CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, some aspects of introduction of thesis are explained. Those aspects are background of research, statement of problems, purpose of research, significance of research, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Speaking skills has an important role because it is used as a tool for direct communicate. Ur (1991) said that from the all four skills, speaking is considered to be able to be the most important skill. That is because speaking is one of the abilities to carry out conversation. The students should have the ability of English speaking in order that they can communicate with others. Therefore, students are strongly advised to frequent practice speaking in English. Many language learners regard speaking ability as the measure of knowing a language. These learners define fluency as the ability to converse with others, much more than the ability to read, write or comprehend oral language. They regard speaking as the most important skill they can acquire, and they assess their progress in terms of their accomplishments in spoken communication.

English has an important role in the era of globalization as a means of international communication because people do not only communicate with those who came from the same country, but also with those who come from different countries. In Indonesia English has been chosen as a foreign language to be learnt as
a compulsory subject in junior high school until senior high school. It is because as a global language, it is the language recognized and understood by people everywhere. From the phenomenon above, the government put English in the curriculum to draw up the young generation for facing the global era. Curriculum is the course that is applied in teaching and learning activity in an educational institution. Besides, curriculum sets all about the educational activity.

It is known that the curriculum has been changed from many years and the latest curriculum for Indonesia’s education is the 2013 curriculum. This curriculum develops learners’ speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in English. According to the 2013 English curriculum and its supplements, the emphasis of the curriculum is that the students are able to communicate in English by mastering the whole skills. There are four skills that should be mastered in English, namely reading, speaking, listening and writing. From the statement above, it can be said that all abilities are very important to master learning English. It is because the skills have the same purpose, which is increasing the creativity of language. Speaking is one of the language skills that should be mastered by the students at junior high school.

Based on the previous interview with teacher, it is found that some students of eight grades at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang have some of the problems in learning speaking. Zhang (2009) argued that speaking remains the most difficult skill to master for the majority of English learners, and students are still incompetent in communicating orally in English. Skeffington (2004) pointed out that there are some reasons that make students difficult to speak in speaking class among EFL learners. They are peer pressure, lack of motivation and lack of support. One of these reasons
is that the students are not confident in their ability to speak, perhaps because they are shy or afraid of making mistakes that is ridiculed by their friends. According to Harmer (2007) feeling ashamed of being laughed at by others, also can block students speaking ability.

Looking at the fact in the eight grades students of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang, some students can not speak English fluently. There are lot of reasons why they have lack ability in English speaking. The problem caused by the English teacher, student’s learning environment, student’s physical or physiological factor, etc.

In the research, the researcher would like to find the factors concerning with the problems of English speaking faced by second year students of junior high school in learning English, entitled “A Research on Students’ Problem in Learning Speaking at Mts Muhammadiyah 1 Malang”.

1.2 Research Problems

This research is a survey to analyze the students’ problem in learning speaking at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang. The problem can be stated as follow:

1. What are the problems faced by eight grades students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang in learning speaking?

2. What is the most dominant problem faced by eight grades students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang in learning speaking?
1.3 Research Objective

In the line with the statement of problems above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To investigate the problems faced by eight grades students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang in learning speaking.
2. To investigate the most dominant problem faced by eight grades students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang in learning speaking.

1.4 Research Significance

There will be at least three kinds of benefit; they are for the school concern, English teachers and researchers.

1. For the school: The result of the research will be valuable to know the English speaking learning problems and what the grading of the students learning problems in speaking.
2. For the Researchers: This finding can be used as a reference and other considerations to investigate the problems in further research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In order to make discussion more specific, the researcher limits the research on the students' problems in learning speaking. While the subject is being investigated is the students on eight grade of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Malang. The class consists of 28 students.
1.6 Definition of Key terms

The following definition of the key terms are intended to avoid ambiguity or misinterpretation, these terms are:

1. *Speaking skills:* Speaking skills is students’ ability to speak English in natural setting when the teacher uses speaking as the core skill in the classroom.

2. *Speaking problems:* Speaking problems are the difficulties faced by the students in expressing their ideas orally in conversation based on Skeffington theory.