

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

English is the dominant language of international communication and with increasing globalization, it is important to have a refined understanding of the nature and structure of English and how we communicate each other. English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language of 53 countries and spoken by around 400 million people across the globe (British English Council). Being able to speak English is not just about being able to communicate with native speakers, it is the most common second language in the world. It is related to the statements by Laurance Urdang in Random House Dictionary of the English Language (1966 : 806) that states language is any set or system of linguistics symbols used in a more or less uniform fashion by a number of people who are thus enabled to communicate intelligibly with one another.

Basically, English language has four skills (Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing). Those skills are related to each other and can't be independent. Therefore, learners need to master all of the four skills. This is supported by Uma and Ponnambala (2001: 94) who state that mastering language skills will determine the students' communicative competence in the target language.

In addition, those skills are interrelated and interdependent in real communication. Listening and reading, which are successive processes, belong to linguistic comprehension while speaking and writing, which are interrelated, belong to linguistic production. Linguistic comprehension and linguistic production are two aspects of communication in which speakers and listeners, readers and writer are interconnected and inter-conditioned in terms of psychological and cognitive processes as well as information transfer process.

Speaking is a productive language skill that is related to the information transfer process. It means that speaking is a person's skill to produce sounds that exist in the meaning and be understood by other people, so that they are able to

create good communication. Furthermore, speaking is the use of language to communicate with others (Fulcher, 2003: 23). This activity involves two or more people in whom the participants are both hearers and speakers having to react to whatever they hear and make their contribution a high speed, so each participant has intention or a set of intention that he/she wants.

Then, speaking is everyone's needs, in public and to present even daily activities as social beings need to speak. Public speaking is not to be taken lightly because it presents problems, because not everyone has the ability to speak in front of large audience. It cannot be denied that the ability of public speaking is a skill a college student is obliged to possess. Moreover, being a speaker requires the ability to influence, to inform and discuss in front of participants. Most students who will present or present information are sometimes nervous even though the material was prepared well in advance or in the event of a sudden or unexpected outcome.

Public speaking was considered to be a part of the art of persuasion. Because public speaking is the process or act of performing a speech to a live audience. Public speaking is commonly understood as formal, face-to-face speaking of a single person to a group of listeners. Moreover, public speaking can serve the purpose of transmitting information, telling a story, motivating people to act or encouraging people. According to Arsjad (1988: 23) the ability to speak is the ability to express, convey thoughts, ideas, and feelings. The more skillful one speaks, the more skillful and easier it is to give speeches to others' thoughts, ideas, and feelings and the clearer one's mind, as conveying actually one's language reflects his mind. In addition, to speak in front of audience, the speaker must mastery the language skills. James D. Milburn (1995) said to use language influenceively he must have developed a high competency in both speaking and listening (oracy) and reading and writing (literacy). Whilst it is quite possible for a person to be stronger in one or the other of these twin aspects of language it is essential for the speaker to be aware of the importance of both.

There is a stigma in society that they thought when the students are master in English, the students also master in public speaking. So, the writer is very

interesting to know what the influence of the English mastery toward the public speaking. Because, it is very important for the research in the future what is competency can influence the other skills.

Based on the background above, the writer needs to analyze if mastery English can influence the public speaking skills of the students in English Department. So, the writer focuses on and finds out about **The Influence of English Mastery Toward the Public Speaking Skills of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.**

1.2 Problem Formulation

The problem formulation in this report is to find out whether there is an influence of mastery of English on the ability of public speaking of English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya, and to find out how much influence it has.

1.3 Problem Limitation

Based on the background and problem formulation which are explained, the problem is limited to English mastery and the ability of Public Speaking skills of the students in 6th Semester at English Department, State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.

1.4 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to know about the influence of English mastery toward the public speaking skill of the students in English Department at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.

1.5 Benefits

1. Theoretical Benefits

The results of this research are expected to contribute to the science, insight and world of education that can be referenced for future studies of this kind and information for future studies.

2. The practical benefit

a. For the writer

This research can be used as a training tool for writing scientific works.

b. For the Polytechnic

The results of this research will be expected to provide more input for universities than for office administration education. This study also provides additional reading material for the library.

c. For the readers

These research is expected to be of great interest to students, that English mastery can affect the ability of public speaking.