

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Speaking is one of the important skills to be mastered because success in learning a foreign language is when a person can communicate and able to convey the meaning of speech to the listener or interlocutor. Siagan (2020) states that speaking skills are needed for students in performing their presentations asking and answering or information, and delivering speech, and so on. From this statement, the researcher concluded that at the school level students are expected to be able to speak such as communicating both between friends and teachers, conveying ideas or opinions, leading discussions, or even presenting in front of the class, especially in learning English. At a minimum scope, students are expected able to convey ideas in small groups.

However, in practice speaking is quite difficult for students, especially in learning English. Such a phenomenon that the researcher encountered on the students during pre-observation with tenth grade students of SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya. In teaching practice, the researcher encountered many students who were very difficult when asked to come to the front of the class to speak. Based on the teacher's statement, this happens because it is influenced by several factors that may occur. And one of the reasons is because their lacking skill in speaking English. Such as grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and pronunciation. This related to the students' perception about the reason why students did not want to come forward to speak, on average, they answered the same thing, namely shame and unconfident with their speaking skills. Related to Catur (2019) who states the caused interfer the lack of students' speaking skills include mother tongue interference, anxiety, shyness, lack of self-confidence, and low motivation. This is certainly an obstacle in the teaching and learning process. Besides, in the 2013 curriculum students are required to be active in learning. And students will not be separated from the question-and-answer activities and presentations.

Based on the situation that occurred, students are judged to be very lacking in English speaking. Therefore, this research conducted to find out how the results based on the implementation of the technique of speaking in small groups towards students speaking skill and students' behavior. Because most of students feel embarrassed if they have to speak in public because of their lacking skill in speaking English. The researcher conducted small group discussion technique because this technique is considered effective in implementing learning strategies. In small groups, the students sit together, face one another, and talk freely based on the problem (Roni, 2017). Besides being interesting, this research is expected to be able to obtain effective learning outcomes and become a forum for students to express their opinions regarding speaking in a small group toward their speaking practice.

Before this research was conducted, there are several previous studies related to students' english speaking skills including Roni La'biran (2017), the conclusion of this research was the small group discussion technique is effective to increase the activity in the classroom and the student outcomes in English speaking subject. In addition, Fanny Selvia Rosadi (2020) concluded that small group discussion can create confidence in English speaking for students, students actively communicate in work group discussion, and the students have the chance to developed their speaking ability. Furthermore, Lina Susanti (2021), in her research found that small group discussion technique can improve students' speaking ability for the eight grade students. Based on previous studies, researcher wanted to implementing the small group discussion technique to improve students' speaking skill. Thus, this technique named small group discussion has never been done before, especially in SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya.

This research entitled "Using Small Group Discussion Technique to Improve Students' Speaking Skills" aims to find out how small group discussion technique can improve students' speaking skill at Tenth Grade Students of SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya in Academic Year of 2022/2023. This research is important because based on the previous studies, the small group

discussion technique was effective to improve students speaking skill and students' behavior. Therefore, this research was conducted with the hope that it can be a new learning experience for students as well. In addition, the results of this study are expected to be a reference for further research related to the implementation of English-speaking teaching strategies.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background, the problem of this research can be formulated as follows:

"How can small group discussion technique improve students' speaking skills at Tenth Grade Students of SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya in the Academic Year of 2022/2023?"

C. Research Purpose

Based on the prior research problem, the main purpose of this research is:

"To find out how small group discussion technique can improve students' speaking skill at Tenth Grade Students of SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya in Academic Year of 2022/2023".

D. Research Significances

The significance of this study expected by researcher to be able to give benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Significances

Theoretically, the benefits of this study are expected:

- a. As a reference for further research
- b. As a consideration in implementing speaking teaching strategies because students have different perceptions
- c. As an application of new learning techniques in learning speaking.

2. Practical Significances

Practically, benefits of this study are expected:

a. For the Students

This research is expected to improve students speaking skill by using new learning technique for students. And to provide new experiences for students in the process of learning to speak and add information about speaking in small group discussion to improve students' speaking skill.

b. For the Teachers

The results of this study are expected to be an evaluation and consideration for teachers in implementing effective strategies in learning to speak based on the result after implementation.

c. For the School

The school will know about the extent to which students' speaking skills can develop, especially in class X students. If the result of this study is appropriate, the school will get better quality students.

d. For the Future Researchers

This research are expected to be a reference for further researchers in finding methods or strategies related to learning English speaking.

E. Scope of the Research

To avoid a broad scope of research, in this study the researcher focused on the implementation of small group discussion technique to improve students' speaking skill at X TKJ SMKN 1 Rasau Jaya.

1. Research Variable

The research requires a research object or target to be achieved. In this case the research object can also be referred to as a research variable. According to Creswell (2012: 630) "a variable is a characteristic or property of an individual or an organization that a researcher can measured or observed". Then, a variable is an attribute or trait that has a certain variation set by the researcher to be studied and conclusions are drawn. In

this study, researcher examine the using small group discussion technique to improve students' speaking skills. So, this research variable is a single variable.

2. Terminology

The following definitions are provided to ensure the consistency and understanding of these terms throughout the study:

a. Small Group Discussion Technique

Small group discussion is one of the techniques applied by teachers to support teaching and learning activities. According to Ismail (2008:87), small group discussion is the learning process by conducting group discussions designed to provide students with problem-solving skills related to the topics and problems faced in everyday life. Small group discussion techniques are implemented with members of three to five students in one group. In addition, each group will discuss and solve the problem together. Based on the theory, the researcher concluded that in this study, small group discussion is one of the learning techniques in which activities include discussion and interaction between students in small group to Improve speaking skills.

b. Speaking Skill

In learning english, speaking is a person's skill to convey his thoughts to anyone orally. Speaking is defined as skills to convey oneself in a daily condition, skills to express acts or situations in phrases, and words, or the ability to cover or express a systematic of ideas fluently (Roni, 2017). Furthermore, there are several aspects in speaking skill. According to Brown (2001) mentioned they are categories for testing speaking proficiency, they are; Grammar, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency, and Pronunciation. Based on these theories, speaking is one of the important skills to be mastered for students to convey an idea. In this study, aspects in speaking needed to improved are following grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency and pronunciation.