CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explain the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

In terms of learning, speaking is a key for EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students. Some consider it the most challenging skill to learn as a foreign language it includes pronunciation, grammar, listening, and even self-confidence. Therefore, EFL students' needs to increase their English language learning in passion, interest, and effort (Suryani & Rismiyanto, 2019). When a student of EFL (English as a Foreign Language) did not have enough exposure to communicative situations they will have more difficulty in overall teaching-learning activities (Al Nakhalah, 2016). Speaking for a lot of people is not easy, even students that learned English for many years can communicate fluently and accurately because they did not have enough exposure and knowledge of language use.

At Universitas of Muria Kudus, some of fifth-semester students find it difficult to use English to communicate, because it is not their main language, and they did not have a partner to communicate beside their teacher. To help their communication skills it is necessary to find ways to help them to know their problem and overcome it. The main purpose of speaking is to communicate (Tarigan et al., 2021) to be able to convey what the speaker thinking. The reason the researcher conducts this research is to comprehend what are the students' difficulties and how the students will overcome their difficulties. Speaking activity that can include their difficulty in academics and their problem outside the academic. In some studies, students that have low exposure to the English language tend to focus on finding one word in English and often fail.

They spend so much time finding words, they often did not dare to start a conversation when they have a chance to start, in contrast, students that have high

exposure to the English language are aware that listening and speaking are connected, they tend to give more attention to speak up first (Ratih & Ida, 2017). So, the aim of the speaker can be received by the audience well, it is also necessary to consider several factors that can support the effectiveness of speaking a) Language mastery, b) Language, c) Bravery and calmness, d) the ability to convey ideas with smooth and in order. There will be six factors that affect speaking ability time pressure, planning, motivation, listening ability, topical knowledge, and feedback.

Students did not have to rely on linguistic aspects only, they also need to learn from a non-linguistic for example reasonable attitude, composed, eye contact with the audience, respecting the audience, having good movement or great mimic, loud voice, fluent, relevance, and topic mastery. An example of linguistics is speed accuracy, voice control, or with good duration, grammar, word choice, and audience target.(Yu.Y., 2010)

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the research above, this paper got the problem formulated as follows:

1. What fifth-semesters students' difficulties in speaking practices in English Education Department Universitas Muria Kudus year 2022/2023?
2. What are the strategies for overcoming speaking difficulties for fifth-semester students at Universitas Muria Kudus year 2022/2023?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the research, the objective of this research is as follows:

1. To find out about the difficulties of fifth-semester students of EED year 2022 /2023 Universitas Muria Kudus speaking performance.
2. To find out what do the fifth-semester students of EED year 2022/2023 in Universitas Muria Kudus do to overcome their difficulties with speaking performance.

1.4 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is students' difficulties and how the student overcome their difficulties which is analyzed by the researcher. This research will search a variety of how an individual can overcome their problem in speaking difficulties. While the limitation of this study is the researcher limits his subject to fifth-semester students of EED, UMK.

1.5 Operational Definition

a. Speaking

Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing receiving and processing information.

b. Student's Difficulties

Students' difficulties are factors causing speaking problems that are lack of general knowledge, lack of speaking practice, fear of mistakes, lack of word usage and grammar practice, motivation problem, shyness, fear of criticism, and unfamiliar words pronunciation.

c. Fifth Semester Students of EED

Fifth-semester students of EED who are registered in the speaking class.