

CHAPTER 1

A. Background

Language is a system for the expression of meaning. Its primary function is for interaction and communication. Language is used by human in order to know and understand each other. And also Language has some functions in people life, in everyday activities. People use language; they can introduce themselves, communicate with other, and enlarge their knowledge.¹ Without language it is hard to imagine how people can cooperate and get along with other.

In Indonesia, English is considered a foreign language. English is learned seriously by many people to have a good prospect in the community of international world. Recently, English becomes important. Since it's important, English is taught widely at formal school starting from elementary school up to universities. There are four English skills to learn, namely speaking, reading, writing, and listening skill. And speaking is the most important skill that must be mastered by students. Because by mastering speaking skill, people can carry out conversations with others, give the ideas and exchange information with others. Here, in speaking classroom the learners should work as much as possible on their own, talk to one another directly and not rely on the teacher. "Speaking is the

¹ Muhammad Nasib ar Rifa'i, *Kemudahan dari Allah: Ringkasan Tafsir Ibnu Katsir* (Jakarta: gema insane press, 2000)

process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbol in a variety of context". For the other opinion is shown by Hornby, speaking is making use of words in an ordinary voice; uttering words; knowing and being able to use a language; expressing oneself in words; making a speech. In short, speaking skill is the ability to perform the linguistic knowledge in the actual communication.² By speaking with others, we are able to know what kinds of situation are in the world.

In speaking, students should master the elements of speaking, such as vocabularies, pronunciation, grammar, and fluency. As a foreign language learner in Indonesia, many students have amount vocabularies and mastering the grammatical structure, but they still have difficulty in speaking. This problem also appears to the students at the second year of class IPA 1 MA SUNAN KALIJOGO. The students' difficulties occur when they speak English. This caused by students' limitation in mastering the component of speaking. Beside it, students practice speaking English rarely. They only have a little chance to practice speaking English out of class because most of their friends speak Indonesian. Students' speaking problem can be solved by giving a lot chance to them for practicing English either in the classroom or out of classroom. Practicing speaking English in the classroom should be interesting with appropriate method in order to make students speaking skill can be improved and the process of learning can be enjoyable. One of methods that can be used in teaching

² Khoironiyah, *The implementation of debate in teaching speaking at eleventh year students of SMA Negeri 2 Rembang in the academic year 2011/ 2012* (FKIP Unirow Tuban : online thesis, 2012)

speaking is SGD (Small Group Discussion). SGD is an effective learning situation in which students learn both through instructions from their teachers and from interaction with each other. The group also provides opportunities for individuals to speak in front of others and to receive feedback from teachers and peers. And there are many kinds of SGD method, and the one of that method is ***debate*** that will be explained further in this research.

Debate is one of effective speaking activity which encourages students to improve their communication skill. Debates are most appropriate for intermediate and advanced learners who have been guided in how to prepare for them.³ Moreover, it provides an experience by which students can develop competencies in researching current issues, preparing logical arguments, actively listening to various perspectives, differentiating between subjective and evidence-based information, asking cogent questions, integrating relevant information, and formulating their own opinions based on evidence. Debate is presented as a valuable learning activity for teaching critical thinking and improving communication skills. Debate can motivate students thinking, moreover if they must defend their stand or opinion which is in contradiction with conviction they.⁴ Debate is really prove that can improve speaking ability, it is proven by a Researcher Richa rubiyati Tarbiyah Faculty IAIN

³ J. Michael O' Malley and Lorraine Valdez Pierce, *Authentic Assessment for English Language Learners* (Addison-Wesley Company inc :1996), 85

⁴ Gene, W, *Debate: A Teaching-Learning Strategy for Developing Competence in Communication and Critical Thinking* (USA : Old Dominion, 2007)

1. *Improve* : In Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, improving is making or becoming better; making good use of something. Or it can be said that improving is doing in any way in making something better, or becoming increased.⁵
2. *SGD*: kinds of strategy in which consist dialogue and collaboration within the group are integral to learning.⁶
3. *Debate*: Debates can present opportunities for students to engage in using extended chunks of language for a purpose: to convincingly defend one side of an issue. A debate is a type of role play where students are asked to take sides on an issue and defend their positions.⁷ It can be defined that debate technique is an activity of teaching speaking where students are divided in different sides of an issue and have to defend their opinions. Students have a lot of opportunities to practice speaking through this technique.
4. *Ability* is the capacity of power and in other word ability as potential capacity or power to do something physical mental. It is mean that is ability in speaking mean that capacity who able interactive in speech

⁵ A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2000)

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ J. Michael O' Malley and Lorraine Valdez Pierce, *Authentic Assessment for English Language Learners* (Addison-Wesley Company inc :1996)

5. *Speaking* is interactive and requires the ability to co-operation in the management and clear articulation in valves use of organs of speech to product sounds⁸.

⁸ A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2000)