

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, the problems of the study, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and also the definition term.

A. Background of the Study

In learning English, there are four skills that should be mastered by the students. One of them is speaking. Through speaking, someone is able to convey information and ideas, and maintain social relationship by communicating with others. Eventhough someone can not speak like a native speaker, but speaking is how the listener can understand what the speaker says. One of the keys to speak like a native is the ability to use and understand casual expressions, or idioms.¹ Sometime, someone can not speak English because of the influence by some factors.

The ability of speaking is very important for people interaction where people almost speak everywhere and everyday through English. In this global era, many people use English as a media of communication and it makes people who come from different countries to be easier in making interaction and communication. As one of international language, English is also being taught in all school, both Islamic school or public school in Indonesia. In Islamic school,

¹ Amy Gillett, *Speak English Like an American* (Michigan : Language Success Press, 2004), p 7.

some of Islamic boarding school determine a compulsory program of speaking English as the way of communication in daily conversation.

Gontor 5 Putri Modern Islamic Boarding School Kandangan is one of Islamic School that has English as their main language that was built in 2007 and has six grades. The level of the grade is different with the public school. It has own regular mechanism based on the test given on the test acceptance. The first until the third grade are similar with Junior High School. Meanwhile, the fourth until the sixth grade are similar with Senior High School. More than one thousand students are studying here. The students start to learn English at the first grade. But, they just get the basic part of speech in English, such as vocabulary and grammar. The fourth grade is more complicated than grade before. The students have to learn about pronunciation, grammar, and some skills in English. So, they are more treated in speaking English.

In fact, the students of Gontor 5 Putri Modern Islamic Boarding School Kandangan use the English as a main language in their daily activities, besides Arabic. Usually, they have one week to speak English, and Arabic for next week. The obligation of the school is when they didnot speak English, they will get a punishment. So, they use English in their activities, such as asking something, requesting, and expalin lesson. But, there are some problems that they faced when they speak English. Here, they found grammatical error, mispronunciation or unclear pronunciation, and lack of vocabulary. There are several previous researches conducted by some researchers on the students' speaking ability. The other research reported that Nur Hazizah in 2013 did a research under the title

“The Problem and Efforts of English Department Students of STAIN Kediri in Improving Their Speaking Ability”. The result showed that English Department students of STAIN Kediri had many problems, such as in grammatical, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency. On the other hand, the students also have problems in motivation, confidence, environment, and also the method in language teaching. In this case, the English Department students of STAIN Kediri do not use English as their main language. So, the problems are found. It is not different with the students of Gontor 5 Putri Modern Islamic Boarding School which use English in their daily activities. Especially for the fourth grade there.

Based on the reason above, the researcher would like to conduct a study about **THE PROBLEMS AND EFFORTS IN IMPROVING SPEAKING ABILITY OF STUDENTS OF GONTOR 5 PUTRI MODERN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL KANDANGAN.**

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the background above, the researcher states the problems of the study as follows :

1. What problems are faced by Students of Gontor 5 Putri Islamic Boarding School in improving their speaking ability?
2. What are the students' efforts and the teachers' solutions in improving students' speaking ability?

C. Objectives of the Study

Considering the problems of the study above, this study is directed to find the description about :

1. The problems usually faced by Students of Gontor 5 Putri Islamic Boarding School in improving their speaking ability.
2. The students' efforts and the teachers' solutions in improving the students' speaking ability.

D. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give contributions as follows :

1. For students

The result of the study is expected to give more information about problems in improving speaking ability in Gontor 5 Putri Modern Islamic Boarding School Kandangan.

2. For the teacher

The result of the study is useful to describe the solution of the teacher in improving the students' speaking ability.

3. For researcher

It is hoped to give some information about the problems and the solutions in improving the students's speaking ability.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The researcher limits the problems in improving speaking ability for the students of Gontor 5 Putri Modern Islamic Boarding School Kandangan. The research just focused on the fourth grade in this school. The reason of choosing the fourth grade because they learn more about English and they are more active to speak English than the grade before.

F. Definition Term

To have a good definition, the researcher give the terms used in this study as follow :

Problems : Something that is difficult to understand. In this case the problems refers to difficulty faced by students to improve their speaking ability.

Efforts : The use of much physical or mental energy to do something.²

Improving : To become or make something better. In this research, improving means the students' effort to make their speaking ability well.

Speaking ability : Someone's ability to express their idea in saying foreign English language in real condition or situation.

² A S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's English of Current English* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1995), p 370.