

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This research investigates the impact of joining extracurricular english conversation at SMP Negeri 1 Bansari. This chapter presents the research background, the research problem, the research objective, the problem limitation, the research significance.

#### **A. Research Background**

English is very important in our daily lives because it is one of the international languages. English language is used to communicate and interact with other people internationally. It is in line with Brown (2007) who stated that English is a language that is used for international communication in transportation, commerce, tourism, technology, diplomacy, among non-native speakers around the world.

Based on the reality it is hoped that Indonesian students should be able to speak English fluently. Since English is not used in daily activities, the students are not accustomed to hearing any conversation in English so that it makes them face difficulties in learning English. Indonesian students who learn English as a foreign language have a limited opportunity to use the target language. Commonly, they use English only during the teaching and learning activities in the class. Meanwhile, outside the class they rarely use English because their daily life environment does not support them to speak the target language. This kind of

condition makes the students find difficulties to improve their speaking skill which is needed in their future.

To achieve the expectation that students can master English as the international language, most of the schools in Indonesia strive some challenging activities to encourage the student's ability in speaking English. One of the ways is by giving English speaking extracurricular for the students. English speaking extracurricular is expected to help the student in mastering English actively. Thus they will be able to communicate in English as the international language.

As we know, the extracurricular is an optional activity for students. They are free to choose an extracurricular based on what they like and need. Vermaas, Diji, and Houdt (2009) stated that extracurricular activities refer to any activities that take place outside of the regular (compulsory) school curriculum. The activities are voluntary, and the students do not receive grades.. The researcher has the information from one of students of SMP Negeri 1 Bansari Temanggung. This school requires the 7<sup>th</sup> up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to join conversation extracurricular program. Related to the meaning of extracurricular, SMP Negeri 1 Bansari Temanggung establishes its own policy and determine its activity as the mandatory extracurricular for students. This seems to contradict the definition of extracurricular activities which should be voluntary, but can be interpreted as an obligation for all students to participate in an extracurricular activity of their choice. It is clear that the school promote participation in these activities due to the merits involved.

As stated above, since conversation is a compulsory extracurricular, it is expected that the students are able to improve their ability to speak English. Moreover it is hoped the students have a positive attendance and motivation. To reveal the impacts of this extracurricular at this school, the researcher conducts a study entitled: The Impact of Joining Extracurricular English Conversation at SMP Negeri 1 Bansari.

## **B. Statement of the Problems**

According to the background above, the students of SMP Negeri 1 Bansari have problems such as limited time in learning speaking english during class activity. The existence of extracurricular conversation is set up to solve the problems. However, the impact of such activities is not yet studied. Therefore, this study is required to fulfill this need.

## **C. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the writer formulates the research questions as follows:

1. What is students' perception on the extracurricular conversation activity implemented in SMP Negeri 1 Bansari ?
2. What is students' perception on the impacts of joining the extracurricular conversation activity to their speaking ability?

#### **D. Objective of Research**

According to the research questions, the aims of the research are:

1. To find out students' perception on the extracurricular conversation activity implemented in SMP Negeri 1 Bansari.
2. To find out students' perception toward the impacts of joining the extracurricular conversation activity to their speaking ability.

#### **E. Significance of The Research**

This research will give benefits for the English, teachers who teaches English conversation class and the other researchers:

**For The Teacher.** This research provides the information about the impact of the extracurricular conversation activity for students. By providing this kind of information, it is expected that the teacher can design, develop and create new techniques in teaching extracurricular conversation based on the students' perception so that it can really improve the students' speaking ability.

**For The Future Researchers.** For the future researchers, this results of this study may be used as a reference and examples to understand how to extracurricular conversation to increase students speaking ability.