

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

In Indonesia , English is learned as the major subject. English is the subject that is important for the student to be taught at school based on situation and condition of the object area. But there are some problems faced by the students. Most students aren't good at English subject, so it proves that English is really difficult for the students.

There are four main skills in English. Those are reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Reading and listening are called receptive skill, in which people need the ability to receive written or spoken language when they do it. While speaking and writing are called productive skill because when people do it, they need the ability to produce written or spoken language (Harmer, 1998:44).

Huebner Theodore said “ Language is essentially speech, and speech is basically communication by sounds”. And according to him, speaking is a skill used by someone in daily life communication whether at school or outside. It consists of competence in sending and receiving messages. Speaking itself is an interaction process between the speaker and listener. So, the students should have the ability to speak English in order that they can communicate with others.

Based on researcher's experience in SMP Negeri 1 Kisaran, many students could not speak well. The students were not interested in speaking, speechless, and did not give attention to the teaching and learning process. The students also

did not understand about the characteristics of Descriptive Text. They did not know and understand what Descriptive Text is actually and how to make Descriptive Text in using picture. This situation happened because the teacher did not use an interactive media that can help the students understand the lesson better. The teacher just asked their students to open the exercise book, read the task, and then do the exercise. This kind of teaching method did not enhance students' learning process.

A teacher can use media as tools to support teaching learning process. Media as instrument can affect the condition of teaching learning process. Teaching media is the media that brings the information with instructional purpose or goals of teaching and learning process. One of the media can be used is picture. Picture can be used as a media for develop the students' creativity and can develop the students interest and enthusiasm to complete speaking task. To the teachers, the using pictures helps them to improve their teaching strategy and to make picture becomes effective because picture can be arouse interest and stimulate discussion, raise the question, supply information, and otherwise contribute in learning.

In this research, the writer chooses Descriptive text as the lesson topic to make the direct of speaking based on the text and context. Therefore, in this research, the writer tries to investigate "Improving Students' Speaking Achievement in Descriptive Text by Applying Picture in the Second Grade of Junior High School"

B. The Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the problem of this research is formulated in the form of question as stated below:

“How to improve students’ speaking achievement in descriptive text by applying picture in the the second grade of Junior High School?”

C. The Scope of Research

The scope in this research is limited only for speaking in teaching of descriptive text while the media used is picture. The study is conducted by classroom action research.

D. The Objective of Research

The objective of this research is to find out whether applying picture improves the students’ speaking achievement in decriptive text in the second grade of Junior High School.

E. The Significance of Research

The findings of this research are expected to be useful for:

1. The teacher to provide a better teaching strategy, especially teaching of descriptive text.
2. English learners to enlarge their knowledge to speak English and to improve their speaking achievement by applying picture.
3. The readers who want to improve their knowledge about teaching and learning speaking.