

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Basically, language is a means of oral and written communication. People use language to express their ideas and desires to others such as when they ask for help from others. According to Danzalan (2016), language allows people to recognize and express their emotions and thoughts. Language is used by humans to recognize and understand each other. As we know, God created humans in various conditions and personalities, so they must interact with each other. As Nursyamsi (2006) states that one way to communicate is through speaking.

Speaking ability is the most important aspect of English because we can communicate only when others recognize our ability in English. This ability is a process of changing the form of thoughts, feelings or ideas into a meaningful form of language sounds. And speaking is one of the skills or abilities in English to express opinions, comment, and reject other people's opinions if they disagree with our opinions, as well as the ability to ask and answer questions. Speaking is referred to as the activity of saying something from word to word until it becomes a sentence/paragraph that contains expressions, opinions, suggestions, or other needs that will be heard by others.

According to Chaney (1998:13) speaking is "the process of sharing meaning in different contexts using verbal and non-verbal symbols". According to Harmer (2001:271) Speaking is one of the important skills that students must learn so that they can communicate fluently and clearly in English. So, Speaking

in English involves many aspects that students need to master in order to do it well.

Speaking is identified as difficult to learn, even though speaking is very important in human life. This may be due to lack of practice, low motivation, lack of communication competence and also self-confidence. Based on the experience of researcher during the Internship carried out at SMP PAB 19 Manunggal, it was found that many students had difficulty speaking because they lacked of confidence, were afraid of being wrong in speaking. For example, when the teacher checked the presence of students it was difficult for them to answer "present" when their names are called. It is because of their unfamiliarity in speaking or fear of being wrong in speaking. Another example is that they are difficult to say the word "excuse me" when they are leaving the classroom.

Based on the identification of those difficulties, the researcher assumed that literacy activities are expected to have an effect on students' speaking ability. In this case, researcher conducted research by applying literacy activities in speaking.

In a general context, literacy activities are learning activities that involve reading, thinking, speaking and writing activities that lead to understanding, inferring, interpreting, describing and analyzing all that is learned. According to Elizabeth Sulzby (1986) literacy is the language ability possessed by a person in communicating "reading, speaking, listening and writing" in different ways according to their purpose. In short, literacy is the ability to write and read. According to Grabe & Kaplan (1992) and Graff (2006) explain that literacy is the

ability to read and write, and those who are able to do both are called literates. So, the researcher will create a literacy activity by instructing students to narrate a text for students' speaking ability.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher decided to conduct a research which entitles "*The Effect of Literacy Activities on Students' Speaking Ability*".

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the research was formulated as "is there any significant effect of literacy activities on students' speaking ability?"

1.3 The Objective of the Study

In line to the problem of the study, the objective of this research is to find out the effect of literacy activities on students' speaking ability.

1.4 The Scope and Limitation

This research was conducted in class VIII of SMP PAB 19 Manunggal in the 2022/2023 school year in class VIII. Based on the background of the problem, this research focused strategy related to speaking ability with literacy activities. Therefore, this study investigated the effect of literacy activities on students' speaking ability.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to provide several contributions theoretically and practically. They are presented as following:

1. Theoretically

The findings of this study will provide strategy for teaching English as a foreign language, especially speaking ability with literacy activities.

2. Practically

a. For students at school

The results of this study will help students using strategy in speaking ability by literacy activities.

b. For teachers

The results of this study will present effective learning information that is useful for teachers who want to use the concept of literacy in the teaching and learning process.

c. For researchers

The research results can be a reference for further researchers who wish to carry out research both similar and different.