

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the discussion on the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the research.

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

In learning English, students are expected to be able to master all language skills of English; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. But here, speaking is one of the most important skills to be mastered by students of English as a foreign language (EFL). Then most people are not born public speakers. So many people there have an anxiety speaking when getting situation on public speaking in front of unknown people or audience. The anxiety here is a not good sense for people having no experience before. Public speaking is different from other forms of communication because speakers recognize the central role of their audience.

According to Steven A. Beebe and Susan J. Beebe (2013, p. 82) “Public speaking is the process of speaking to a group of individuals, each with a unique point of view”. When the students find themselves situations where they become the center of attention as they must be focused on the audience, then suddenly the nervousness come up. This phenomenon is called public speaking anxiety. Students feel anxious regardless of their preparation of learning that language, wondering about what other might think of them when they perform their English, the familiarity of the topic used in English learning, how low their achievement could be, etc. Whatever the cause, whatever the level of anxiety, we can use be sure one thing: anxiety will affect students’ performance (Saito and Sammy, 1996). This is why learning other language could be hard for them. One is regarded succeed in learning a language if he could perform that language well enough to be understood by other people. It means that skills like speaking and listening become more important than the other skills.

According to Ur (1996:121), there are some problems in speaking. Those are inhibition, nothing to say, low or uneven participation, and mother-tongue use. Learners are often inhibited about trying to say things in a foreign language in the classroom. They worry about making mistakes. Some students cannot think of anything to say and also just have little time to speak.

Besides, they will use their mother tongue because it is easier than foreign language. In addition, Gebhard (2000:186) states that there are some problems in teaching students to speak English. Those problems are the students won't talk, the error treatment and any native speaker can teach conversation. On the other hand, Al Nakhalah (2016:101-103) finds out that there are psychological factors that hinder students from speaking. They are fear of mistake, anxiety, lack of confidence, and lack of motivation. In the reality, anxiety is the common problem experienced by most students of English Education Department.

Anxiety has the meaning of subjective feelings relating an arousal of automatic nervous system, such as tension, apprehension, nervousness, and worry (Spielberger, 1983 in Chen Yusi 2015) EFL students who feel anxious will think that they are afraid of producing something and feel ashamed if they do mistake. When the students feel anxious doing public speaking in the classroom and afraid if their performance is not well enough. They are shy if they are wrong to deliver the point to tell. The other students will laugh at them. Actually, they have idea in their mind but because they are anxious, they are just nervous to speak up. The problem of speaking anxiety not only happens in the low grade of students but also it happens much in the university students especially in the students English Education Department at Muria Kudus University.

It is supported by researcher's experience and also many students' opinions. In this grade, moreover in this department, students must be a master of English recall that they learnt English since were in elementary school. But in reality, many students of the sixth semester students of English Education Department still have problem in speaking. Most of students are still anxious and nervous when they speak in English in front on many people in the classroom. Almost EED's Lecturer in Muria Kudus University is speaking in English when they teach and explain material to the students in the classroom. Not only at the teaching, but also when discussing something or asking question use English service. It makes the students in the class use English when they have oral discussion with other students, even have a chat with their friends also in English. But there are some students' who just keep silent and just little students are confident to speak in English fluently. Most students are just silent and feel nervous to speak and it makes the communication does not run well in the class. It happens also on the sixth semester students of English Education Department at Muria Kudus Universtiy. Most of them feel anxious when they are speaking. It can be known from their personality side such as prior knowledge; their

academic reason such as aspect of speaking like pronunciation, grammar, intonation, stress, etc or it is from the lecturer side. Some students may be afraid of some certain lecturers who are very smart and master in English so the students do not feel free when they are speaking in English. But if the students keep their anxiety well, it will give bad impact to them. In this case is speaking, students should have strategy to reduce the speaking anxiety in the classroom when they are speaking with their friends or their lecturers. Each student may have their own strategy to reduce it and the researcher only focuses on the students of English Education Department at Muria Kudus University. Based on the reason above, the researcher is interesting to observe and conduct a research under the title “STUDENTS’ SPEAKING ANXIETY IN PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASSROOM AT ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF MURIA KUDUS UNIVERSITY”.

## **1.2 Statements of the Research**

This study intends to investigate a student’s strategies to get over speaking anxiety in public speaking. Particularly, the study tries to find answers to the following the questions:

1. What are the causes of speaking anxiety experienced in public speaking by the students of English Education Department in Academic Year 2017 at Muria Kudus University?
2. What strategies are taken by students of English Education Department in Academic Year 2017 at Muria Kudus University to get over it?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the background of the research above, the statements of this research are:

- a. To describe the causes of students’ speaking anxiety in public speaking encountered students’ English Education Department at Muria Kudus University.
- b. To know students strategies to get over speaking anxiety in public speaking encountered students’ English Education Department at Muria Kudus University.

## **1.4 Significance of the Research**

It is expected that the result of this research can be useful to the following parts:

1. Theoretically



The researcher would be enriching the theory of speaking anxiety in public speaking context in order to know get over speaking anxiety before going to practically. In other words, the researcher can be one of the references in the field of speaking anxiety which discusses public speaking context.

## 2. Practically

- a. For English lecturers, the researcher hopes that the research can help the lecture to know what causes speaking anxiety by the sixth semester students. After knowing the causes, the lecturers can review how they teach to their students and they can give motivation to the students not to be afraid of speaking in English.
- b. For the students of the study program of English Education Department, the result of this research can be used as the reference to be brave and confidence speaking up in front of unknown people which is called public speaking.
- c. For the future researchers, this research can be the reference for the future researchers so they will give the better research.

### 1.5 Limitation of the Research

There are many aspects that can be studied related to speaking anxiety. Those are types of speaking anxiety, levels of speaking, cause of speaking anxiety, and symptoms of speaking anxiety, strategies to get over speaking anxiety in public speaking. In this research, the researcher limits the study only for the causes of and strategies students' speaking anxiety during public speaking in academic speaking class and the strategies to get over of students English Education Department in academic year 2017.

### 1.6 Operational Definition

To build the same perception between the researcher and the reader. There are some operational definitions. Those are:

#### 1. Speaking anxiety

A feeling of nervous when someone is speaking in English in front of many people.

#### 2. Public Speaking

How the students speak up in academic speaking class as the one of the most important skill.

3. Student of English Education Department at Muria Kudus University

A student, who is studying at a school or college with the major certainly in academic year 2017.

