

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

In this globalization era, the role of English in various aspects of life becomes more dominant and very important. The use of this language has touched all fields of science, technology, culture, and commerce. Other than that, this language is also used as a communication tool to conduct relations between countries around the world. Whether it is bilateral or multilateral cooperation. In other words, English has become the international language used throughout the world. Seeing such important role, the government issues a policy to implement English language learning activities to learners in various educational institutions, particularly at high school level. Currently English language learning has reached a high level. It is characterized by the decision of the government as one of the core subjects in national examinations (Erna, 2020).

That is why speaking becomes the most dominant aspect of the other aspects and the main focus in the learning activities. Teaching speaking skill in junior high school is important to make student improve their ability for their future. They learn about how to express something with their friend and as a primary for them to make a relationship with some of the foreign people in this global era. Salvin (1995) states that learning in group can develop self-confidence, sympathy, and love. In small groups, learners can participate actively in speaking and group dynamics are increasingly developing (Gotebiowska. 1998). However, most junior high school students could not actually speak English well. As a result, learners learn the language at school only while English classes are taking place. Return to Indonesian or mother tongue after communicate.

Moreover, monotonous learning methods make English a boring subject for them. Speaking is one of the most important skills in the world of communication and teaching. People use it to deliver something important they need from other humans. Especially when we speak English, we need to learn and use English when we need to communicate with people from other countries. Important for improving skills.

They learn about how to express something with their friend and as a primary for them to make a relationship with some of the foreign people in this global era (Nanang, 2020). Because the interaction the listener and speaker as the main factors to determine teaching speaking successfully. An act communication through speaking commonly performed in face

to face interaction and occurs as part of dialogues or rather forms a verbal exchange. In teaching and learning process, the comprehension toward to speaking material shows that the majority of students are not competent English well.

English teaching skills affect student success, so English teachers must choose appropriate methods and materials to teach. Teachers must use good strategies to help students learn more effectively. One of the teaching strategies used in learning teaching process is groups discussion. It means that two or more students interaction each other, discuss together, and work together by study for getting the result from side knowledge as skill exchange to ideal attitude and grade. Every student has different capability to accept the material that is explained by the teacher. In groups discussion the students should be work together to finish their assignment and solve the problem. The students who have good speaking hoped can help his friends who have less- speaking of less accept the material that explained by the teacher.

To overcome the students difficulties in learning English especially speaking, a teacher must be able to choose appropriate technique or method to be applied in their teaching. There are many ways to develop students' speaking ability, some of them are dialogue technique, role-play technique, question and answer, community language learning, retelling exercise, games, group discussion, etc.

The aim of teaching English in Indonesian context is that to help the students will develop their English language skills such as reading, listening, speaking and writing. In the fact students in our country have learned English at least for three years (from junior high school to senior high school), but we find that their English still poor. For example at SMPN 16 Gresik, most of them are still having low mastery in English, when they speaking in English, they will feel difficult in pronunciation and vocabulary. Focus Group discussion is a teaching strategy for teachers and a learning strategy for students. According Weissberg (1988) asserts that by dividing the class to focus group discussion is the most effective form to develop oral language skills. It is expected that by using oral communication in group, students' English speaking skill can be improved. It is more effective because it gives students more time to express their thoughts, which allows them to have more lively discussions.

In relation to the above background, researchers were interested in conducting a study titled "Using Group Discussion to Improve ability in speaking skill on Grade 8 SMPN 16 GRESIK".

B. Research Question

1. Can focus discussion improve ability student in speaking skill ?
2. How can focus discussion improve ability student in speaking skill ?

C. The Objective of The Research

Based on the previous mentioned research question, this research aimed to find out the improvement of the students' speaking ability in term of fluency at SMPN 16 GRESIK through of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) technique :

1. Wheter focus group discussion can improve ability in speaking skill ?
2. How focus discussion can improve ability in speaking skill ?

D. Definition of Key Terms

in answering the research question of the study, it is firstly necessary to explain the meanings of term: Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Speaking Skill, Teaching Speaking.

1. FGD (Focus Group Discussion)

In cooperative learning methods learning can improve student learning outcomes. Cooperative learning there are some learning method is Focus Group Discussion (FGD) (Hollander, 2004). FGD is a method that give studets the ability to improve in speaking skill.

2. Speaking skill

Speaking skill here means is speaking is a the way to say words, the act of utterance, vocal expression, and able to communicate in specified language. And the ability to report acts or situation in phrase, word, or ability to cover or to express a sequence of ideas fluently.

3. Teaching speaking skill

Teaching speaking is a process of teaching in which the teacher shows and helps some or students to learn how to communicate and produce communication well in English especially on daily life.