

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning using verbal and non-verbal symbols. Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching. However, today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills because students can express themselves and learn how to use a language.

Speaking ability is a tool to communicate naturally between society to express opinion and as a social behaviour form. Speaking skill also is an ability to arrange sentences because communications happened by using sentences to present difference of various behaviours from different society

Nowadays, many teachers agree that students should learn to speak the foreign language by interacting to others. For this case, students should master several speaking components', such as comprehension, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and fluency. In brief, English teacher should be creative in developing their teaching learning process to create good atmosphere, improve the students speaking skill, give attention to the speaking components', and make the English lesson more exiting.

For this reason, the English teacher of Islamic boarding school Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru should apply appropriate method and technique of teaching speaking. The method used by the teacher is Communicative approach. In communicative

approach, language is primarily a tool of communication. Thus, learning a language means learning to perform communicative speech acts with it.¹

Therefore, to successful this method, the teacher needs a technique and one of them is by conversation club activities. The reason is transactional language (conversation club activities) will helps the students practice in speech, pronunciation, intonation and stress like the native speaker.

Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru is one of Islamic Boarding Schools in Pekanbaru. It is one of the Islamic Bording Schools which become an example to be followed by other schools at the same level in the aspects of teaching and learning process, teachers' profile, teaching facilities and a school management and administration as well as its quality. It has seven English teachers with qualification four undergraduates of Department of English Language Education and one Master of English Language Education. The number of students is 750 persons with 18 classes. (Documented data Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru 2010) Even though this is a model state Islamic Boarding School with sufficient facilities and professional teachers, the result of English national exam in average is high (4.60).

English has been well known by students in Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru. English KTSP (Educational Unit Level Curriculum) is a curriculum in which school or an institution has authority to implement system of learning and teaching activity for particular lesson or subject. There is on

¹Rodgers in Kalayo and M. Fauzan Ansyari, *Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)*, (Riau: UIN SUSKA Riau, 2007), p. 64.

curriculum that is used in Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru. KTSP especially is used to the first until the third grade. It has been applied since 2007 until now.

KTSP has been used by Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru. KTSP curriculum in Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru is allocated 3 meeting X 45 minutes in a week. Teaching English is allocated 14 meeting X 45 minutes. Especially for teaching speaking by using KTSP curriculum, teacher-centered activities are dominated in the classroom, the teachers give the indicators to the students in teaching and learning process, such as; the teachers give the speaking materials to the students and the students should understand what the teachers said. In KTSP curriculum, the students should practice the conversation in the classroom activity, and the students can speak to the teacher and their friends in English. It means that it needs four weeks to learn English materials in developing speaking ability. So, in order to get further causes why the students have difficult to speak English in the classroom, it is needed a research dealing with the teaching and learning English especially in speaking.

Based on the result of preliminary observation that the writer done, it is found that students' ability in speaking English at the second year of at Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru is poor. This fact is supported by the symptoms as follows:

1. Some of the students cannot speak English fluently
2. Some of the students cannot use vocabulary to speak English corretly

3. Some of the students do not use their own thinking in English speaking.
4. Some of the students do not use vocabulary in speaking English.

If the problems do not overcome, it will influence the students; score in learning english. One of the ways that can be used to overcome the problems is joining english conversation club. An English Club is a place for language learners to use English in a casual setting. Practising labguage skills in the classroom is important, but it is not like real life. In the classroom, we often focus on one skill and one item (for example: grammar - future tense). After learning the rules our teacher gives us time to practise using the item. We have our papers in front of us and the rules are fresh in our mind. Will we remember how to use our skills next week, or next year? In an English Club, we get a chance to practise many different skills in a setting that is more like real life. Though our English teacher understands our English, our English Club friends will require us to speak more clearly and listen more carefully.²

From the above symptoms, the writer is interested in carrying out a research entitled **“The Effect of English Conversation Club Activities toward Students’ Speaking Ability at the Second Year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru”**.

²Burns, Kevin R, *How to Start an English Club*, from: (<http://www.englishclub.com/english-clubs/english-club.htm>, 1997).

B. Definition of the Key Terms

1. English conversation club is a place for language learners to use English in a casual setting. In an English Club, we get a chance to practise many different skills in a setting that is more like real life. Though our English teacher understands our English, our English Club friends will require us to speak more clearly and listen more carefully.³ In this research, english conversation club means a students program that made by the Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru to make students pratice in English.
2. Speaking comes from word “speak” it means to talk somebody else about something to have a conversation with somebody.⁴ In this research speaking means the students’ oral skill in applying English speaking.

C. Problems

1. Identification of the Problems

From the above background, it can be identified some problems dealing with the use of English conversation club activities to increase students’ ability in speaking English at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru. The identification of the problems is as following questions:

- a. The students cannot speak English fluently.

³Burns, Kevin R, *Ibid.*,

⁴Hornby, AS, *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Sixth Edition)*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 20.

- b. The students cannot use vocabulary to speak English correctly.
- c. The students do not use their own thinking in English speaking.
- d. The students do not use vocabulary in speaking English.

2. Limitation of the Problem

In this research, it is necessary to limit the problems. The problem is limited to the students' participation in English conversation club and students' speaking ability at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru.

3. Formulation of the Problems

- a. How is the students' speaking ability before participating in English conversation club activities at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru?
- b. How is the students' speaking ability after participating in English conversation club activities at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any effect of English conversation club activities toward the students' speaking ability at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru?

D. Reason for Choosing the Topic

As an international language, all people in the world learn English. Students who learn English should master the four fundamental language skills. In several aspects, students have obstacles in relating their capability among the four basic language skills. Therefore, the writer desires to choose this topic for the following reasons:

1. This topic has not been discussed previously yet.
2. The writer has the ability to make this paper.
3. The writer wants to find out the use of conversation club activities to increase students' ability in speaking English.

E. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

- a. To find out the students' speaking ability before participating in English conversation club activities at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru.
- b. To find out the students' speaking ability after participating in English conversation club activities at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru.
- c. To find out significant effect of English conversation club activities toward the students' speaking ability at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru.

2. Significance of the Research

- a. To give information to the teacher about English conversation club activities in teaching speaking.
- b. To fulfil one of the requirements of S.1 degree of English education department of education and teachers and training faculty of UIN SUSKA Riau.
- c. To enlarge writers' knowledge about the real teaching process.
- d. To increase the students' speaking ability at the second year of Islamic Boarding School Al-Kautsar Pekanbaru.