

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of the research, statement of the research, objective of the research, significant of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

English is a very important foreign language to learn. There are four skills that must be mastered in teaching and learning English: writing, reading, listening, and speaking. These four skills are interconnected. Therefore, we must master all of them. A teacher must be creative in preparing learning methods so that students can easily master these skills. Speaking is one of the four skills that are very important. In this case, communication is also one of the most important things when interacting with other people, including when teaching and learning English. Uma and Ponnambala (2001:94) cited in Redo (2021) said that students' communication skills in mastering a language are the result of mastering language skills (Redo et al., 2021). The most important thing in communication is speaking skills. From speaking we can convey what we feel, give opinions, give information, express ideas, and do other things. Because we communicate every day, speaking is a natural ability. However, not all students are able to speak English in class.

According to the researcher's observations when the researcher conducted a field experience program (PLP) and taught tenth grade students at SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus, the researcher found that many students had difficulty in speaking or expressing what was on their mind using English. Gan (2012) stated that students may regularly struggle with concerns including poor vocabulary, challenging structure, incorrect intonation and pronunciation, a lack of exposure to English, and a lack of English curricular development (Wahyuningsih & Afandi, 2020). Some of these issues certainly make it challenging for students to develop effective speaking skills.

Teachers and students both participate in the teaching and learning process. To accomplish the desired learning objectives, a teacher and students must constantly

interact and communicate in the classroom. The teacher must have the right method so that students can understand easily and happily (Octavia et al., 2023). Therefore, the teacher must be knowledgeable about how to properly arrange and prepare English lessons, employ teaching strategies that are appropriate to the skills to be taught, and use media as a learning tool.

Speaking English is being learned in this case. Mandasari & Aminatun (2020) cited in Wahyuni & Utami (2021) states that speaking is the skill of articulating distinct sounds and words to express communicate thoughts, ideas, and feelings (A. Wahyuni & Utami, 2021). In other word speaking is a skill that allows us to communicate our thoughts on what we observe or see. Based on the explanation above, the researcher decides to employ picture series to teach speaking as the research object.

Sardiman (2001) said that picture series is a set of pictures that present events that are related to one another. By using picture series students are expected to be able to express or talk about what they see. In this case they produced several sentences and indirectly speak about the picture they see. As previous research, (Indahsari, Harjadijaya, 2019) found that picture series successful to improve students' speaking skills. In other word the use of picture series to improve students speaking skills was proven effective and significant.

From the explanation above, the researcher wanted to conduct research with the title "Picture Series Media to Teach Speaking to the Tenth Grade Students at SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus".

1.2 Statements of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows: "is there any significant difference between the tenth-grade student's mastery of speaking skills at SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus in academic year 2023/2024 before and after being taught using picture series media?".

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the research above the research objective could be: To find out wether there is a significant difference in the mastery of speaking skills

of tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus in academic year 2023/2024 before and after being taught using picture series media.

1.4 Significant of the Research

By carrying out this research, the researcher expects that this research will be beneficial theoretically and practically as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research provides a solution for determining the best method for teaching students' speaking skills and can be used as a reference for someone who wants to conduct research, particularly using picture series as media.

2. Practically

- a. For the Teacher

Hopefully, this research will expand teachers' knowledge of using picture series as media to teach students' speaking skills and make learning more engaging.

- b. For the Students'

Hopefully, this research can help students develop their speaking skills in a fun way.

- c. For the Readers

Readers are expected to be able to take advantage of this research in learn speaking skills by using picture series.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The researcher focuses on using picture series to teach speaking. In this research, the researcher gave a picture series to the students and ask them to tell about the picture series. The scope of this research is to conduct experiment.

1.6 Operational Definition

The researcher is dividing the operational definition of this research into three categories based on its focus. These categories are:

1. Picture series is a set of pictures that contain a sequence of events and can be used to teach speaking skills. It means, the students can talk about the picture series that have been given.

2. Speaking is one of the important skills that must be mastered by tenth grade students because it is a tool for students to communicate in the class and one of the learning objectives that must be achieved.
3. The tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus are the 1st year students who are currently registered as students at SMA Negeri 2 Bae Kudus and who participate in this research as participant.

