

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

As social being, humans need other humans to run their life. And one of the way for humans to be connected to other humans is through having the communication. With communication, someone can tell their opinion to other people, people can tell what they need, and people can start to manage their cooperation with other people to reach their goal. In short, communication really helps humans on running their life. Monarth and Kase (2007, p.70) said that if we have bad communication with other humans, we are like the rookie pilot who flies into storm without proper training, we are like destined to fall. It means that it will be harder for people to run their life if they do not have good communication with other people.

Further, as the humans keep developing, people need to have better ability on communicating. In this era, it is not enough to be able to communicate with one or two people only. People need to be able to communicate with public, deliver message to dozens audience with various background. Thus, the term public speaking appeared. Soekarno, Kennedy, and Oprah Winfrey are the example of famous people with great ability of public speaking. Those people are able to talk in front of many people, make audience receive the message well, and direct the opinion of people with the words. No wonder, now there are so many companies that make the ability of public speaking as big requirement for their employee. Because it will impact to the job life. Just like what Rakhmat said that when people take up a job they have to interact with their official, colleagues, and customer (1996, p.8). Besides, it is also important because people with good ability of public speaking mostly could make their brilliant ideas to be heard by co-worker, boss, or client. Thus, the ability of speaking become more important now. More over for some jobs field, this ability is really needed. For example public relation, receptionist, master ceremony, marketing staff, and still there are many other jobs. Besides being used in the job life, actually the ability of public speaking is really important to be owned by students especially the students of university. Because in this

moment, students will need to use their ability on public speaking in a lot of times start from presenting their task, delivering opinion in the class discussion, even to present their essay or final research that determine their graduation from the university, etc. thus, It is also needed by the students of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.

The students of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya focus on the tourism sector. This sector really needs human resources that have good communication skill. Because this sector is really related to humans as the object of this sector. The main thing about this sector is about how people could give a good service to other people as their customer. We can say some sides like hotel, Airline Company, restaurants, etc. No wonder that those sides become the target of students of 6<sup>th</sup> semester English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya as the last year students as the company that they want to work at.

To reach that goal, it means that the students of 6<sup>th</sup> semester should already have a good ability on public speaking. Because it is not enough for the students only to have average ability on public speaking due to the competition that will be faced by them as soon as the students graduated from polytechnic. The students need excellent ability on public speaking to help them on reaching their goal to be the part of hospitality industry. Moreover they have learnt the public speaking subject for more than 2 years. Thus, it is very important for the students to maximize their ability on public speaking.

Therefore, writer wanted to investigate the obstacles faced by the students of 6<sup>th</sup> semester in English Department at State polytechnic of Sriwijaya on public speaking. Based on the thesis statement above the writer conducted a research and the title of the research was “Obstacles Faced by Students on Public Speaking”

## **1.2 Problem Formulation**

The following was the problem of the research:

1. What are obstacles faced by the students on public speaking?

## **1.3 Problem Limitation**

There was a limitation in this research to ease the writer on doing the research thus it helped the writer focus on the purpose of the research. The problem limitation of this research was:

1. The research was done only to students of 6<sup>th</sup> semester English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya

## **1.4 Research Purpose and Benefit**

### **1.4.1 Research Purpose**

The purpose of this research was to investigate the obstacles faced by the students of 6<sup>th</sup> semester in English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya on public speaking.

### **1.4.2 Research Benefit**

The benefits of the research were:

#### **a. For the writer :**

1. Understands the obstacles that is faced by students on public speaking.
2. As self-evaluation for writer whether she is facing the same obstacle or not.

#### **b. For students of English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya :**

1. Understand the obstacles faced by other students on public speaking.

**c. For the lecturers of English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya:**

1. As the evaluation for lecturers of English Department, especially the lecturers of public speaking subject
2. As the triggers for the lecturers to find solution in order to help the students who face the same obstacles.