

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Language is one of the forms of human communication. Humans are social creatures who must interact with others to meet life's various needs. Therefore, humans can't live alone without interacting with others. Language has a significant part in human life as the primary means of communication. Language comprises words, word groups, phrases, and sentences that can be conveyed vocally and in writing. In the world, there are a lot of languages spoken and each country has its characteristics in the use of the language itself. One of the popular and certainly important languages is English.

In the globalized world of today, English is an essential component of our existence. The second most utilized language in the world is this one. According to Janet Holmes's book English is the universal or international language. People like us use it in economics, politics, and education.¹

Talking about English, English has four fundamental skills: speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Receptive skills include listening and reading, whereas productive skills include speaking and writing. One of the skills that will be discussed in this research is Speaking. Harmer and Gower et al. from a communication standpoint, speech has many diverse components, including two key categories: accuracy and fluency. The practice of using vocabulary, grammar, and

¹ Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics fourth edition*, (London: Routledge, 2013), 53.

pronunciation correctly through controlled and guided exercises is necessary for accuracy. Fluency is defined as "the ability to keep going when speaking spontaneously."² In the learning process, productive skills will usually be highlighted because someone pro in English at least has good speaking skills.

English language learning at the junior high school/MTs level is designed with students' functional level in mind., namely communicating orally and in writing to solve daily problems, but the facts on the ground based on Classroom Observation, many students do not have good speaking skills. Some of the factors that cause this are because (1) The vocabulary mastery is very limited so that the students do not have confidence to speak English (2) There are still many students who find it difficult to pronounce English vocabulary (3) Rarely do students practice English in the classroom because of the relatively limited time (4) The teaching media is not appropriate on actives to practice speaking in English that is way the students have low speaking skill (5) Students motivation of study English especially in speaking are still low (6) Many students do not understand what is meant by Descriptive Text, especially in Describing People starting from its function, generic structure, language features, tenses used and others. Based on some of the factor students need learning media that can make learning more concrete and spur students to increase motivation including being more confident in speaking.

According to Harmer, the use of media in the teaching-learning process has several advantages. First, effective media use is essential to promoting and supporting students' learning. Second, topic matter can be more precisely chosen and structured by using media. As a result, by

² : Erik Vilímec, "Developing Speaking Skill," 2006.

delivering topic material in a well-organized, consistent, precise, and clearly defined manner, a teacher can increase the quality of their instruction. Finally, the use of instructional material may make learning far more fun and interesting.³

Apart from the classroom observation carried out, researchers conducted a pre-cycle in the speaking test, which in the speaking test illustrates that there are still many students who get scores below the minimum completeness criteria. From the results of interviews conducted in the pre-cycle why many students are not confident in speaking English and get a score below minimum completeness criteria, namely because they feel that English is a difficult lesson to understand, do not know why we should learn English, or the benefits and importance of English, The learning media is just that and not various, so that students get bored easily and some say that the method used does not make students excited.

From these various problems and backgrounds, the researcher is finally interested in improving the speaking skills of the seventh-grade of MTs Satu Atap Hidayatul Athfal students through media, namely stick puppets, especially in Describing people materially

B. Limitation of the Problem

Referring to the background of the existing problem, this research is limited or focused on improving students' speaking skills in English lessons through the use of stick puppet media, especially on describing people material at the Seventh Grade of MTs Satu Atap Hidayatul Athfal Kota Serang.

³ Yuli Astuti Hasanah, *Elevating Speaking Skill through Stick Puppet Role Play*, (English Journal of Indragiri (EJI): Studies in Education, Literature, and Linguistics : 2021).

C. Statements of the Problem

Based on the discussion above, the statements of the problem in this research are:

1. How is the students' speaking skill at the Seventh Grade of MTs Satu Atap Hidayatul Athfal Kota Serang?
2. How to apply the stick puppet media in the classroom?
3. How is the utilization of stick puppet media in improving students' speaking skills?

D. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the students' speaking skills at the Seventh Grade of MTs Satu Atap Hidayatul Athfal Kota Serang.
2. To observe how to apply the stick puppet media in the classroom
3. To observe the utilization of stick puppet media in improving students' speaking skills.

E. Significance of the Research

1. In Theory

Adding scientific treasures, knowledge, and insight regarding matters related to the development of speaking learning theory and the development of learning media with stick puppets, especially in describing people's material and the results of this research can be a reference for further research.

2. In Practice

a. Teachers

For English teachers, providing an overview that English learning especially in speaking can be done in various media, one of these is stick puppet media, which can also inspire

teachers to use more innovative teaching methods to engage students in learning, particularly in English learning.

b. Students

The students will be able to use this media to improve their English-speaking skills, especially in the Describing People material, and become more motivated to continue to develop their abilities.

c. Researcher

This research can help the researcher gain knowledge and expertise in research on the teaching and learning of the English language, especially in terms of teaching and speaking.

F. Operational Definition

1. Speaking Skill

Speaking skills are described as those that help us communicate clearly. These skills enable us to communicate verbally and in a way that is understandable to the listener.

2. Stick Puppet

A stick puppet is a form of toy found in several countries in the world. This Stick Puppet adapts to various forms of objects, animals and visual characters that can later be played with the expression of hand, foot and head movements.

Of these two variables when used in English learning, especially speaking, it is expected that students' ability to describe someone using stick puppets increases. This means that learning to use stick puppets can improve speaking skills, especially in describing people's materials.

G. The Organization of Writing

Chapter I is Introduction. In this chapter, the researcher put some points including the Background of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the Problem, Significance of the Research, Operational Definition, and The Organization of Writing.

Chapter II is Theoretical Framework. This part consists of the Definition of Speaking, The Purpose of Speaking, The Elements of Speaking, The Function of Speaking, Teaching Speaking, Concept of Assessing Speaking, The Definition of Learning Media, The Benefits of Learning Media, The Classification of Learning Media, Definition of Stick Puppet, Step of Stick Puppet, Definition of Descriptive Text, Generic Structure of Descriptive Text, Purpose of Descriptive Text, Language Feature of Descriptive Text and Describing People.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. This chapter consists of the Subject of the Research, Method of the Research, Research Procedures, Instrument for Collecting Data and Technique for Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV is Research Findings and Discussion. This chapter consists of Research Findings and Discussion.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter consists of Conclusion and Suggestion.