

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Learning is a complex process, in which teachers, learning materials, student motivation and several other aspects interact. We have learned many things and skills without knowing it or thinking about it. However, we still have a lot of material to study and master using various ways (Verkkotutor, 2005). We normally employ these tactics by doing what feels good and correct, as well as figuring out how to learn the most effectively.

In learning English, four language skills that must be mastered are reading, writing, listening and speaking. English is one language that is increasingly in demand by the people of Indonesia today. Without language, it is impossible for people or everyone to communicate with each other or learn things in daily life, and human activities cannot do without language.

“The elements that influence pupils learning are often separated into internal factors and external ones,” according to Slameto (2010:54). What are the internal factors from the students themselves, including physical conditions, skills, interests, intelligences and learning styles. The external factors come from external students, namely school, family, friends, environment and learning strategies. Learning styles and strategies are the most important aspects that influence students' learning. Knowing and recognizing that everyone has a

different learning style, such as visual, auditory, or kinesthetic, is a key aspect in students' learning success.

Dr. Rita Dunn and Dr. Kenneth Dunn have spent over 25 years investigating learning styles and have an article titled *"How Boys and Girls Differ in the Way They Learn"* in Dr. Lauren Bradway's. They identified learning styles as Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic. The VAK learning styles was developed in 1987 by Neil Fleming. Visual learner like to learn by watching, auditory learner like to learn by listening, and kinesthetic learner prefers learn by doing. This means that students should know that learning styles is the important factor in helping them to successfully study in certain subject. It can also develops students' performance in work, school and personal situation.

It will help learners determine their learning strategies. The strategy is to distinguish the general characteristics of one person from another. Help learners solve problems in learning. Learning is influenced by both learning style and approach. For example, visual learners can use the best strategy when they want to absorb information in their learning. Visual learners can use underscores, flowcharts or graphics to highlight when they get the teacher's explanation. Because auditory learners may quickly get information from what they see or observe.

The adoption of learning styles and strategies by teachers has been useful in improving student accomplishment. Teachers play an important role in the lives of students because they make learning more enjoyable, simple, and

comfortable for them. Each student has his or her own learning style and strategy, but there is only one dominating style among them. Teachers can use learning styles to aid them in their teaching efforts. Teachers who already know their students' learning types can teach them using strategies that suit their own learning preferences.

But in fact, many teachers are still unaware that students process and comprehend information in different ways. To be able to recognize learning variations and maximize the possibilities of success for all learners, teachers must grasp the necessity of involving all students in their learning process. Most students are unaware of their individual learning styles, which can cause problems during the process of learning. As a result, their grades were poor. In many cases, most students have difficulty expressing their thoughts or opinions in words. Some students prefer to remain silent instead of being active in class. This is because of many factors, one of which is learning style, which affects students' learning performance, especially in speaking.

Speaking is one of the subjects that hope students can use English in daily communication. By speaking, everyone can express their thoughts, their minds and ideas freely. The purpose of teaching speaking is to improve students' communicative competence. Therefore, some of them are afraid of making mistakes when suitable learning strategies for their learning style.

However, communicating in the target language is not easy. In higher vocational schools, English is learned as a foreign language, and it includes four language skills. One of them is speaking, which is a necessary skill

because people cannot communicate unless they are processed through speaking. For most people, learning a foreign language has become the most difficult thing. They must learn grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary at the same time. Students will encounter some difficulties when receiving the lesson, especially English classes. The difficulties faced by students are different. Each student's ability to master the material is different. They have their own way to understand the lesson. Therefore students need to improve their speaking English through some strategies based on their learning style, because strategies play an important role in learning.

There is the reason why the researcher doing this research on this study. Learning styles and strategies are part of one's personality and everyone is different. Sometimes, students and teacher are ignoring it. So it is important to know what the student's learning style and students' learning strategies in speaking English.

There is the reason why the researcher choose SMK Swasta Bina Satria. Because based on the informal interview between researcher and some of students. The following were the result of the interview:

R: Do you know what actually your learning style?

S1: No, I don't know.

R: So what do you do when you are studying?

S1: If the teacher is explaining in front, I usually make notes what the teacher explains. But sometimes I also asked for an explanation from others to make it clear what the teacher said.

R: How about you, what do you do when you are studying?

S2: Sometimes I play a pen when I listening teacher's explanation.

R: why do you do that?

S2: I do finger motion so that I understand and remember the teacher's explanation.

Based on the preliminary data above, the researcher found that some students like to take notes when the teacher explains. Moreover, they not only takes note, but also need explanations from their friend to make it clear about what teacher said. On the other hand, there are also students who need to touch things around them when they listening teacher's explanation, such as finger movements and play a pen. They use these strategies because it will makes them easy to understand and remember the teacher's explanation. In addition, they do not know exactly what their learning styles are. And then the researcher also found that there are some problem in Speaking English. The problem lies in vocabulary, grammar, low motivation and low confident. The students need to use some strategies to improve their spoken English, because strategies play an important role in learning.

The researcher found previous study about Learning Styles. A study conducted by Rahmah Wahdaniati Suaib (2017) entitled "The Use of Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic (VAK) Learning Styles to Increase Students' Vocabulary. The results and findings from this study suggest that the VAK learning style has been successfully utilized in the educational process to improve students' vocabulary performance. The VAK learning style in English teaching vocabulary has piqued the interest of students.

Based on the previous study above, the researcher only focus on analyzing of the students' VAK learning styles and students' strategies in English Speaking. The researcher interested doing this research based on the English speaking because the role of English is very important as an International

language. Besides that, English speaking as a means of communication. Now days, many people use English as their daily language. If students use the right strategies, learning speaking English is fun and easy. Some students are different, and their way of learning is also different. They can adjust their speaking strategies based on their personal learning style. They will choose strategies that suit them to improve their speaking skills, especially for good learners.

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that can find out what actually student have in their learning styles. And also learning styles can assist students in focusing more on committed learners, which is good to them. And then the researcher hopes that this research will contribute the knowledge on the students; strategies in English Speaking. And it will also help the teacher to know students' learning strategy, so that the teacher can adjust to the students.

B. The Problem of the Study

1. What types of VAK learning styles are used by the students at SMK Swasta Bina Satria?
2. How are the students' strategies in speaking English used by the students of SMK Swasta Bina Satria?

C. The Objectives of the Study

1. To know students' VAK learning styles of the students at SMK Swasta Bina Satria.
2. To know how the students' strategies in speaking English used by the students of SMK Swasta Bina Satria.

D. The Scope of the Study

The researcher focused on studying the students' VAK learning styles and students' learning strategies in Speaking English at SMK Swasta Bina Satria based on the backdrop and diagnosis of the problem above.

E. The Significances of the Study

This study are expected to have two benefits, they are:

1. Theoretically: This results of this research can give contribute to the development of Education, especially in a learning styles and strategies in English Speaking language subject.
2. Practically : This study are expected to give benefits for:
 - a. Students: By understanding learning styles and strategies, they will be able to increase their achievement in English Speaking Language subject.
 - b. Teacher : it will gives a teacher real description about learning styles and strategies of his/her students and also the importance of knowing his student's learning style to improve his/her student's achievement and student's performance in English Speaking.
 - c. Researcher: By understanding the findings of this study, the researcher will understand the importance of understanding learning styles and strategies used by students in learning English Speaking.