

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

English has become one of the tools to connect people in communicating with each other from different places and languages as it is the international language that covers almost all of aspects in people's life. For that reason, mastering English is our need. The Indonesian government through the national education fulfill the English' need does decided to put English as a compulsory subject in teaching and learning process for kindergarten, primarily, secondary, senior and university students. As it is stated in PP No 10 & 19 2005, language learning is expected to develop four language skills namely writing, listening, reading and speaking. Those skills must be integrated (Depdikbud RI, 1994:1).

Speaking is one of the important skills to be mastered. Fulcher (2003) states that speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others. Through speaking, we can express our ideas and communicate with others. If we can speak English well, our communication will be better because the listener will understand what we talk about. Speaking is the skill that students will be judged upon most in real-life situations. It is an important part of everyday interaction and most often the first impression of a person is based on his/her ability to speak fluently and comprehensibly. Thus teachers have a responsibility to prepare the students as much as possible to be able to speak English in the real life situations. The English teachers have to find the ways to teach this skill easily.

Although English is taught since Junior to Senior High School, in reality, many students are not able to perform English skills, especially speaking. This problems happened in SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan. Based on the researcher observation in SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan, the researcher found that some students are not good in speaking English even in a simple conversations. The students were not able to express their ideas fluently. The students prefer to keep silent and fail to participate because they feel worried they will make mistakes. Students have low competency of speaking because the ways of teaching speaking are usually monotonous and still in traditional ways. Teacher just explains the materials from the textbook. The teacher is not able to use the technique that makes students interested in speaking. To overcome this problem, the teacher should have some interesting techniques to motivate the students in learning speaking in English. One of them is using the media.

Generally, media means all tools which may be used by teacher to deliver teaching material to students in teaching learning process to reach certain learning goals. According to Sudjana (2001:64) the using of media is important to accelerate teaching and learning process and help student in comprehend material from teacher. Having understood that young learners pay short attention and concentration in a learning process, it is better to provide something playful to them. Teacher may use puppet as one way to teach students in speaking subject. Puppet means the media which is made to show the character. We can say that puppet is an inanimate object or representational figure animated or manipulated. Puppet is a highly effective and dynamically creative means of exploring the richness of

interpersonal communication (Sinclair: 1995:67). Based on Wright (1997:48), puppet is one of media to improve speaking. It can be used as a model especially performing in front of the class. This media is a good resource to develop students' abilities in speaking. Low & Matthew (2000:8) states that puppets can engage the student's attention, provide a context for conversation and promote purposeful activity. Using the puppet as an alternative teaching media could be considered as the best approach to make the student interested in teaching learning process.

Considering the facts above, this research is intended to develop a media that is talking puppet for teaching English speaking skill to junior high school students. By using this media, it is hoped that the students can enjoy the teaching learning process and can improve their speaking skill in fun way.

B. Identification of Problem

Based on the background of the study, some problems could be identified in SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan regarding to this research. The first problem is about students' low competency of speaking skill. Then the second problem related to the teaching and learning in the classroom. The teaching and learning activities are limited based on the textbooks. The teacher is not able to use the technique and media that makes students interested in speaking. The media that being used by the teacher was also just printed pictures got from the internet, pictures, or dictionary, which is old-fashioned enough, without any other media that support the teaching learning process. The picture below shows the printed media to describe animal used by the students.

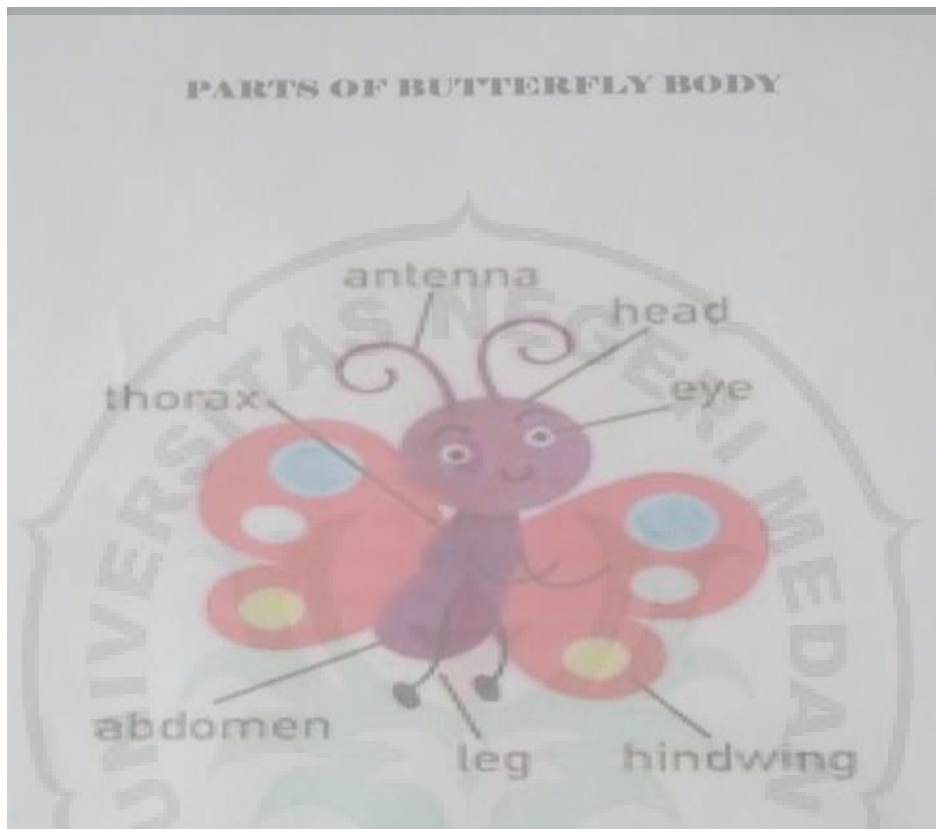


Figure 1.1 The Printed Picture

C. The Problems of Study

Based on the discussions in the background of the study and the identification of the problems, the problems in this research is “How are media puppet for the first year students of SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan developed?”.

D. The Objectives of Study

Based on the problem of study and the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the study is “To develop puppets as an interesting and effective media for the first year students of SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan”.

E. The Scope of Study

Due to the limitation on the part of the writer, this study focuses only on developing puppet as media for teaching speaking skill. In this study, the researcher choose glove and finger puppet as the media because glove and finger puppet is relevant to the junior high school learning materials and it is easy to move because it is controlled by hand. In addition, the text type for teaching and learning activities of speaking skills in this research is descriptive text for describing animals. The media will be limited only for describing animals since this genre will be taught in the odd semester.

F. The Significances of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to give theoretical and practical contributions, as follows:

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study will extend and enrich the horizons in theories which related to the areas on how to develop speaking media to Junior High School students.
2. Practically, the findings of the study can be the recommended as speaking media for the students of SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan, as it motivates their enthusiasm and willingness to study as well as to speak in learning descriptive text orally. Besides, it will ease the teacher to achieve the goal of teaching and learning process.