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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Problem

Speaking is defined as an interactive process of making meaning that includes producing, receiving, and processing information. According to Chaney (1998, p.13), speaking is the process of making and sharing meaning by using verbal and non-verbal symbols in different context. Speaking is one of the most important skills to be developed and enhanced as a mean of effective communication. According to Nunan (2005, p.47), learning the speaking skill is the most important aspect of learning a second or a foreign language and success is measured based on the ability to perform a conversation in the language. Speaking is one of the most important skills of all the four language skills because individual who learns a language is referred to the speakers of that language (Ur, 1996, p.120). Speaking is used for negotiating and express intended meanings between speakers and interlocutors in which speaker expresses the ideas to influence his/her hearer. According to O'Malley and Pierce in Wahyudi (2013, p.2) speaking is negotiating intended meanings and adjusting one's speech to produce the desired effect on listener.

Speaking is one of the oral communication that is learned by students. It has a great part in English language skills. By mastering speaking skill, students can carry out some conversation with others, give opinions or arguments or a change of information. According to Tohrnbury (2005, p.1), speaking is so much

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a part of daily life that we take it for granted. The average person produces tens of thousands of words a day, although some people—like auctioneers or politicians—may produce even more than that.

As one of the most important skills to be developed by students, speaking, is also provided at Plus Senior High School of Riau Province which is a Senior High School located in Pekanbaru City. Similar to others schools in Indonesia, this school used 2013 curriculum as guidance in teaching and learning process. Based on the curriculum of the tenth 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 twice 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. Based on the syllabus, the base competences of English expressing are using spoken language accurately, fluently, and acceptable in meaningful context of daily life and accessing knowledge in descriptive, recount and narrative.

Based on the researcher's preliminary observations and interview of teacher and students in Plus Senior High School of Riau Province, there were problems that were experienced by the students in speaking English. It was still far from the expectation of curriculum. It could be identified from the range of the students' passing grade. The passing grade of English in this school was 80. Yet, some students could not reach the passing grade or they had score under the standard minimum in learning English especially in speaking.



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The problems, faced by students, were caused by some factors such as being afraid of making mistakes, interest and individual practice. One of the factors is interest of the students in speaking. It happened in the class, that some of the students were doing the others activities during the speaking learning process. They also did not give full attention when the teacher gave explanation in front of the class in English. It was because the students were not motivated in speaking English, there is no interest of students in English. According to Schiefele, Alexander and Murphy in Taboada (2016, p.7), interest has been defined as a relatively stable evaluate orientation toward certain domain and described as a personal investment in an activity.

According to Tohirin (2005, p.117), interest is one of the psychological factors effecting students' achievement in quantity and quality. It means interesting of the speakers takes a part to understand and get idea. Interest is as a drive in successful learning. If students like speaking, they will try to speak more and more. In learning English, in this case speaking, it is easier for students if they have high interest. Slameto (2003, p.57) said that it can be made as a tendency to pay attention to and the students can enjoy activities in speaking. It means that, there is a correlation between these factors on speaking ability. It is suitable with the researcher tittle about the correlation between speaking interest and speaking ability.

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Based on the researcher's preliminary observations and interview of teacher and students in Plus Senior High School of Riau Province, the researcher also found some phenomena related between students' interest in speaking at the tenth grade. Some phenomena are as follows:

1. Some of the students had score under the standard minimum in speaking.
2. Some of the students had interest in speaking, but they were hard to speak correctly.
3. Some of students practiced English correctly, but they were not interested in speaking English.
4. Some of students could not develop their speaking ability because they were not interested in the ability.

Based on the phenomena depicted above, it was clear that some of the students had problems in their interest and speaking. The aim of this research is to investigate whether there is a significant correlation between students' speaking interest and their speaking ability. Thus, the researcher is interested in conducting a research project entitled: **“The Correlation between Students' Speaking Interest and their Speaking Ability at Tenth Grade of Plus Senior High School of Riau Province”**.

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## B. Problem

### 1. Identification of the Problem

To make the problem of this research clear, thus, the problem of this research can be identified as follows:

- a. What were the causes that some of the students had score under passing grade in speaking?
- b. What were the causes that some of the students were hard to speak correctly?
- c. What were the causes that some of the students were not interested in speaking English?
- d. What were the causes that some of the students could not develop their speaking ability?

### 2. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems, it is clear that there are some problems in this research considering the limitation of the research. In investigating the problems of the research, thus, these research problems are limited to focus on the correlation between students' speaking interest and their speaking ability at tenth grade.

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### 3. Formulation of the Problem

The problems of this research can be formulated in the following questions:

- a. How is the students' speaking interest at tenth grade of Plus Senior High School of Riau Province?
- b. How is the students' speaking ability at tenth grade of Plus Senior High School of Riau Province?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' speaking interest and their speaking ability at tenth grade of Plus Senior High School of Riau Province?

### C. Objective and Significance of the Research

#### 1. The Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation above the objectives of the research are :

- a. To find out the students' speaking interest at Plus Senior High School of Riau Province.
- b. To find out the students' speaking ability at Plus Senior High School of Riau Province.
- c. To find out whether there is any significant correlation between students' speaking interest and their speaking ability at Plus Senior High School of Riau Province.

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## 2. Significance of the Research

Related to the objective of the research above, the significance of the research are stated as follows:

- a. For students, speaking interest is one of the most important influence in speaking ability, students who have a high interest will get easy to speak fluently and correctly.
- b. Besides, these research findings are also useful and valuable, especially for students and teachers of English at Plus Senior High School of Riau Province to be consideration in their teaching and learning process in the future.
- c. The researcher hopes that the result of the research can be used as references for those who want to conduct a research in teaching English.

### D. Reasons for choosing title

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in carrying out this research, the reason are as follows:

1. The topic needs to be discussed because the researcher wants to know the correlation between students' speaking interest and their speaking ability.
2. The topic is relevant to the writer as the student of the English Education Department.
3. The title of this research has never been researched by any researcher at State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.
4. The location of the research facilitates the writer in conducting the title.

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## E. Definition of Term

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpreting on the terms used, the following terms are necessarily defined as follows:

### 1. Correlation

Correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently (Creswell, 2012, p.338). In this research, correlation refers to determine the correlation between self assessment and speaking ability.

### 2. Interest

Interest is one of psychological factors effecting students' achievement in quantity and quality (Tohirin, 2005, p. 117). It is a part of motivation which is intrinsic motivation. It is defined as students engaging in actions for their own sake and without coercion such as satisfaction, interest, learning, and challenge (Alderman, 2004, p. 247).

Usman (2007, p. 27) said that interest is crucial factor for deciding the scale of the students' activation in learning. According to Hilgard which is quoted by Slameto (2010, p.57), interest is persisting tendency to pay attention to and enjoy some activities or content, in this case speaking. So, interest will drive people to do something. If students like speaking, they will try to speak more and more.

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### 3. Speaking Ability

According to Thornbury (2005, p.iv), speaking is an interactive and requires the ability to cooperate in the management of speaking turn. Furthermore, W. F. Mackey in Nugraheni (2012, p.99) defined speaking as oral expressions that involves not only the use of the right sounds in the right patterns of rhythm an intonation, but also the choice of words and inflections in the right order convey the right meaning.

Speaking ability defined as the students' ability in expressing their ideas orally which is represented by the scores of speaking. It means that, through speaking, students learn about concepts, develop the vocabulary, and perceive the structure of the English language essential components of learning.