

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the introduction of the research. Firstly, the researcher explains the background of the study. The researcher also explains identification and limitation of the problems. After that, the researcher discusses the research question and purpose of research. Finally, significances of the research and outline of study are followed afterwards.

Background of the Study

English as a foreign language (EFL) learned by students in general. In Indonesia, based on the curriculum applied, students learn English since junior high school level until the university level. With this experience of learning, students are expected to master the English skills such as listening, writing, reading and speaking. Nonetheless, one skill that requires more effort to be mastered is speaking. According to Bygote (as cited in Urrtia and Vegacely. 2010) speaking is “a skill which deserves attention as much as the literary skills in both native and foreign language” (p.3). It is used to deliver students’ feelings, opinions and goals. However, not all students who learn English can communicate fluently and accurately.

Delivering an oral presentation is a form of public speaking that May cause fears felt by many students. According to Brewer (2001), “public speaking is one of the most reported fears in the American (p.54)”. American people who have English as their native languages are still mentioned as the most reported

fears, while in Indonesia, English is considered as a foreign language. As a result, students definitely have several problems faced in doing English public speaking. Some students with lack of speaking competence may have greater challenges in conveying information because of problems with expressive communication skills. They have difficulty determining what to say, remembering how to say it, and saying it out loud in front of others (Nippold, Hesketh, Duthie, & Mansfield, 2005).

Public speaking is the art of speaking in front of many people. Carnegie, (2007) said that public speaking is an art of making speeches to audiences because in speaking in front of many people, the speaker has a certain purpose, which also has a function to influence. However, not everyone can do public speaking. Only people, who are ready and have confidence, can do the public speaking, because public speaking is not an interpersonal speaking activity with one or two people, but instead, it is the activity of speaking in front of people, so that the power to influence can be spread more efficiently.

Based on the researcher's experience as a English language student at a private universities in Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY), the researcher has several phenomena of speaking English in public. The phenomenon occurred is when the researcher wants to speak English in public, for example, in class presentation, conference, role play and storytelling, the researcher got hesitant. The researcher felt afraid of making mistake, got nervous, lacked confidence, and afraid of being laughed and seen by a lot of people. Therefore, the researcher

conducted this research because the researcher wants to know the other students' experiences in doing English public speaking.

Identification of the Problem

Based on small observation conducted by the researcher, many of students in English department at a private universities in DIY who have taken speaking course, have problems in English public speaking. Some of them cannot speak English fluently. Those students who are unable to speak English fluently might miss a lot of opportunity to speak English in public. There are many students who have brilliant ideas and good opinions but cannot explain to the audience verbally in front groups of people because of the lack of speaking practice or confidence. Based on the researcher's experience as a student, the researcher had some problems in speaking in front of public such as nervousness, anxiety, lack of self-confidence, lack of vocabularies, and lack of courage to make eye contact with audiences. Therefore, the researcher is interested in carrying out the research about students' experience in speaking English in public.

Limitation of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, this study has to be limited due to time constraint, cost, and places. The research will focus on the students' experience in English public speaking.

Research Question

Based on the problem identification, this study is to find out: what were the experiences of students who have done public speaking in English?

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the students' experiences of English public speaking. This research attempts to attain the students' understanding, feeling and benefits in doing English public speaking.

Significances of the Study

This study describes the students' experience in English public speaking that reflected their understanding, feeling, and benefits. The results of the study were expected to give benefits for students, teachers, and other researchers.

The Students. This study is beneficial for students. This study will give students ideas on how to improve their English public speaking skills. It can help students to know how to make them perform well in the classroom and public area as well.

The Teachers or Lecturers. This study will give teachers some information about the students' experience towards the implementation of English public speaking. Teachers can know what problems are faced by students in doing it and provide the best way of how to avoid the problems and how to prepare English public speaking well.

Other researchers. This study is expected to be beneficial for other researchers. For any future researchers who are interested in this field of study, they can use this research as a reference. This study provides information to make their English public speaking better.

The Outline of the Research

This research proposal has five chapters. The first chapter consists of some part; firstly is background of the research, statement of the problem, in which the researcher states the problem of the study, the limitation of the problem, the researcher limits the problem to be specific, the purpose of the research, and research question. In addition, significance of the research and the outline of the research are followed afterwards. The second chapter will be explaining about literature review, and conceptual framework. The third chapter focuses on the research methodology. It includes the research design of the study, setting and participants of the study, and techniques of the data collection and the analysis of the data. The fourth chapter of this study presents the findings of the study about the students' experiences in English public speaking. The researcher also explores the students' understanding, feelings, and benefits during English public speaking. Finally, in the last chapter of this research the researcher draws the conclusion of this research.