CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a system for the expression of meaning. Its primary function is for interaction and communication. Language is used by human in order to know and understand each other. As we know that God created human in different condition and character, so they need to interact among people. Allah has explained this instruction in the Quran at Surah Al-Hujarat:



O mankind, We have created you from male and female; and We have divided you into tribes and sub-tribes for greater facility of intercourse. Verily, the most honored among you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All Knowing, All _Aware. ²

From the statement above, it shows that people have been instructed by Allah to be a friendship or can be understood between each other, although they have different sex, tribe, country, and language. People need a communication to know each other. It is a basic human activity, and basic of all human's communication is language. Language has some functions in people life, in every day activities. People use language; they can introduce themselves, communicate with other, and enlarge their knowledge.³ Without language it is hard to imagine how people can cooperate and get along with other. In one of theory says that language is a means of communication among

¹ Jo Mcdonough and Christopher Shaw, *Materials and Methods in ELT : A Teacher's Guide*, (UK:Blackwell Publishing,2003, 2nd Ed), p.135.

² Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *The Quran*, (London: Curzon Press, 1981), p. 518-519

³ Muhammad Nasib ar Rifa'i, *Kemudahan dari Allah: Ringkasan Tafsir Ibnu katsir*, (Jakarta: gema insane press, 2000), jilid 2, p.437

the nations and people, will be utilized to deliver someone's idea, felling, thought, and opinion to someone else.

English is an International language which has been received by countries all over the world. The function of it is as a means of communication in meeting business or other activities among government over the world. Besides, English is used as science of knowledge, new invention in field of modern technology, pharmaceutical, medical, etc.

As a foreign language in Indonesia, English is learned seriously by many people to have a good prospect in the community of international world. Recently, English becomes important. Since it's important, English is taught widely at formal school starting from elementary school up to universities; even at informal school i.e. courses.

There are four skills in learning English they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is very important because speaking and human being cannot be separated from each other. Speaking is used to express their ideas and to communicate to people in civilized world.

Speaking seems intuitively the most important skill to master. The success is measured in terms of the ability to carry out conversation in language speaking in an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving, and processing information. Speaking is very important because by mastering speaking skill, people can carry out conversations with others, give the ideas and exchange the information with others.

In speaking, students should master the elements of speaking, such as vocabularies, pronunciation, grammar, and fluency. As a foreign learner in Indonesia, many students have amount vocabularies and mastering the grammatical structure, but they still have difficulty in speaking. This problem also appears to the students of English department Tarbiyah Faculty at IAIN Walisongo Semarang.

The students' difficulties occur when they speak English. This caused by students' limitation in mastering the component of speaking. Beside it, students practice speaking English rarely. They only have a little chance to practice speaking English out of class because most of their friends speak Indonesian.

Students' speaking problem can be solved by giving a lot chance to them for practicing English either in the classroom or out of classroom. Practicing speaking English in the classroom should be interested with appropriate technique in order to make students speaking skill can be improved and the process of learning can be enjoyable. One of technique can be used in teaching speaking is debate.

Debate is a teaching technique to improve verbal communication and critical thinking skills. Allah said in the holy Quran:



Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and content with them on the basis of that which is best. Thy Lord knows best those who have strayed away from His path, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.⁴

Human asked to argue through good way. It means that human have to communicate softly and polite. That's what has been said by Allah in his holy book.⁵ In debating, human are asked to express their opinions in polite way.

Debate is presented as a valuable learning activity for teaching critical thinking and improving communication skills. Debating is an effective pedagogical technique because of the level of responsibility for learning and active involvement by all students.

Based on the problems above, the researcher decides to carry out a research entitled "IMPROVING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILL

⁴ Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *Op.cit*, p.263.

⁵ Muhammad Nasib Ar-Rifa'I, *Op.cit*, jilid 4, p. 1078.

THROUGH DEBATE TECHNIQUE". Students' speaking skill hoped can be improved after implementing of debate technique.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Improving

In Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, improving is making or becoming better; making good use of something.⁶ Or it can be said that improving is doing in any way in making something better, or becoming increased.

2. Speaking Skill

Speaking is making use of language in ordinary voice; uttering words; knowing and being able to use a language; expressing oneself in words; making a speech.⁷ Speaking skill is the ability to use the language for expressing idea.

3. Debate Technique

Technique is the specific activities manifested in classroom that were consistent with a method and therefore in harmony with an approach as well. Debates can present opportunities for students to engage in using extended chunks of language for a purpose: to convincingly defend one side of an issue. A debate is a type of role play where students are asked to take sides on an issue and defend their positions. 9

It can be defined that debate technique is an activity of teaching speaking where students are divided in different sides of an issue and have to defend their opinions. Students have a lot of opportunities to practice speaking through this technique.

8 H. Douglas Brown, *Teaching by Principles (An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy)*, (San Francisco State University: 2001), 2nd Ed., p. 14.

⁶ A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary of Current English*, (NY: Oxford University Press, 2000), 6th Ed., p. 652.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 827. .

J. Michael O'Mallay and Lorraine Valdez Pierce, *Authentic Assessment for English Language Learners*, (Addison-Wesley Company inc :1996), p.87.

4. Classroom Action Research

Harmer states that classroom action research is the name given to a series of procedures teachers can engage in, either because they wish to improve aspects of their teaching, or because they wish to evaluate the success and/or appropriacy of certain activities and procedures. This means that classroom action research is an activity includes a series of procedures which has purpose to improve a teaching learning process in a classroom which is done by teachers.

C. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The researcher chooses this topic for the thesis because of several reasons:

- Debate is an interactive technique used for speaking activity, because this
 technique emphasizes on interactive activity involving the use of
 knowledge that can help both teacher and students to improve speaking
 skill.
- 2. Speaking is one of the language skills to be interested by students in order to be able to communicate English well.
- 3. University students have to be able to handle virtually any situations in which target language use is demanded.

D. Research Question

The problem that will be discussed in this study can be stated as follows:

- 1. How is the implementation of debate technique to improve students' speaking skill?
- 2. How is the improvement of students' speaking skill after being taught using debate technique?

¹⁰ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*, (Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, 2001)3rd Ed., p. 344-345.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objective can be stated as follows:

- 1. To describe the implementation of debate technique to improve students' speaking skill.
- 2. To identify how much students' speaking skill improvement after being taught by using debate technique.

F. Limitation of the Study

To limit the scope of study, the writer will only discuss such as follows:

- This study will be done with first semester students of English Department at IAIN Walisongo Semarang in the academic year of 2010/2011. The researcher chooses class TBI 1b as object of research. The participants are 31 students.
- 2. This study is about the use of debate technique to improve students'speaking skill. It is done to find how much the improvement of students' speaking skill after being taught using debate technique.

G. Significance of the Study

1. The students

In this study the students are expected to be able to improve their speaking skill by using debate.

2. The teachers

This study is hoped to help teachers to get alternative ways in their teaching process, especially by using debate.

3. The readers

By reading this thesis, the readers are expected to catch any information in order to improve their knowledge.

4. The writers

This thesis helps the writer to develop her knowledge and experience in composing academic writing.