CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Speaking is one of the most important skills in language learning beside listening, writing and reading. The newest curriculum, namely curriculum 2013 expects Senior High School students able to communicate in English. In teaching learning English as a foreign language most students can not speak English well, even though English has been taught to them since they were in elementary school. Speaking is not easy like what people think. Many people like to speak but when they are asked to speak English language, they can not speak English. In general, some people realize that there are some factors of the speaking.

In relation to the writer's experience while teaching training and practise, PPL (Field Experience Program) in SMP Negeri 1 Sidikalang, most of the students can not speak fluently, therefore, they were passive in the class. Even though the students were in group, they just kept silent. The teacher always asked the best students in their group to speak up. The students still have low ability in expressing their idea. It is proven by the table below which shows the students' achievement in speaking test which was taken from their score in two semesters.

As a reflection, in the next cycle the researcher should improved her ability in teaching speaking through this strategy. The students admitted that they were enjoy learning by applying Time Token Strategy because they could share their ideas by speaking orally and become interested to practice their English in daily convensation in class or outside.

Table 1.1 Students' Average Score in Two Semesters

Semester	Students' Number (n)	Average $\overline{X}$
I	20	46,06
II	20	60,05

From table 1.1, it can be seen that the students' average score did not reach the minimum score which is stipulated by the school, which is 65. In semester 1, the students' average is 46,06. It did not reach the minimum score. While in second semester, there is an improvement which is unfortunately not really significant. They got 60,05. Based on the average, it can be concluded that there must be something done toward the teaching method.

In relation to this study, there was a research which was conducted by Ulfah, one of graduated students in State University of Medan. It was stated that the ability of students in speaking is very low. There were some factors accounting for the reluctance of the students to speak up in the class. They were low proficiency in English (20%), fear of mistake (18%), teachers' intolerance of silent (25%), uneven of allocation of turns (20%), teachers' language in put (17%). Furthermore based on the data that was got for last three years (2010 – 2012) in SMA Negeri 2 Sidikalang, that the writer found so many students who got the same problems as Ulfah's research.

Teacher usually asks the students to read the dialogue then memorize it before it is spoken in front of the class. As a result, old way to memorize words is not efficient and effective for the students to increase their speaking achievement. They still can not develop their ideas or opinions.

The explanation above becomes the reason why the writer wants to conduct a study by using time token strategy to improve the courage of the students to talk and then it will improve their speaking achievement. The reason why the writer chooses time token for the writers' study is because time token help the students to distribute their participations orderly. Each students given some tokens which contain time allocation to talk. If the students do not have token, the students can not talk anymore. This makes other students who still have token, have to talk. Using time token strategy to improve students' speaking achievement will give more chance to practice their speaking.

B. The Problem of Study

In relation to the background of the study, the problem of the study is formulated as follows: " Does the Students' Speaking Ability Improved Through Time Token Strategy?"

C. The Objective of The Study

The objective of the study is to investigate whether the application of time token can improve students' skill in speaking.

D. The Scope of The Study

This study focused on the application of Time Token strategy. It expected that the student' ability will be significantly improve.

E. The Significance of The Study

Findings of this study are expected to be useful for:

1. Teachers are hoped to have skill and to be able to adapt this teaching strategy to improve their students' speaking achievement through time token.

2. The students, to develop their habit in expressing their ideas.

3. The students, to encourage them to be active in class to maximize students talking time.

4. The readers, to explore their knowledge and to enlarge their understanding about how to improve speaking achievement and conducting them who interest for study related to this research.