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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Speaking is a very important skill in learning a foreign language. It is one of the important skills in English that should be mastered by us especially for students. It is a way for students to express their knowledge, to share their feelings and speaking performance. Because of that, they should be to speak clearly, fluently and accurately to make people understand what they are talking about.

In foreign language class, the students learn some skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and components such grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. In this learning, oral speaking skill is a big part in language class. Thornbury (2002, p. 1) stated that speaking is so much part of daily life that we take it for granted. The average person produces tens thousands of words a day, although some people like auctioneers or politicians may produce even more than that. So natural and integral is speaking that we forget how we once struggled to achieve this ability until, that is, we have to learn how to do it all over again in a foreign language.

Many of the students get difficulties when they are speaking. One of them is anxiety. Spielberger in Ying Zheng (2008, p. 2) stated that anxiety is the subjective feeling of tension, apprehension, nervousness, and worry

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associated with an arousal of the automatic nervous system. It means that anxiety is feeling that someone cannot predict and control.

Xu (2011, p. 2), mentioned that speaking anxiety has begun to surface as a problematic area for students. He also acknowledges that speaking is cited as the most anxiety-producing skill. It means that it is important to understand the relationship between students' anxiety and speaking ability, so the teachers may understand their students better and can provide more suitable and specific in order to help their students. Basic (2011, p. 4) interpreted the word speaking anxiety as a fear of expressing oneself orally which could be recognized by the psychological signs as sweating, tension and increased pulse. It means that speaking anxiety is feeling nervous that is faced by someone when they speak orally.

SMA N 1 Bukit Batu is one of the schools in Bengkalis. Similar to others schools in Indonesia, this school uses 2013 curriculum as guidance in teaching and learning process. Based on the 2013 curriculum of the eleventh grade of senior high school, speaking is one of the skills in mastering English that must be taught and learned in Senior High School. It is taught to the students two periods a week by the English teacher. In scoring the students, there are four English skills that should be learned by the students such as speaking, writing, listening and reading. The score of standard minimum in speaking is 70. There are two basic competences required in speaking. For examples, the students are able to analyze meaning in formal transactional/interpersonal spoken and written text and also the students are

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able to speak based on spoken and written text to express their opinions, ideas and also responses.

Based on the writer's interview, the students said that when they learn English subject, they are afraid making mistake when the teachers ask them to come in front of the class. For example they practice some dialogues, write something, read a text and repeat what the teacher said. And when they are speaking, they get difficulties such as fear of forgetting what they want to say, nervous, worry and anxious. There are the reasons why they do not speak English well and they do not master speaking in English. Some efforts have been done by the teachers at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu, such as speaking by playing a game. Furthermore, the English teacher also always makes practicing to speak before starting the course. It is hoped that the students will get the high score. Thus, based on the teacher' and students' effort above, the students ought to get a good speaking of English. But in fact, the students' speaking is still low.

However, based on the writer's interview with the students at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu, the writer found some of phenomena faced by the students. It can be seen in the following phenomena:

1. Some of the students cannot speak fluently.
2. Some of the students are afraid of making mistakes in speaking.
3. Some of the students have low-self-confidence to communicate.
4. Some of the students cannot develop their speaking ability because they are shy, nervous, and anxious.

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From the phenomena above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: **“The Correlation between Students’ Anxiety and their Speaking Ability at the Eleventh Grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu”**

## B. Problems

### 1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems of this research are identified as follows:

- a. What are the factors that make the students anxious or nervous to speak English?
- b. Why are the students unable to perform maximal in front of the class?
- c. Why are the students afraid of making mistakes in speaking?
- d. Why do the students have low-self-confidence?
- e. Why can the students not develop their speaking ability?

### 2. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problems identified above, it is clear that there are many problems in this research. The researcher needs to limit the problems in order to pay more attention to the specific problem. The researcher focuses the problem of the research to be investigated on the correlation between students’ anxiety and their speaking ability

### 3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems limited above, it can be formulated as follows: is there any significant correlation or not between the students’



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anxiety and their speaking ability at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu?

## **C. Objective and Significant of the Research**

### **1. Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation above, the writer wants to find out whether there is or not a significant correlation between the students' anxiety and their speaking ability at the eleventh grade at senior high school 1 Bukit Batu.

### **2. Significance of the Research**

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significance of the research is as follows:

- a. The research findings are contributed to give the valuable input to all English teachers, especially to the English teachers of the eleventh grade student at Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu as an attempt to solve the problem in terms of the students' anxiety.
- b. The research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information especially for those who are concerned in the field of students' anxiety and speaking ability.

## **D. Reason for Choosing the Title**

The reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research are:

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1. The title of this research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English Education Department.
2. The problems of this research are not yet investigated by other researchers.
3. The location of the research facilitates the writer for conducting the research.

## **E. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Correlation**

Creswell (2012, P. 338) mentioned a correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two or more variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. In this case of only two variables, it means that two variables share common variance, or they co-vary together. In this research, correlation means the relationship between students' anxiety and their speaking ability at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu.

### **2. Anxiety**

Spielberger in Ying Zheng (2008, p. 2) stated that anxiety is the subjective feeling of tension, apprehension, nervousness, and worry associated with an arousal of the automatic nervous system. It means that anxiety is feeling that someone cannot predict and they cannot control it. Anxiety is a feeling where the people are uncertain or hesitant with their ability or what they want to do. This anxiety can be described that if someone is feeling anxious, they cannot do something with maximal in

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their life. Someone with high anxiety can create a negative effect especially in foreign language class. It is because, as we know, to learn a foreign language, we have to practice or perform the language in order to show the ability that we have. In this research, anxiety refers to students' anxiety at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu.

### 3. Speaking Ability

Thornbury (2002, p. 1) stated that speaking is so much part of daily life that we take it for granted. The average person produces tens thousands of words a day, although some people like auctioneers or politicians may produce even more than that. So natural and integral is speaking that we forget how we once struggled to achieve this ability until, that is, we have to learn how to do it all over again in a foreign language. It means speaking is the way to express our feeling and to practice the speaking to share what we want to share in our daily life. In this research, speaking ability refers to the students' speaking ability at the eleventh grade of Senior High School 1 Bukit Batu.