

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Problem

Speaking is one of the language skills which have to be mastered by students in learning English. According to Murcia (2001: 103) the speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts. Therefore, speaking is one of the skills producing sounds to present messages, information, and ideas to other people.

In teaching and learning English in Indonesia, especially in every educational level, the speaking skill is categorized as one of the language skills which have to be mastered by the students. In line with the statement above, Thornbury (2006:1) speaking is so much part of daily life that we take it for granted. The average person produces tens of thousands of words a day, although some people. It is clear that the speaking is beneficial to the students for enlarging their English.

Referring to the explanation above, it is clear that speaking ability should be taught to everyone especially to students of SMPN 2 Bangkinang. This school applies School Based Curriculum (KTSP) as its guidance in teaching and learning process. The purpose of this curriculum is to develop the four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. One of the aims of teaching this ability is to enable the students to communicate in English fluently. It is stated in the English curriculum that speaking seems to

be developed to improve the communication taking the balance with the other ability such as listening, reading, and writing.

Based on the researcher's observation at SMPN 2 Bangkinang, the researcher found that this school had three professional English teachers. The English teachers at SMPN 2 Bangkinang also not only used English as their languages during teaching, but also they mixed both English and Bahasa in order to make students understand what they were speaking. The teacher used textbooks or pictures to explain the material well. Teacher has explained the material clearly. But in fact, the students were still difficult to understand the material given that was narrative.

Therefore, the problems are: First, the students were not able to use appropriate grammar in telling something. Most of them could not speak grammatically. They often spoke with incorrect grammar. Second, the students have lack of vocabulary. Most of them did not know the appropriate vocabulary when they were speaking. They often mixed and used Bahasa in speaking. Third, the students were not able to pronounce words correctly and speak fluently. Most of them have difficulties in pronouncing the words. They had problems to say something and used their mother tongue frequently. Besides, they could not speak fluently. They often stuttered in telling something orally. The last problem was the students were not confident to speak. Most of them felt shy when they were speaking. They were afraid of making mistakes. They also spoke unconfidently.

Thereby, the researcher proposed the Puppet Show strategy, notably paper puppets in order to edify the students' teaching process in speaking ability. The paper puppets are simple to be made and modified by adding some colorful things and it is interesting for the students. Using puppets in the classroom is one of the ways to encourage students to learn English. As pointed by Reidmiller (2008: 5) the use of puppets in the curriculum from elementary to college classes can offer many benefits.

Furthermore, research conducted by Reidmiller (2008: 6) as cited in Vida Zuljevic (2005) found that teachers reported that the use of puppets in the classroom increased student involvement, motivation, and the development of student's reading, oral language, and communication skills. According to Brits et al, (2014: 1798) Puppets were selected as a medium because they facilitate social interaction, thereby enhancing communication through role playing, imagination, story-telling, and listening for students.

For those reasons, the researcher choose this strategy by concerning some reasons. They are: First, speaking is the most basic means of human communication. It is beneficial to the students for enlarging their English. Second, the students need a fun strategy in order to build their involvements, confidences and motivations in learning English. Hence, the researcher assumes that this strategy can improve the students' speaking ability of narrative.

Pertaining to the phenomena above, the researcher is encouraged to conduct a research entitle *"The Effect of Using Puppet Show Strategy*

*towards Students' Speaking Ability of the Eighth Grade Students at SMPN 2 Bangkinang*”.

## **1.2 The Setting of the Problem**

Speaking is an important aspect in language learning. It is harder than reading, writing, or listening in term of two reasons. First, it is different from reading and writing, speaking happens in real time: it is usually the person talking to you is waiting for you to speak right. Second, when you are speaking, you cannot revise what you are talking about as you do when you are writing. Furthermore, speaking needs more practice. Mastering speaking should be supported by many aspects. They are mastery of grammar, the use of vocabulary, pronunciation and fluency. Those are related each other.

Regarding to the explanations above, the students had difficulties to use appropriate grammar and vocabulary. They had limited understanding in term of grammar and lack of vocabulary. In addition, the students were not able to pronounce words correctly. They did not know how to pronounce each word correctly, thus, they often did the wrong pronunciation. Furthermore, the students were not able to speak fluently. They often spoke slowly and unclearly. Therefore, the students faced some problems in learning English especially speaking.

## **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

From identification of existing problems in the classroom, the researcher found lot of obstacles in the learning process, especially in speaking. Therefore, researcher will focus on student's speaking ability of

narrative. The researcher solved the students' problem of narrative by applying Puppet Show strategy. This study conducted at SMPN 2 Bangkinang.

#### **1.4 The Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background and identification of the problems, the problems of this research could be formulated in the following question:

- a. Is there any significant effect of using the Puppet Show strategy on students' speaking ability of the eighth grade students at SMPN 2 Bangkinang?

#### **1.5 The Objective of the Research**

The objectives of this research are:

- a. To find out whether there is significant effect of using the Puppet Show strategy on students' speaking ability of the eighth grade students at SMPN 2 Bangkinang.

#### **1.6 The Need of the Research**

- a. For student : The students of eighth grade at Junior High school more be self confident to speak, especially in speaking english and beside that they can improve their ability in understaning narative text.
- b. For teacher : To improve teacher's speaking skill.
- c. For researcher : To get the information between theoritical and practical to the development of theories on language teaching in general.
- d. For other researcher : To use this research as a reference.

## 1.7 The Definition of the Key Terms

There were many terms involved in this research, so that to avoid a misunderstanding to the terms used in this research, the following terms were necessarily defined as follows:

### a. Puppet Show Strategy

A puppet refers to a doll and a small jointed figure controlled and manipulated by humans with hands by using strings or wires and also rods. In accordance with the statement above, according to Nurhayati (2011: 9) Puppet is a small figure of a person operated from above with strings by a puppeteer creature. Furthermore, the researcher used paper puppets as the media to teach the students because paper puppet is simple made and modified by adding some colorful things and it is interesting for the students. In this research, the Puppet Show is a strategy notably paper puppets that are used by the researcher to improve the students' speaking ability.

### b. Speaking Ability

Speaking ability is capacity of delivering a message, information or idea in order to communicate to other people. According to O'Malley, J. M. & Lorraine, V. P. (2008: 59) speaking involves negotiation of meaning between two or more persons, it is always related to the context in which it occurs. In this research, the speaking ability referred to the students' ability to speak in telling something orally.

### c. Narrative Text

A narrative is a kind of texts telling and entertaining the readers. According to Syafii (2014: 24) a narrative text is a text telling the readers about a true or fiction story. In line with this statement, Oshima and Hougue (2007: 24) stated that the narrative is story writing. In the model narrative paragraph, the researcher used time in order to tell what happened first, what happened next, what happened after that, and so on. Hence, the narrative is a text telling and entertaining the readers about a true or fiction story. In this research, the narrative, notably folklore that is an oral text used in giving tasks to the students at SMPN 2 Bangkinang.