

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the Background of the Research, the Statement of the Problem, the Objective of the Research, the Significance of the Research, the Scope of the Research, and the Operational Definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is an important role in communication. Through language, a person can express his feelings and thoughts. Language is also used as a means of communication between countries in the world. In the modern era, a lot of information in all aspects is conveyed using international languages, both orally and in writing. Several languages are used as international languages. English is one of the most widely used international languages. English is used more in some countries than in other languages and except for Chinese (Kustanti&Prihmayadi, 2017). This requires people all over the world to be able to master English.

In this regard, the Indonesian government has made English one of the subjects that must be taken by students, especially university students. It is also given to students of non-English departments. Regulation Government Number 19 of 2005 Article 9 paragraph (2) said that the unit-level curriculum of higher education must include courses es religious education, citizenship education, Indonesian and English; the depth of curriculum content is regulated by the university each other's height. English is very important to be mastered by non-English majoring students to increase their knowledge and find a good job in this era. As stated by Lauder (2008), English is being used for following technological and scientific improvements and also for better job opportunities.

Although it has become a compulsory subject, there are still many students who find it difficult when learn the language. Skills language can be grouped into two categories, namely the receptive and productive aspects. The receptive aspect is acceptance or absorption, as seen in listening and reading activities. Temporary

productive aspects are the production or production of language, both spoken or in writing as seen in speaking activities and writing (Mulyati&Cahyani, 2007). Ur (2017) proposes that speaking skill is the most crucial to be learned by language learners among other skill. Regarding the difficulty of speaking skills, in 2005 the English Languages Teaching Center (ELTC) conducted a study on fourteen non-English majors and the result was that 50% of students found that speaking was the most difficult skill to master, especially when delivering material. That's because they have to face the fear of standing in front of many people, look smart, and use language that they rarely use in everyday life (Floris, 2005:56). This is following Brown (2001:270) in Tasmia (2019) which states that one of the main obstacles that must be overcome by students in learning to speak is anxiety in producing the wrong and incomprehensible.

Universitas Muria Kudus is one of the universities that makes English a compulsory subject in all majors. English courses are taught using the English for Special Purposes (ESP) approach. At the university level, students from non-English departments must study English for at least two credits with material designed according to their major. The adapted material is called ESP (English for Specific Purposes) which aims at preparing students to meet the demands of the workplace, i.e. English skills (Nuraeningsih, 2017).

Before conducting the research, the researcher found non-English students who had difficulty when dealing with English, especially speaking. Moreover, mastering speaking is not easy especially for Non-English department students because they difficult to memorize and to pronounce vocabulary, less of confident, like to use mother tongue when talking to their friends and anxious to be laughed by his or her friends (Rahmaniah, Asbah, & Nurmasitah, 2018). Therefore, the researcher became curious about what problems the non-English students faced. Based on the background above, the researcher wants to do research entitled *The Problems encountered by non-English Department Students in Speaking English at Universitas Muria Kudus*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher formulate the problems as follow:

1. What are the problems encountered by non-English department students in speaking English at Universitas Muria Kudus?
2. What causes non-English department students at Universitas Muria Kudus to have problems speaking English?
3. How to solve the problems found by non-English department students in speaking English at Universitas Muria Kudus?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the problem statement, the purposes of this study are:

1. To describe the problems in speaking English by non-English department students at Universitas Muria Kudus
2. To describe the causes of problems in speaking English by non-English department students at Universitas Muria Kudus
3. To find out the problem solving encountered by non-English department students in speaking English

1.4 Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research will give some significance. This research gives some theoretical and practical significance:

1. Theoretical Significance
 - a. The results of this study are expected to be useful for developing education, and enriching knowledge about teaching English.
 - b. This study provides more references to other researchers who are interested in researching and finding problems encountered in other aspects.
2. Practical Significance

There is some practical significance in this study:

- a. This study will provide some information and knowledge to the readers about students' problems in speaking English.
- b. The study will provide experience and a clear understanding of students' problems in speaking English.

1.5 Scope of the Research

In this study, the researcher limited the focus of problem-solving from finding the problem and its causes to the English speaking ability of non-English speaking students at Muria Kudus University.

1.6 Operational Definition

- a. Speaking

Speaking is the skill that gives us the ability to communicate effectively.

- b. English Speaking Problem

An English-speaking problem is when someone has difficulty conveying or communicating using English.

- c. Non-English Department Students

Students who are not studying in the English Education Department at Universitas Muria Kudus such as students majoring in psychology, Indonesian language and literature education, management, law, informatics engineering, etc