

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Language of communication occurs in daily activity as a text. This is true in any spoken and written language. Language represents medium of most communication comprehended by people in the entire world. Language as medium of communication has two types, they are written and spoken. Spoken language can be manifested in oration, dialogue, presentation, etc. Written language can be manifested in letter, news, short message, short story, novel, etc. Language is very important to express something and to communicate with other.

The principles of verses of the Qur'an about the importance of language can be understood from the analysis of Divine revelation, especially in the part of education which is received by Prophet Muhammad SAW and stated in Qur'an Surah Ar-Rumm in verse 22 :



“And among his signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colours: verily in that are signs for those who know”¹


The verse above shows that language is very important to people in entire world. Language is important to communicate with other people. Especially English language, it is an important language that is used by people in the world. People around the world speak English to

¹ Muhammad Muhsin Khan, Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali, *Interpretation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language*, (Riyadh Saudi Arabia: Darussalam Publishers and Distributors, 1999), p. 530.

communicate. By learning English, people can communicate to other people around the world, because English is the number one international language. People realize that they need knowledge to survive their lives. The knowledge that is needed is not only from their country but also from other countries. To make relationship with them, people need English for communication because English is one of the international languages that have an important role in the international communication.

Speaking is one of the important aspects in learning language, because speaking is the important tool for communication. Without speaking skill students will be a dumb. The teacher never knows the purpose of student's mean.

The principles of verses of the Qur'an about the important to speak always the truth be understood from the analysis of Divine revelation, which is received by Prophet Muhammad SAW and stated in Qur'an Surah Al-Ahzab in verse 70:



 “O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth”²

The verse above shows that people must speak always the truth, because if people misspoke with other, can make their relation unbelief with them. Furthermore, Allah asks people to speak always the truth.

From communicative pragmatic view of the language classroom, listening and speaking skill are closely intertwined. More often than not, ESL curricula that treat oral communication skill will simply be labeled as “listening /speaking” courses. The interaction between these two modes of performance applies especially strongly to conversation, the most popular discourse category in the profession. In the classroom, even relatively unidirectional types of spoken language input (speeches, lectures, etc) are

²*Ibid.*, p. 558.

often followed or preceded by various forms of oral production on the part of students.³

In Indonesia, students are usually afraid of joining foreign language classes. They may feel unmotivated, discouraged easily. Their mindsets say foreign language is difficult to learn because most of them know nothing from the start. Usually, students know nothing how to express what they want to say.⁴

The reasons of learning are to change students' intellectuality, morality and societal attitude. To reach the reason, the students interact with circle of learn that arranged by teacher in the learning process. There are two aspects in learning methodology such as; learning method and learning media as tools to help students in learning process. While, judgment is tool to measure or determine standard of achievement on the reason of learning.⁵

“Learning media” in learning process gives advantages to make learning more attractive, material of learning more clearly, learning methods more have variation.⁶

Learning speaking at junior high school can be done with many media to help students in speaking skill such as: pictures, cards, paper sheet etc. The researcher chooses describing picture to teach speaking in descriptive text, because with describing picture the students will be easier to express their ideas. With the describing picture, they can reflect on image, when they see. So if they can express their ideas of course they will speak and teacher can know the purpose of student's mean.

Considering the above matter, the researcher is interested in conducting an experiment research on the teaching of speaking in descriptive text using describing picture. In this research the researcher gives some interest and familiar pictures. And the researcher hopes with the

³ Brown, Douglas, *Teaching by Principles an Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy*, (San Francisco: Addison Wesley Longman Inc, 2001), p. 267.

⁴ Siti Tarwiyah, *Game Songs and Practical Ideas to Teach Language a Supplementary Book for Language Teachers*, p. 4.

⁵ Nana Sudjana, Ahmad Rivai, *Media Pengajaran*, (Bandung: CV Sinar Baru, 1991), p. 1.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

pictures can improve student's speaking skill. From this technique the researcher wants to know the result of teaching speaking using describing picture especially in descriptive text.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Teaching a foreign language is considered to be one of the most challenging teaching practices. In Indonesia, students are usually afraid of joining foreign language classes. They may feel unmotivated, discouraged easily. Their mindsets say foreign language is difficult to learn because most of them know nothing from the start. Usually, students know nothing how to express what they want to say.

Teacher in that case needs to be responsive to the classroom situation in order to take an accurate measurement. The classroom atmosphere should be sufficiently relaxed so that learners are engaged activity in every activities lead to a better performance of their language skills, listening, speaking, writing and reading. Games and songs in foreign language classes may be used to motivate students and to create a more relaxing foreign language classes.⁷ Based on the background of the study above, the problem in this research is to know the effectiveness of using describing picture to improve students speaking skill in descriptive text.

Describing picture is one of methods, so the researcher wants using this method to improve students speaking skill in descriptive text. The researcher hopes this technique can help the students to gain self-confidence in speaking English especially to practice describing things in descriptive text.

C. Research Question

“How effective is describing picture to improve students speaking skill in descriptive text at the 8th grade students of SMP H. Isriati Semarang in the academic year 2010/2011?”

⁷ SitiTarwiyah, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

D. Objective of the Study

To know the effectiveness of using describing picture to improve students speaking skill in descriptive text at the 8th grade students of SMP H. Isriati Semarang in the academic year 2010/2011.

E. Pedagogical Significance

The researcher hopes that the results of this study can be used by the researcher, teacher, students, educational institution, and next researcher for the following purposes:

1. For the researcher

To add more knowledge about discourse study especially about this method in descriptive text.

2. For the students

It will be helper for students to improve their speaking skill especially in descriptive text.

3. For the teacher

As an additional reference that may be useful for the teacher that good learning strategy and using of media can be interesting in teaching and learning process.

4. For educational institution

It will make a right decision to use a new method to support teaching and learning process in SMP H. Isriati Semarang in order to get better output.

5. For the next researcher

The result of this research can be used as previous research in his/her research.

F. Scope of Research

The scope of the study, the writer limits this study as follows:

1. The topic is limited to the effectiveness of using describing picture to improve students speaking skill in descriptive text.

2. The study is an experimental study.
3. The population is limited to the eight grade students of SMP H. Isriati Semarang in the academic year of 2010/2011.

G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer presents the following definition of the key terms:

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is producing the result that one wants.⁸

2. Describing Picture

Describing picture is one of activity in learning speaking English. In this activity, students must describe pictures in front of class. Every student gets one picture and must describe it. The purposes of this activity are to train students' imagination and retell story in speaking English.⁹

3. Speaking

Speaking is a skill which deserves attention every bit as much as literary skills, in both first and second language. To most people, mastering the speaking skill is the single most important aspect of learning a second or foreign language, and success is measured in terms of the ability to carry out a conversation in the language.¹⁰

4. Descriptive text

Description is a genre which has social function to describe a particular person, place or thing.¹¹

⁸ David B. Guralnik, *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, (United States of America: Warner Books Paper Back Edition Chief Warner Books, 1983), p. 180.

⁹ M. Solahudin, *Kiat-Kiat Praktis Belajar Speaking*, (Jogjakarta: Diva Press, 2009), p. 99.

¹⁰ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*, (Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, 2001), 3rd Ed., p. 39.

¹¹ Gerrot and Wignel, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar: An Introductory of Workbook*, (Australia: Gred Stabler AEE, 1998), p. 208.

5. Experimental study

Experimental study is kind of research that is used to establish a cause and effect relationship between two phenomena. The writer aims to establish that one variable, independent variable causes changes in another variable, the dependent variable. According to Hasan Sadily, experiment is a trial to prove fidelity of hypothesis or to get stability of something that still confuse based on the method.¹²

¹² Hasan Sadily, *Ensiklopedia Indonesia*, (Jakarta: Ichtiar Baru, 1984), p. 898.