap can improve students' speaking ability.

E. Research Significance

1. For the teacher

From this investigation, the result of this study can be used as additional information for English teacher especially for senior high school English teachers in developing a various techniques in a teaching learning process. It will also give the better insight for the teacher to make them realize that Information Gap is worth effort in teaching speaking in senior high school. They should not use conventional technique as usual but they should develop their ability in using others, which actually fit the students interest and ability. This effort may motivate them to learn English and finally they can achieve the objectives of teaching speaking better..

The teacher should introduce and explain various techniques to the students. Hopefully, they will apply those in teaching learning process so they can achieve the objective of study efficiently.

2. For the students

At least there are some advantages for the students:

- a. This study will help the students achieve the speaking ability in learning by using of Information Gap.

- b. The result of the study may help students to increase the speaking ability in an active or in communicative way.

3. For the school

The school will make a alternative decision to use some techniques for supporting teaching and learning process, especially to use information gap as a technique to motivate students communicate fluently

4. For the reader

This research hoped can give more beneficial information and knowledge to the reader.

F. Scope of The Study

To limit the scope of the research and to analyze the problems, the findings of the research should be limited by the following factors:

1. This research is limited only on the teaching speaking especially in expression asking and giving opinion. using information gap technique in 10th grade student of MA Nurul Islam Kriyan Kalinyamatan Jepara
2. The instructional material will be confined to a number of units taken from a guide book.
3. The problems that might come up during the implementation of teaching speaking especially in expression asking and giving opinion by using information gap technique in 10th grade MA Nurul Islam Kriyan Kalinyamatan Jepara.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Information Gap

Based on Webster new world dictionary Information is something told or fact learned; news or knowledge.³ Gap is an opening made by breaking or parting; blank space.⁴ The term Information Gap is now widely used to describe feature essential to so much communication in our daily lives we speak or write because you want to pass on information or convey an opinion which we think the receiver may be interested in. if the receiver is familiar with the information and is of the same opinion, there is no gap and he/ she will probably switch off.⁵

2. Technique of teaching

Technique is the method of procedure in artistic word, scientific activity.⁶ Teaching is giving instruction to somebody; causing somebody to know or being able to do something; giving knowledge or skill to somebody; giving lesson at school.⁷ So, technique of teaching is the method in giving instruction, knowledge, skill, or lesson to somebody.

3. Improve

Based on Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, improve is make or become better, make good use of something.⁸ In this study, improve means a process to increase the students' motivation in speaking especially in asking and giving opinion, so that become better.

4. Speaking Ability

³ David B. Guralnik, *Webster New World Dictionary of The American Language*, (NY: Warner books, 1984), p. 311

⁴ *Ibid.* p.251

⁵ Andrew Wright, et.al., *Games for Language Learning*, (Great Britain: Cambridge University Press, 1994) 10th ed, p.2

⁶ David B. Guralnik. *Op. Cit.*, p.614

⁷ A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 886.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 859

Speaking is defined as the verbal use of language to communicate with others.⁹ Ability is potential or capacity or power to do something physical or mental¹⁰. So, speaking ability is potential, capacity, or power to use verbal language to communicate with others.

⁹Glenn Fulcher, *Testing Second Language Speaking*, (Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, 2003), p.23

¹⁰A.S. Hornby, *Op.Cit.*, P. 2