

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter covers the introduction of the study which consist of basic consideration, problem statement, research question, objectives of study, significances of study and limitation of study.

Basic Consideration

As the foreign language, English is important that should be mastered by the student especially for English Department students. Therefore, English is taught in English Department of Gorontalo State University. Unfortunately, some of the students could not express their ideas and feelings in English. Indeed, it is difficult for them to present their ideas and feelings into English for example in presenting their projects in the classroom. Therefore, having good speaking skill will help the student in expressing their ideas and feelings, because speaking is a productive skill that produce the systematic verbal utterances in getting the meaning of information by producing, receiving and processing information. It is related to Tarigan in Kusmaryati (2008, p. 4) stated that speaking is “a skill to express an idea and a message”.

Bailey in Vlack (2008) stated that “speaking is the productive oral or aural skill consist of producing systematic verbal utterances to convey meaning that involves producing, receiving and processing information”. In addition, according to Lado in Kusmaryati (2008, p. 4) said that there are five components of speaking that very important in speaking English, namely comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and fluency. Based on fact and condition occured in English Department students of Gorontalo State University particularly at the fifth semester, as the result of the researcher pre-observation (October, 2013) many of the students

often keep silence during the English communication interaction required within the classroom discussion. Discussion is one of the methods that applied in teaching and learning English. Generally, the teacher divided students in group with different topics. However, the students at the fifth semester they have the ability to practice their speaking because they have got Speaking I, Speaking 2 and Speaking 3". Based on the researcher's point of view, there reasons that contribute students' difficulties in speaking English might be caused by the internal factors that derived from the psychology of students in learning English such as the lack of students' self-confidence, the students' fear in making error in speaking English, the students' difficulties in understanding the topic or the material of teaching.

From the phenomenon above, the researcher considers that the problems is the crucial thing that should be unveiling for the students and the teacher as the main factors in teaching and learning process. The unveiling of the problems can help the students to know more about their problem, so they can find the way or solution how to solve the problems. It is necessary for the teacher too because it will help the teacher to find out how to treat the students in the classroom because it could not deny that the problems contribute towards the students' ability in speaking English. Therefore, the researcher would like to conduct a study entitled *Unveiling the silence of students in classroom discussion*. The researcher tries to explore the students' difficulties phenomenon in the classroom that contributes to the students' problems in speaking English.

Problem Statement

The problem statement is many students especially English Department students in class D at the fifth semester did not participate and they only keep silence in discussion class in Syntax subject.

Research Question

Based on the explanation above the research question is *what are the factors affecting students' silence in classroom discussion?*

Objectives of Study

Based on the pre observation in the classroom, many students are silence in teaching and learning process. Therefore, the objective of study is to find out what are the factors affecting students' silence in classroom discussion. This study will help the students to know more about their problems. Indeed, they can find how to solve the problems. It is necessary for the teacher too because it will help the teacher to find out how to treat the students in the classroom because it could not deny that the problems contribute towards the students' ability in speaking English.

Significances of Study

There are the significances of this study, firstly, for English Department students, it will encourage them to be more active in classroom discussion, to motivate and to help the students' confidence to express their ideas and feelings in speaking English. Secondly, it will lead the English Department teacher to treat the students in the classroom. Hence, it will increase the quality of instructions in discussion class and last, it will help the stakeholders of English Department to unveiling the students' silence in speaking English. Indeed, they will find out how to solve the problem.

Limitation of Study

In order to reach the expected goal, the researcher limits this study on the following terms.

1. This study is limited to the factors causing students' silence in classroom discussion such as linguistics factors, psychological factors, cognitive factors and performance factors, they are:
 - a. In linguistic factors consist of lack of vocabularies, lack of understanding of grammatical pattern and incorrect pronunciation.
 - b. Psychological factors consist of fear of make mistake, shyness, anxiety, lack of confident, lack of motivation, self-esteem, inhibition, risk-taking, extrovert and introvert.
 - c. Cognitive factors consist of familiarity with the topic, familiarity with the genre and familiarity with the interlocutor.
 - d. Performance factors consist of mode, environments conditions, planning and rehearsal time.
2. The participants of this study limited to the class D of English Department students, at the fifth semester.
3. This study limited on Syntax subject. The researcher preferred to conduct the research in Syntax subject because Syntax is one of the subjects in English Department that use discussion method in teaching and learning process. In addition, based the researcher pre-observation many of students in class D at the fifth semester only keep silence during discussion especially in Syntax subject.