

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Study

Language is the most important aspect in the life of all beings. It is used to express their feelings, purposes, ideas, even in spoken or in written way. In modern era, communication in the second or foreign language is important. Ahmad Izzan (2007:1) states English as Second and International Language is mostly used in all countries in this world. English is used in almost every aspect in our life, such as science, education, technology, business, and news. English itself has been taught from the elementary school level up to the university level and even now, it has been taught in kindergarten school level as well.

There are four language skills that people need to comprehend English namely speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The four skills of language are important to be mastered. Speaking and writing are classified as productive while listening and reading are receptive. To convey ideas directly with others in daily life, we use speaking as the tool. Greene (1963 : 91) defines speaking as an exchange of thoughts and ideas of one or more topics between two or more speaking. Speaking is an interactive processing information. Students should have ability to speak English in order that they can communicate with others.

Based on the researchers' observation through the result of students' study in Grade VIII SMP YAPSI Medan, many students have many problems when they want speak English, most of students can not communicate in speaking english actively and are not interesting in speaking. The student's problem in

speaking are they did not know how to speak up their mind. The student's lack in vocabulary and feel shy to talk in front of other students. They tend to be silent because they do not want to show their weakness in speaking English, it becomes the problem for the teacher to command the students to speak in front of the class.

Based on the situation above, English need creative and motivating teaching technique to increase their attention and ability in learning English especially in speaking in terms, by using technique in teaching learning process, language games is great technique for starting long or creativity speaking projects. Gerlach (1980:380) states language games can increase the students' joy and will be interested in learning English will increase their motivation especially to improve their speaking achievement . In language teaching, there are many kinds of language games such as, puzzle, guessing, flashcard, etc. One of those games is Picture Story. Picture story is a game which the students should make a conversation based on the picture (Redjeki : 2007) . It can help teacher to make the atmosphere of speaking class become attractive, interesting, and fun, so that the students feel happy and the goal can be reach. Picture story game is the alternative technique in improving students in speaking. After students feel enjoyed in class, they will receive the material better.

Therefore, in this research, the researcher tries to research the effectiveness of applying "Picture Story Games" to improve the students' speaking achievement.

B. The Problem of the Study

In relation to the background of the study, the research problem is formulated as the following *"Is there any significant improvement in the students' speaking achievement when they are taught by applying Picture story games?"*

C. The Objective of The Study

The objective of this research is to investigate the effectiveness of applying picture story games on the students' speaking achievement.

D. The Scope of The Study

In solving the problem using language games in teaching English will increase their motivations especially to improve their speaking achievement. In line with application of language games in teaching English, this research is limited only for speaking while the technique used is picture story games. The study is conducted by classroom action research.

E. The Significance of The Study

This thesis is concerned with the use of picture story games in improving students' speaking achievement the findings of this research are expected to be useful and relevant theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to be able to enrich and enhance the theory of teaching speaking on a report text by using picture story games. The results of this study are can be used as a reference for

2. those who want to conduct the same research in improving speaking achievement.
3. Practically, the results of this study are expected to be useful for English teachers to overcome the students' problem in speaking English, especially in text. The results of this study are also expected to be able to motivate the students to be interested in speaking. Hopefully, the use of picture story games can help them to develop their knowledge to speak English and to improve their speaking achievement.