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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

Speaking is one of the activities done by the students and it is one of the language skills. According to O'Malley and Pierce (2010), speaking involves negotiation of meaning between two or more persons, it is always related to the context in which it occurs. Furthermore, as stated by Wahyudi (2013) speaking is one of the productive skills requiring someone's ability to use language orally through sounds to present information, produce ideas, express meaning in order to interact with other members of community involving many components including pronunciation, listening and grammar skills for both verbal and nonverbal of a variety context. In short, speaking is one of the productive skills producing sounds to present messages, information, and ideas to other people.

Nowadays, most of students have problems in Speaking. Although they have learned English in primary school, they also have difficulties in learning English especially speaking. They have known about the theories but they do not know how to apply it in real situation. They just know the usage not how to use it. According to Alexander (1991) in Hasibuan (2007), the mastery of language is not ultimately measured from how much learners know about language (usage), but how well they can use it for various purposes in real context. They can not speak well and participate in language learning because

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they are still passive in speaking activities and can not express their ideas or opinion through speaking.

MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru is one of the schools in Pekanbaru which uses School Based Curriculum in that school, as its guidance in teaching and learning process. English is taught twice a week (2 x 40 minutes per meeting). The minimum students passing grade (KKM) is 75. Based on School Based Curriculum for the eighth grade, the standard competencies of teaching speaking are to give an expression of the meaning in functional oral text and simple short monologue in terms of descriptive and recount text and express a simple short monologue in terms of descriptive and recount text.

Based on the writer's preliminary observation by interviewing Dra. Sri Hidayati at MTsN Bukit Raya on 2nd September 2016, the writer found that this school had three professional English teachers. The English teachers at MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru not only used English as their language during teaching, but also mixed both English and Indonesian in order to make students understand what they were speaking. But in fact, the students still did not really understand. The teacher used textbooks or pictures to explain the material well. In speaking activity, the teacher asked the students to read the passage and find out the meaning of difficult words. Then, asked the students to spell the words correctly with the right pronunciation. Teacher has explained the material clearly. But in fact, some of students were still unable to spell and pronounce it correctly and fluently. As the result, some of the students were

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not able to achieve the minimum students passing grade (75). Therefore, the problems can be seen from the following symptoms:

1. Some of the students were not able to use appropriate grammar in describing something orally.
2. Some of the students were not able to use appropriate vocabulary in describing something orally.
3. Some of the students were not able to pronounce words correctly in describing something orally.
4. Some of the students were not able to speak fluently in describing something orally.
5. Some of the students were not confident to speak English in describing something.

Based on the phenomena above, the writer concludes that it needs a fun strategy. It is a game in order to improve the students' speaking ability in describing something. Moreover, there is one of the most appropriate games helping the students to increase their speaking abilities in describing something that is Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game. It is an affective instruction including exposing students to words multiple times using various methods. Marzano (2005) stated that Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minutes game increase students' speaking ability in describing something through a word play. The procedures of using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game can be seen as follows (Marzano, 2005):

- a. The teacher creates a list of 5-7 terms under a category title.

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- b. The teacher organizes students into pairs or small groups. One player within a group is designed as talker while the others try to guess each term. The talker faces the list displayed at the front of the room. The other players have their backs to it.
- c. The teacher asks the leader of each group reveals the terms and says “Go!”
- d. The teacher describes each term without using any words in the category title or any rhyming words.
- e. The teacher asks the first team to correct and identify all of the words in the category given.
- f. The members of the group discuss the different clues used to describe each word. Which clues were most helpful? Why?
- g. The teacher designates a new talker for each team and begins the next round with new words.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in carrying out a research entitled **“The Use of Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game on Students’ Speaking Ability at MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru”**.

B. The Problem

1. The Identification of the Problem

Based on the writer’s preliminary observation at MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru, it is clear that some of the students had difficulties in speaking English, especially in describing something. The problems of this research is identified into the following identifications

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- a. How were some of the students not able to use appropriate grammar in describing something orally?
- b. How were some of the students not able to use appropriate vocabulary in describing something orally?
- c. How were some of the students not able to pronounce words correctly in describing something orally?
- d. How were some of the students not able to speak fluently in describing something orally?
- e. How were some of the students not confident to speak English in describing something?

2. The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problems identified above, the writer needs to limit the problems of the research on students' ability in using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, to pronounce words correctly, in speaking fluently and communicating based on the topic described by using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru.

3. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problems above, the problems of this research are formulated in the following questions:

- a. How is students' speaking ability in describing something before being taught by using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru?

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- b. How is students' speaking ability in describing something after being taught by using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game of the eighth grade at MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any significant effect of using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game on students' speaking ability in describing something at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru?

Objective and Significance of the Research

1. The Objective of the Research

- a. To investigate students' speaking ability in describing something before being taught by using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru.
- b. To investigate students' speaking ability in describing something after being taught by using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru.
- c. To investigate whether there is significant effect of using Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game on students' speaking ability in describing something at the eighth grade of MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru.

2. The Significance of the Research

- a. To give contribution and information to the teacher that Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute game makes learning process is enjoyable, fun and easier to be learned.
- b. This research is expected to be useful and valuable for both teacher and students at MTsN Bukit Raya Pekanbaru.

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- c. Besides, this research is also expected to be positive and valuable information for those who are concerned in the field of teaching English as a foreign language.
- d. Finally, this research is expected to be practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories in language teaching in general.

D. The Reasons for Choosing the Title

The reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out the topic above are based on several considerations:

1. The title of this research is relevant to the writer's status as a student of English Education Department.
2. The title of this research was not yet investigated by other previous researcher.
3. The location of the research facilitates the writer in conducting the research.

E. The Definition of the Key Terms

In order to explain and avoid a misunderstanding about the title above, there are some terms used in this research. The writer defines the terms as follows:

1. The Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute Game

According to Marzano (2005), Talk Fast-Talk a Mile a Minute is a game that increases students' speaking ability through word play. This game is modeled after "Jeopardy." Players take turns trying to get their

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partners to guess the words in a specified category by giving oral clues describing each word.

2. The Speaking Ability

Speaking is delivering a message, information or idea in order to communicate to other people. According to O'Malley and Pierce (2010) 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 is referred to the students' ability in describing something orally.

3. The Descriptive Text

According to Oshima and Hougue (2007), the descriptive text is a kind of texts describing how something looks, feels, smells, tastes, and/or sounds. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing. Therefore, the descriptive text is a kind of texts describing about something or someone.