

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Education is a planned basic effort to create a learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength self-control, personality intelligence, morals life science, general knowledge and the skills they need for society based on the law.

Currently, science and technology have developed very rapidly in various fields, as well as English as an international language, English is something that is important to master. In Indonesia, English is one of the subjects in junior high school. Students are expected to be more active according to the 2013 curriculum and it is difficult to make students more active, Purnomo (2018).

Language that is rarely heard in daily communication. In English, there are several skills that must be mastered. According to Tarigan (2006), the ability in communication consists of four skill, they are listening, speaking. reading and writing skill. In Curriculum 2013 English is a compulsory subject especially in speaking skill, but in fact, there are many problems in the field.

Students can use English well if they master four skills, namely speaking, listening, reading and writing. To communicate and interact, speaking skills are needed. Therefore, to use English, students must at least be able to speak it. However, it cannot be denied that students' speaking abilities are different from one another. There are those who are able to speak English well, there are also those who are less. The causes of students' lack of speaking skills according to Dewi in Zuhriyah, Mukinatus (2017) include (1) not having enough time to practice speaking, (2) lack of vocabulary, (3) not being interested in speaking skills due to the teaching strategies used by the teacher, (4) unable to use speaking skills in everyday life. SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi is one of the favorite schools in North Sumatra ,Berastagi with 888 students and 48 teachers. According to researchers' interviews with students and teachers, there are several techniques and strategies that teachers use in teaching English to improve students' skills. The use of small group discussions is expected to make students more active in speaking and have the opportunity to express ideas and students will interact communicative.

Group Discussion is one of the techniques to teach speaking. because Group Discussion is an effective way since it will increase the amount of time for student's talk during the given period o time. Hadriana (2008) its mean that Small Group Discussion is the technique to effective. The influence of group discussion methods on students English speaking skills is a topic that explores how utilizing group discussion can have an impact on students English speaking skills. This study aims to investigate whether the group discussion method improves students speaking skills by giving them the opportunity to in meaningful conversations, practice their language skills, and receive feedback from their peers . This research will involve carrying out a pretest and post-test to measure the improvement in students speaking abilities after participating in group discussion . In addition, qualitative data such as observations and interviews can be collected to gain further insight into students experiences and perceptions of group discussion methods.

According to experts Sri Bagus (2019) suggests that one function of speaking is to directly express thoughts. English holds significant importance for Indonesian people due to its influence on education, careers, and the economy. In the context of the current research conducted at SMPN 1 Masbagik, per-observation revealed that the learning of speaking skills was not progressing as expected. Several difficulties hindered students from actively participating in class discussions. These challenges included a lack of self-confidence, motivation, and prior knowledge of the English language. Some students may desire to express their ideas in English spontaneously, but they face obstacles due to limited vocabulary, resorting to body language and frequent pauses. Additionally, fear of making mistakes or being ridiculed by peers further deterred students from engaging in speaking activities.

According to experts Brown (2001) Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves production, reception, processing of information and the presence of the speaker and listerner. So that the interaction and speaking process can be carried out, one way that english teachers can do is determine appropriate teaching strategy in the classroom learning process.

Based on the results of observations by researchers, at SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi, that effect of the group discussion method on students' English speaking skills in is still lacking. Based on views of group Discussion, learning success depends not only on the environment or the conditions of learning, but also relies on students' prior knowledge. Learning involves the creation of meaning by student

About what they do, see and hear. The meaning is an active process that continues. So students have final responsibility for their own learning process, not the responsibility of the teacher. In these circumstances, the student will find significant association between abstract ideas and practical applications in real-world context. The concept of internalized through a process of discovering, reinforcing, and relating. In other words, this method is regarded as an effective method in teaching speaking. In the learning process, students construct their own knowledge by testing ideas based on their previous knowledge and experience, apply ideas to new situations, and integrate new knowledge gained with preexisting. Discussion calls for active participation in problem solving and critical thinking about authentic learning activities that students find relevant intellectual construction and attraction.

1.2 The Identification of The Study

Referring to background of the problem above, there are many problems that can be identified among others:

1. The students are not be sure to express their ideas in English.
2. The students seem to be nervous to speak English.
3. The students are too afraid to speak in English.
4. Then, they never use English in their daily activities of communication either inside or outside the class.

1.3 The Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the problem of the research were limited on students' speaking skill and group discussion technique. In this study, he researcher only focuses the effects of treatment taught by Group Discussion Technique on the students' speaking ability. It is conducted only for the VII grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi . Thus, the result of this study only generalized or applied to the target population, specifically to the VII grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi .

1.4 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background above, the research questions of this study are as follows:

1. How to use group discussions in teaching speaking skills English in VII grade at SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi ?
2. Does group discussion method have effect to students' speaking skill at SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi ?

1.5 The Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research are :

1. To find out How to use group discussions in teaching speaking skills English in VII grade at SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi academic year 2023/2024.
2. To find out whether group discussion method has effect in students' speaking skill at SMP Negeri 2 Berastagi.

1.6 The Benefits of the Research

The benefits of research are :

1. For Researcher :
This research is useful for increasing insight, knowledge and experience regarding the development of English education subjects using the discussion method, as preparation for becoming a professional teacher, playing a role in improving the quality of education in the land of Karo.
2. For Schools :
This research is useful as input for English teachers in particular, to develop themselves as professional English teachers, that in fact efforts to develop English language education subjects through group discussions are important to improve the quality of education.
3. For Faculty :
As input for the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education as an institution that prepares language education personnel to develop English language education theories, especially regarding the development of discussion methods in English subjects.