Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter contains basic consideration, research questions, research objectives, delimitation of research, and significance of research.

1.1 Basic Consideration

Language is very important for human life, because through language we can communicate to other people and express our ideas, feelings and opinions in our mind. Basically, every country has its own language that is used in communication. However, English is the most important language in the world because it is used as International language for people of different languages to communicate.

For Educational purposes in school, students should master the four skills of English they are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Besides, there are some elements of English which are necessary for the students to know when they learn English; they are vocabulary, pronunciation, spelling, and grammar. Those are very important to students to support their English skills because without these elements, students will not be able to master English well.

Talking about English teaching and learning process, the students need to master English not only on the theoretical but also how to use it in real communication and interaction. People say that speaking stands as tool of communication, the people will express their thought and idea to the listener using their language. As the English learner we need to apply our knowledge to

compose English in a good communication, it is not only mastering on listening, reading and writing but we need to master how to speak well. In daily communication, we need to share to other people in order to show our existence over the environment and build social interaction.

Speaking is an important aspect in language learning. By speaking we can get information or ideas, and maintain social relationship by communicating with others. That's why many people regard speaking ability as the measure of knowing a language. But on the contrary, most of the learners think that speaking is the most difficult part when they learn foreign language.

Each students tries to make everything seems spontaneously coming out from their mind, but unfortunately she/he faces some problems such as lack of vocabulary, his/her fearfulness to do mistakes when he/she has been given a chance to speak. In conclusion, the people have a big anxiety. They always think negatively to themselves which leads them to be introvert, and it causes they lack of confidence, so they limited their speaking because they feel cannot solve their problem when they are speaking.

In the teaching of English, as one of the productive skills, speaking activity must focus on how to assist students to use and to communicate in English (Richard, 2008). This is important as Richard further says; most students often evaluate their success in language learning as well as the effectiveness of their English course on the basis of how much they feel they have improved in their speaking proficiency. In this sense, teachers have to give more opportunities to their students to express themselves by providing them with speaking activities

that enable them to speak English (Brown, 2001). Regarding this, it's found in the literature some psychological factors such as shyness and anxiety are considered as the main causes of students' reluctance to speak (Brown, 2001). This is also in line with Gebhard (2000) who says that the students' problem in speaking is caused mostly by their shyness or anxiety.

This case can be found in English class where in teaching and learning English process which study English subject. Unfortunately sometimes in practicing conversation in front of class, many students still look afraid when they speak up and the audiences stare at them. Based on the observation in SMA N I Tilamuta, it was found that the students felt difficult when they to do the conversation in front of class with their partner. Whereas conversation is model public speaking which did often by the students. The researcher chooses this school because the researcher has done pre-observation in that school on December 27th, 2012. The researcher observed their teaching and learning process only one time.

The researcher chooses the problems about conversation because based on observation in that school, when the teacher gave the dialogue to the students and then the students perform in front of class, the students do still not know how to do the conversation well. In another side, the students still got the problems in doing English conversation. They felt difficult to do the conversation, so the researcher interest to do the research, it is about conversation.

Related to the explanation above, one important aspect in conversation is language must be comunicative language in order to make conversation more communicative. Because, one focus of conversation in communication is deliver

to give someone idea or to give information to another person. Furthermore, the students ability in doing the dialogue depends on how they can use the English it self, because using English in conversation is one problem for the students and it is make them difficult to do the English conversation.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to know about what problems and causes that students face in doing English conversation in speaking class, so this research will be conducted with the title "*Descriptive study on students' problems in English conversation*".

1.2 Research Questions

Referring to the basic consideration, the researcher would like to formulate the problems as follow:

a. What are the problems that students face in doing English conversation?

b. What are the causes that lead to the problems in English conversation?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective of research is to find out what problems that students face in doing English conversation and to find out what causes that lead to the problems in English conversation.

1.4 Delimitation of Research

The researcher would like to limit the research on students' problems in English conversation; it goes to psychological factors.

1.5 Significance of Research

The significances of this research is expected be useful information for the teacher, so that they can help students to minimize their speaking problems. The last suggestion is for the next researchers. It is suggested that they make in-depth investigation about the students' problems and they will come some solutions/strategies or techniques to solve the problems faced by students.