

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Every human in the world needs language and language is important for human life. Besides expressing thoughts and emotions, language is also used to communicate with other human beings. The importance of language is also mentioned in the Holy Quran Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follow :

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

Based on the verse above we know how important the language is, God creates many languages so that every human in the world can communicate with each other to exchange the information in their everyday life.

There are many languages in the world. Therefore, we need English as a universal language. In today's global world, the importance of English can not be denied and ignored since English is the most common language spoken every where. With the help of developing technology, English has been playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, and education. English is very important because it is the only language that truly links the whole world together.

Because of its function, English is really needed to be taught in every school and university.

When learning English, there are many skills that have to be mastered. Speaking is one of the basic skills that must be mastered by students since it is very important for them to communicate in the class or outside the class. In learning speaking, most of the students face difficulties such as lack of confidence, shyness, and silence that impede a natural communication. They often make mistakes while trying to communicate in English

Although English has been taught and used for years in Indonesian schools, whether in formal or informal schools, its role is still as “a foreign language” (Lie, 2007, p.1). Most of parents usually feel their children really need to master English as Foreign Language. In this case Islamic boarding school will be the main choice for each parent to have their children studying the language. Most of them are interested in putting their children into Islamic Boarding School where at least they will be safe from bad influence outside. The other aspect is about learning strategies that the Islamic boarding school provides for students. These strategies are good to learn a language.

Speaking two languages rather than just one has obvious practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world. But in recent years, scientists have begun to show that the advantages of bilingualism are even more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Being bilingual, it turns out, makes people smarter. It can have a profound effect on their brain, improving cognitive skills not

related to language and even shielding against dementia in old age. Bilingual environment is considered by some parents as a good way to try learning. An Islamic Boarding School sometimes uses a great and unique strategy for teaching languages. Not only to make the students enjoy but also successful in learning process. Some students need to use good learning strategies in fun situation, so that the students do not feel bored while learning process and the aim of the learning is transferred successfully.

Darul Hijrah is one of the senior high schools that obligate the students to learn and master English. It is not only in male school but also in female school. There is no difference for both schools in learning English, but the writer only conducted observation in the male boarding school.

In Darul Hijrah there is a language section which has members in it that they are senior students who master two languages to manage the rules of how language must be run in Darul Hijrah especially in every dormitory, they watch all language activeness in each dormitory in Darul Hijrah and they find out some problems to develop students' speaking skill.

One of the problems faced by most of students that they never practice their English pronunciation. Most of them are beginners in learning English. The students face a new condition and new culture. They are faced by a new mixed classroom and friends. It causes the difficulties for communication with others. Lynne Cameron (2001) states in her book *Teaching Language to Young Learners*,

experience in the UK twenty years ago found that language learning in primary schools as not as positive as expected, although in retrospect this seems likely to be due to how it was implemented and, in particular, to the lack of attention that planners paid to what would happen at secondary level, when FL teachers faced with mixed classes of beginner and more advanced learners. The social, cultural and political issues around policies of teaching foreign language early are complex and influence teaching and learning at classroom level. Comparative studies of different socio-political context would be useful in investigating these influences and their impact (p. 16-17).

She also stated that language for young learners raises more problems with the notion of ‘real’ or ‘authentic’ language use (Cameron, 2001). Many children do not use the foreign language (English) outside the classroom, except perhaps on holiday, with tourist to their country, and when using computers. Beyond these limited domains, their outside lives do not readily provide a needs related syllabus for foreign language learning. The other problems that the members of language section have are working hard to control students’ practicing English in students’ daily life with students’ basics background life. It is related on book *New Ways in Teaching Speaking* written by Kathleen M. Bailey and Lance Savage (1993): “the challenge of teaching beginning-level students largely lies in finding common ground among the students’ diverse cultural background” (p.30). Confronting with those complicate problems, the members of language center should make the right strategies for improving students’ speaking skills, they have a significant role in Darul Hijrah.

In this research, the writer tries to observe Darul Hijrah Islamic boarding school for boys. It is a private school that exists for learning English and Arabic which is located at Cindai Alus in south Kalimantan. Most of the students face some difficulties because of some factors. One of the factors is they just get limited time in

learning English during school hours, and did not get optimal to learn English especially in speaking. In this case The Language Center takes a part to control their activities outside of classroom in speaking, manages all the rules of language movement in various activities.

Based on the pre-observation, the writer saw that the school has its own dormitory for their students in order to take care of them to speak two languages “Arabic and English”. While in the classroom, the teacher applies various techniques in English teaching learning process in order to help students understand English quickly and easily. They also have strategies to make their students have fun in English learning without worrying to do mistakes. All students in Darul Hijrah are placed in one room with one manager for them to learn languages intensively. In this chance they can ask anything to him, well it is Arabic or English. Darul Hijrah also has a unique strategy in learning English where all students have one week to speak English and one week to speak Arabic “*bilingual environment*”, that is supervised by The Language Center. This condition exists in Darul Hijrah Islamic boarding school, wherever and whenever they are they must speak formal language because some students are being spies to watch the other students in conversation every day and every time. This makes all students talk in formal language especially English.

From the description above, as far as the writer knows there is no research that is conducted about The Language Center’s strategies in improving students’ ability in speaking at the seventh grade of Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School Cindai Alus Martapura. Therefore, the writer is really interested in finding more about The

Language Center's Strategies that applied in improving students' ability in speaking, especially for beginner level where they must be accustomed to speak English in one year with *bilingual environment*.

Based on this fact, the writer does a research entitled “ **THE LANGUAGE CENTER STRATEGIES IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' SPEAKING AT THE SEVENTH GRADE OF DARUL HIJRAH FOR BOYS**”

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above the writer investigates these following statements of problems:

1. What are the Language Center strategies in improving students' speaking at the seventh grade of Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for boys Cindai Alus Martapura?
2. What are the difficulties that the Language Center finds in improving students' speaking at the seventh grade of Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for boys Cindai Alus Martapura?

C. Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of this research are :

1. To know the strategies used by The Language Center in improving students' speaking

2. To find out The Language Center's difficulties in improving students' speaking.

D. Significance of Research

The significances of research here are to give some advantages to three points:

1. To make students and members of language center consider the other strategies in improving students' speaking in Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School
2. To give an information and additional reference to other researchers who want to do the same research in more enriched one for the students
3. To enlarge the literary source of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies library for the research

E. Definition of Key Terms

The key terms, which are necessary to clarify briefly in order to avoid misunderstanding, it can be mentioned as follow:

1. The Language Center

The Language Center is an organization whose members are senior students who mastered two languages to manage the rules of how language must be run in Darul Hijrah especially in all dormitories, it watches all movements of dormitory language section and arranges all activities of language movement in Darul Hijrah for Boys.

2. Strategy

In advanced English Dictionary and Theasaurus, Strategy is an elaborate and systematic plan of action. Strategy is an action that managers take to attain one and more of the organization's goal. The methods that used by all members of the language center in Darul Hijrah, how they manage the rules before giving instructions to all the doers of language movement in buildings of Darul Hijrah. In this research especially, the writer will describe the language center's strategies in improving students' speaking at the seventh grade of Darul Hijrah Islamic Boarding School for Boys Cindai Alus Martapura

3. Speaking ability

There are various definitions of speaking and one of them that the writer agrees with is from Jones, R (1989-p.86) who defines speaking as "speaking is a form of communication, so it is important that what you say is conveyed in the most effective way".

Speaking is one of the important skills when we learn English. Harmer (1998) says that the ability to speak fluently presupposes not only a knowledge of language features, but also the ability to process information and language.

In *Testing English as a Second Language* book, (Haris, 1974, p.81 speaking skill is a complex skill requiring the simultaneous use of a number of different abilities which often develop at different rates). He adds that there are five components of speaking ability. They are: pronunciation, including

the segmental features vowels and consonants and stress and intonation patterns; grammar; vocabulary; fluency, it is the ease and speed of the flow of speeches; and comprehension that requires a subject to respond to speech as well as to initiate it. Speaking is a familiar skill that must be mastered by students in Darul Hijrah, every student is more emphasized to speak all days by using formal language (Arabic and English).

4. Darul Hijrah

Darul Hijrah is a private Islamic boarding school for studying languages, they are Arabic and English. It is located at Cindai Alus Martapura in South Kalimantan. This Islamic boarding school focuses on providing a balance education which is organized by students themselves. This Islamic Boarding School has a unique program that requires all students to speak English and Arabic in one year basically. It means that in one year, they have to be accustomed and brave to talk in Arabic and English for daily activities.