

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. The Background of the Study**

There are four skills that should be mastered by the students in learning English such as, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Speaking is one of the important English skills due to the function of speaking is to express an idea to communicate. Nunan (2003) stated that speaking is a productive aural/oral skill that consists of producing systematic verbal utterances in conveying the meaning. Through speaking, the students can enlarge their point of view of knowledge. Furthermore, the students can also convey or speak their ideas, opinions, imaginations, and experiences into an utterance that can be explored. Speaking is a skill that needs practice. The more students practice through sharing the idea, the better speaker they become.

In learning speaking, what the students need is about how they can simply absorb what they learn and use the skill whenever it is needed. Unfortunately, many students nowadays still face some difficulties in mastering speaking ability since it has something to do with the mental factors of the students such as their mood, motivation, and readiness. Moreover, the students think that keeping silent is better than making mistakes when they try to speak English. Berman (1998) who stated that such silence is a socially silent response indicating embarrassment, confusion, annoyance, lack of understanding, or low esteem. It can happen because the students can not express the idea orally. Therefore, the teacher should use an interesting media

in order to increase the students' motivation and to create an enjoyable teaching-learning process.

In the learning activity, the students should be given a topic in order to make them easier to practice their speaking skill. Descriptive text is one of the topic given in the middle school students especially for the seventh graders. Descriptive text is a kind of text that aims to describe something such as people, things, animals, places and many others. According to the basic competence of curriculum 2013, the students are required to tell the characteristics of person, thing, and animal. In learning descriptive text, most of activities are only focus on writing skill. Meanwhile, they also need to know how to describe something orally. Thus, it becomes a problem because it should be taught not only in written form but also spoken form.

As the solution of students' problem especially in describing the things orally, the teachers need to use an appropriate media on speaking descriptive text since the media will increase the students ability in order to reach the learning objectives itself. That is why media is highly important to help the teachers educate their students easily during the learning process.

Based on the primary observation done by the researcher at MTs Islamiyah Sei Kamah II showed that the media used for teaching descriptive text is not enough to stimulate students' speaking ability. It does not elaborate students' ideas in describing the things orally and not interesting at all. The media used by the teacher in that school are only white board and textbook from the government. In addition, the teacher stated that to teach descriptive text in the learning process she totally follows the instructions in the book and

sometimes adding some information using white board. Meanwhile, the students essentially need an enjoyable atmosphere to make them easily absorb the materials given by the teacher. Furthermore, the researcher also found that many students were only keeping silent in the class. They could not be able to raise their hand because they were too shy and anxious. Therefore, the students' grade of speaking descriptive text receiving below standard minimum criteria (KKM). The KKM of English subject at MTs Islamiyah Sei Kamah II is 70 (seventy five).

From those matters, the teachers need to use an appropriate media to motivate the students to learn. Daryanto (2016) stated that teaching media is all physical tools which can deliver message and stimulate students to learn. Without using an appropriate media which could stimulate them to speak, it would be such a difficult thing and they would not really care about the learning process. As the result, the classroom situation would not be active and the goal of the teaching learning process will not be achieved that caused the students' grade would not increase. Macwan (2015) stated that Visual aids can help in speaking activities as learners will share their feelings and inspirations. They provide the learners with the opportunity to speak in order to develop their speaking skills.

Relating to the problems explained above, it can be seen that there are many problems occur in the teaching and learning processes. Considering those factors, the researcher chose *Guess Me Board Game* as a developed media in teaching spoken descriptive text. *Guess Me Board Game* is a new media in playing guessing game which is inspired based on the popular

guessing game namely “Guess Who Game” by Ora and Theo Coster. This media will be supported by modified flashcards as the things that will be guessed in playing the game. Richard-Amato (1988) said that guessing games can be used to develop reinforce concept, to add diversion to regular activities, or just to break the ice. By this game, hopefully it will increase the students’ motivation and enthusiasm to learn any material in English subject especially descriptive text.

### **B. The Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this research is “How is *Guess Me Board Game* developed to teach speaking descriptive text for the seventh grade students at MTs Islamiyah Sei Kamah II?”

### **C. The Objectives of the Study**

In relation to the formulation of the problem, the objective of this study is “To develop the *Guess Me Board Game* as a media in teaching speaking descriptive text for the seventh grade students at MTs Islamiyah Sei Kamah II.”

#### **D. The Scope of the Study**

In the learning process, there are many kinds of media that is usually used in teaching such as, audio media, visual media, and audio-visual media.

This study is limited on developing visual media which is modified guessing game that is combined with flashcards into a communicative board game to be played namely *Guess Me Board Game*. This media will focus on speaking skill particularly descriptive text and intended to be applied at MTs Islamiyah Sei Kamah II especially for the seventh grade students.

#### **E. The Significance of the Study**

This final project is actually directed to give the significance for two major areas, which are theoretically for the development of the scientific advance and practically for the students and practitioners especially the teacher in conducting the English teaching and learning.

1. Theoretically, this study hopefully can give the alternative of Descriptive text media so that the teacher can bring new atmosphere in the teaching-learning process. Furthermore, it is expected that this study can be a reference for those who want to conduct the similar studies.
2. Practically, the findings of this study will be useful for:
  - (1) For the teachers: this study is intended to help teachers in using the media in teaching-learning process.
  - (2) For the students: this study provides *Guess Me Board Game* which can be used to increase students' motivation in learning English.

- (3) For other researchers: this study is aimed to be one of their resources in developing media for teaching speaking especially about descriptive text and give additional information for the next related study.



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