

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

Nowadays, English is a language which is often used by people in this global era. It has been universal language to make people from different culture, language and area become a unity to communicate each other. English becomes a tool to express our ideas moreover information. Because of the use of English, it becomes an important thing to learn. In Indonesia English has been one of subject which is learned from elementary school moreover kindergarten to the higher one. Students are expected to master four English skills such as speaking, listening, reading and writing to make them able to communicate with foreigners and improve their competences with others.

One skill of English which is important to learn is speaking. Based on Burnkart (1998), speaking is the most important English skill to be mastered by students because it is mostly used to assess English learning achievement. As same as Burnkart, Ur (1996 : 120) stated that speaking is the most important skill which should be achieved so that students are able to communicate fluently by using English. He also stated that speaking included all of English skills to comprehend language. Supporting those two statements, Oradee (2012) said that speaking is most essential skill of English because it is the basic form of communication for everyone.

Speaking is the most important skill but also the difficult one. As stated by Shunin (1997) in Khameis (2006) speaking is difficult skill for EFL Learner

because most of students can not speak English fluently. It means that to speak to other is not easy. We have to share what is in our mind directly by using vocabularies that we have. But, it must be learned because of it's importance.

In learning English especially speaking, there are strategies, method and activities which are used by teacher to improve students' skills. One of method to enhance students' competences in English is Peer tutoring. According to Michele Nguyen (2013) Peer tutoring is high ability students to mentor or teach lower students about some cases or materials in whole class under the teacher control. In line with Michele Nguyen, in a journal which was written by Jane (2010) Peer tutoring is when someone get paired up with others and he can help other answer other's questions and being as other's second teacher who does not have a degree yet. In English case, Peer tutoring can be used to improve students ability in English. As we know in speaking class, it is hard for teacher to guide and control all of students speaking improvement. Teacher can implement peer tutor to offer timely feedback and as big sibling to oversee students progress in English. Goodlad and Hirst (1990) said that there are many studies which are reported that peer tutoring is effective to improve students competence in learning. In speaking English, peer tutoring synonymously as teaching speaking by having conversation to improve students speaking skill. By having conversation, they can use their English in their daily life. Based on Paul Pangaro (1996) in R. David Lankes et al (2007) conversation is exchange of informations among participants. Using conversation in peer tutoring is similar with conversation partner program. It has been new program to improve students' performance especially spoken. In this

activities, students are taught to speak with others by having conversation.

According to Center for Language teaching Advancement (2013) conversation partner is learning how to speak English, technique, understand the meaning while talking to someone in second language. Supporting this statement, Lynne Weintraub (2012) explained that conversation partner is giving opportunity to students to use their English in ordinary life with sub-group of students to increase their speaking through understanding what other said and express what they like.

Conversation partner is newest program which is implemented by University of Muhammadiyah Gresik for all students especially Department of Teacher Training and English Language Education students. This program aim to familiarize and use students' English in their daily life. As we know that almost students can speak English. In the first five minutes, their speaking is good. After that, they returns to use their mother tongue to have conversation with others. Because of this problem, Conversation Partner Pogram was implemented to solve students difficulties and enhance students' competences in speaking. English students especially seventh semester are joined with volunteers from English Department or other faculties in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. In partnering, students and volunteers were interviewed by lecturer to know their abilities and choose good or appropriate partner for them. Every once a month, lecturer moves students list and make some changes for students and their partner. So, every month they have new partner.

Generally, students have conversation with their partner at least once a week. After meeting and having conversation, they must be report their meeting

by filling students weekly report to know their progression. During the implementation of conversation partner program, there is no guide yet to lead them in the implementation of this program. This case may make them difficult to comprehend in implementing conversation partner. Without module, they may face some difficulties in having conversation with their partner. By the presence of conversation partner module, students can learn about conversation partner by themselves without teacher guide or their partner. So, students have many chances to comprehend conversation partner program besides in class and conversation time with their partner.

Actually there are some books that researcher found which are developed by some authors such as module from CeLTA (Center for Language Teaching Advancement) in 2013. This module, contains some conversation topics and situations also few of introduction about conversation partner. The other book is guide book entitled Conversation Partner Guide written by Lynne Weintraub (2012). This book mostly present tips and some sources conversation topics in having conversation with partner. From those two books, researcher found that the books only provides a few of introduction and topics for participants. It means that the explanation is need improvement to give clear understanding to participants. From the books which are researcher found, there is no evaluation or exercise to evaluate students achievement about conversation partner. The exercise aim to make participants able to practice speaking. Another reason is there is no book which can fulfill students' need yet that appropriate with conversation partner which is implemented by them. According to these problems,

researcher decide to develop conversation partner module to help students in learning speaking through conversation partner program.

1.2 Research Objective

Based on the background above, generally the purpose of this study is to develop Conversation Partner module for University of Muhammadiyah Gresik students. This module aim to guide students to talk with their partner at conversation partner program.

1.3 Significance of The Study

a. Theoretical Significance

Hopefully, the theory about conversation partner gives some benefits to improve speaking skills and build good relationship between students and lecturer in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik.

b. Practical Significance

The result of this study can gives some advantages to students, lecturer and college. Here are the advantageous:

1) Students

Based on the development of conversation partner module, students are able to use the module in talking with partner and learning about conversation partner by them individually.

2) Lecturer

This study will help lecturer in explaining the materials about conversation partner to students indirectly. It also will help lecturer in recognizing how far students progress and make them easy to guide and look after the implementation of the program.

1.4 Scope and limitation

In this study researcher limits the scope of the study is developing conversation partner module for University of Muhammadiyah Gresik students who join Conversation Partner program.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

The definition of some key terms in this study are :

1. Conversation partner is a program which is paired students and volunteers to have conversation in English one on one directly. This program aim to improve students speaking skills by pairing students with their partner to have conversation together. Conversation partner program also gives opportunity for students to build good relationship with their partner and learning about their cross cultural. After meeting and having conversation, students report their meeting to lecturer by filling form of meeting report. This report aimed to report students progression and how does their meeting run whether it was run well or not.

2. Module is book for learning about education especially English to improve students' speaking competences by using conversation partner program which are provide general instruction, topics, evaluation and references that can be learned individually. This module aimed to solve problems in speaking that faced by students based on the implementation of conversation partner program.