

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the background of the study, the problems of the study, the purposes of the study, the significances of the study, the scope and the limitations of the study, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Perbina et al. (2021) state that through speaking, people can express their ideas and convey their opinions and thoughts about something. When people can speak, they can communicate directly and indirectly. Moreover, they can communicate effectively and build relationships with others.

Although there are four skills in English, they are all equal and must be learned by language learners. However, speaking is the most crucial skill for effective communication (Perbina et al., 2021). This is in line with some opinion that also assert speaking is the most essential skill that needs to be mastered by language learner. Akhter et al. (2020) say that speaking is considered an essential skill because people will only survive when communicating with others. According to Ur (1996) in Al Hosni (2014), speaking is important because people who master a language are called speakers of that language.

Moreover, in this sophisticated era, being able to speak English becomes a plus point for someone. By mastering speaking, a student can enhance their vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Based on Leong and

Ahmadi (2017) students can talk, debate, ask questions, convey a story, tell their feelings and thoughts, and demonstrate how language can be used.

Besides, speaking also becomes the most challenging skill. Bailey (2003) states that the reason why speaking is way more complicated than other skills is that speaking happens in real time. Unlike writing, in speaking the speaker cannot edit nor revise. On the other hand, speaking requires many components that need to be mastered by language learners, such as grammar, pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Therefore, language learners find it challenging to learn speaking. Even though speaking is difficult, students need to learn how to speak English

Because speaking abilities are so important, EFL students struggle to master speaking skills (Akhter et al., 2020). Rao (2019) mentions that nowadays, people's true abilities are evaluated by their performance in group discussions, debates, group projects, and other areas. Therefore, people must have strong oral communication abilities to take advantage of more excellent prospects. After practicing these speaking techniques in their EFL/ESL classes, the students become proficient and do well inside and outside classroom activities. Seeing the importance of speaking as stated above, students need to speak well and confidently using English.

Irsyad and Narius (2013) state that speaking needs the ability to speak in front of the public and requires more power to perform in public, which makes speaking different from the other skills. Therefore, problems arise when students speak in front of the public. According to Damayanti and Listyani

(2020), students find speaking challenging, especially using English because of the need for interaction with other people.

In Indonesia, students have been taught English since elementary school. It has become a compulsory subject, and there is an English Foreign Language (EFL) class at every level of the school. However, based on Riadil (2020), in fact, even though students have been taught English since elementary school, students still face difficulty using English in daily conversation. This problem arises due to external and internal factors. The internal factors come from the students themselves. Ariyanti (2016) in Anam and Tantri (2020) states that cognitive and psychological factors can cause the factors that inhibit students from performing English speaking. Anam and Tantri (2020) also add that psychological factors will cause them to show little interest in and engagement in the lesson. Psychological factors such as shyness, speaking anxiety, fear of mistakes, and lack of confidence. However, in this research, there are two terms that will be used in viz, psychological and linguistic factors.

In addition, the external factors come from the problems that arise besides the psychological and linguistic factors, such as the teacher's teaching method and the learning environment. Based on the research that has been conducted by Al Hosni (2014), the teacher's strategies in teaching are also factors that contribute to students' speaking problems since the teacher only focused on teaching grammar and vocabulary. It can also happen in EFL class, where the teacher tends to teach grammar and vocabulary and thinks it is for the students' need. While enhancing students' speaking skill requires many

things to teach besides teaching grammar and vocabulary, sometimes teachers briefly teach speaking skill and tend to focus on other skills such as reading and writing.

In EFL class, students are taught various materials, one of which is expressing opinions. Giving opinion expression is taught to tenth-grade (X-grade) students at school. An opinion dialogue is a conversation between two or more people who share opinions with one another. Therefore, giving opinion is an expression used to tell others about their thoughts or ideas (Prastuti, 2011). Meanwhile, according to Wardani et al. (2020), giving thoughts or ideas to another person is called giving an opinion, while the opinion itself is someone's thoughts or beliefs about something they see. With this material, students are taught how to present their opinion towards something by using proper sentences, such as: "in my opinion...", "I think...", "in my honest opinion..." and so on.

In this study, the researcher uses giving opinion as the speaking expression. Giving opinion is familiar to every student because they will be asked for other's thoughts on something. Giving opinion expression is done when students interact in their society or family and in a discussion forum in the class. Usually, the teacher will ask some questions to students to ask their opinion on something. In this situation, the use of giving opinion expression will be used. Besides that, when students are having a focus group discussion both inside and outside the class usually the conversation will start by asking other's opinions towards something. Then the other students will reply by giving their opinions on something. Assubaidi (2019) adds that learning giving

and asking opinion is essential in order to know how to convey opinions properly to the right person.

Based on the preliminary research, in a real-life situation when the researcher observed in the tenth grade of vocational school (SMK), PGRI 2 Kota Kediri showed several problems when students were asked to demonstrate a dialog of giving an opinion in front of the class. Some students still need help to present their opinions in English. Common problems that occur among students are shyness, nervousness, and lack of grammatical rules caused by a lack of vocabulary thus, they have nothing to say.

Several previous studies have been conducted regarding the problem of speaking. A study conducted by Farhani et al. (2020) show some problems in speaking skills. The problems are divided into two factors: linguistic factors and non-linguistic factors. It also stated that the problem students face in speaking is low courage when speaking English in public, which is caused by a lack of vocabulary, grammar, and information about English such as language style and use of words. The result of the research found that most senior high school students in Indonesia were hesitant, shy, and fearful of communicating in English because they believed speaking English with those with greater English abilities was inferior.

However, in another study conducted by Wulandari et al. (2022), the speaking problem divided into two major problems i.e.: linguistic problems and psychological problems. Kondo and Ratuwongo (2023) state that the results of their study are align with Farhani's, which is limited vocabulary and

grammar. Other are language barriers, pronunciation and intonation issues, lack of confidence, and cultural differences.

Al Hosni (2014) finds several problems that arise in students when they are asked to speak in EFL class, such as linguistic difficulties, mother tongue use, and inhibition. This problem is caused by factors such as tacit beliefs and perception of the teacher in teaching speaking and the teacher's strategies in teaching speaking. This shows that speaking problems also arise from the outside of the student

Based on the previous studies above, the researcher assumes that the speaking problem arises among the students when they attempt to speak in front of the class. There are some factors contribute in the speaking problems faced by students. However, the researcher discovers that among the previous studies above, the factors that cause speaking problems have yet to be categorized and are still being explained in general terms. Therefore, the researcher wants to identify and categorize the problems and factors that occur when students present an opinion in EFL class. Thus, the researcher attempts to conduct a study about "*Problems Faced by Students in Presenting Their Opinion in EFL Class.*"

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the research study that has been explained above, the researcher attempts to form research problems as follows:

1. What are the problems faced by students in presenting their opinions in EFL class?

2. Why do the problems emerge when students present their opinion in EFL class?
3. How do students overcome the problem that they faced in presenting their opinion in EFL class?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the researcher constructs the purpose of this study as follows:

1. To discover the problems faced by students in presenting opinions in EFL class.
2. To find out the causes of the problem faced by students in presenting opinion in EFL class.
3. To know how students overcome the problem that they faced in presenting their opinion in EFL class.

D. Significance of The Study

1. For student: The result of this study is expected to give information about the problems in the speaking field; therefore, students can find out what problems they face and the factor that contribute in speaking problem. Thus, they can find strategies to overcome these problems, which are expected to improve their speaking skill to help them communicate in English.
2. For teacher: For the teacher, especially EFL teachers, the result of this study is expected to give information about students' problems in presenting opinions in EFL class, which can also be an insight for the

teacher. Teachers can help students overcome the problems by considering the teaching methods or strategies.

3. For researcher: Other researchers can utilize the result of this study as an inspiration to do research about speaking problems but may choose another subject and different method when conducting their research.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study focused on the problems faced by students and the factors that cause it in presenting their opinion in an EFL class. The subject of this study is 10th-grade students of Automation and Office Governance major (*Otomatisasi Tata Kelola Perkantoran*) and an EFL teacher at vocational school (SMK) PGRI 2 Kota Kediri.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Speaking

Speaking is one of four skills in English which considered as a productive skill. It is an activity which the speaker produces words and sentence orally. People may convey their thoughts, ideas, and opinions about the world by having that competence. By that skill people can directly or indirectly interact with others.

2. Speaking Problem

Speaking problem are issues that contribute to a person's poor speaking performance. Speaking problem can be caused by internal and external factors that make student are unable to deliver their thought and may lead them to poor speaking performance.

3. Giving Opinion Expression

Giving opinion is an expression that used to share our opinion or ideas towards something to other people. Commonly used expressions to give opinion are: I think, In my humble opinion, I think, and so on.

4. EFL Class

EFL (English as Foreign Language) is a class where English is taught to student who do not speak English. For example, Indonesian students which English is not their first language and being taught English is considered as EFL.