

Chapter One

Introduction

The first chapter covers the background of the research, statement of the problems, delimitation of the research, the research questions, the research objectives, and the significances of the research. Those subjects will be explained further as follow.

Background of the research

Speaking is an important aspect of the four language skills to be mastered in an English learning environment. The aspects required to develop speaking skills are not limited to the terms regarding language conventions. Attention should also be paid to the students' psychological state. The psychological states such as motivation and self-confidence of the speakers are crucial to help developing speaking skills especially in a newly learned language.

English is one of the compulsory subjects in Indonesian education system from primary to higher levels of educations. Despite the fact that students have been learning English for many years, Indonesian students still perform poorly in speaking English (Ariyanti, 2016).

According to Aouatef (2015), Student's performance in speaking English is affected by their psychological conditions. Those conditions may include but not limited to, anxiety, motivation, and self-confidence. Students may feel nervous when they are required to have to speak English in front of the class. They may undergo fear of making mistakes as they are trying to practice their skill. They may also experience shyness, lack of motivation, and diffident (Juhana, 2012). Brown (1994) as cited in Ariyanti (2016) stated that anxiety and motivation are the important aspect because they help determine the result success of the students' language learning.

Speaking is a skill that everyone uses in their daily life. Years ago, English has been used constantly for communication in lots of countries as a unifying language (*lingua franca*). The four skills of English should be mastered equally to improve communication with the non-native or the English native speakers and other members that have various nationalities. Speaking is one of the crucial skills of all those four skills. People who are learn language need to sharpen their capability to deliver the messages by speaking. Speaking skill is worth concerning both in first and second language. Through speaking, people can deliver messages, their perceptions, and preserve social relations by interacting with others. People who learn language often rate their success in studying a language based on the progress of their speaking competence (Rahman and Deviyanti, 2018).

Students who have psychological issues like being diffident and shy tend to shut themselves in and avoid becoming the center of attention. Whereas, speaking classes need students to actively participate in the classroom and practice their skill. The reasons that make some students feel diffident or shy is that the students feel uncomfortable with the situation, nervous, worried if they could not perform well. They may feel afraid of being ridiculed by their friends when they make a mistake while practicing their skill and getting negative feedback or evaluation from the teacher or classmates in using their English Language. Those feelings may cause students to lose clarity in their speaking. They may not speak well, make long pauses, therefore struggling to deliver information when giving a speech or running a presentation.

In other cases, when students did some speaking activities, for instance, presentation or speech, they could not speak well and make a long pause, so that some information could not deliver because they speak unclearly. Some students always look at the slides and did not explain the information even some students bring their own text and notes to the front of the class.

Moreover, some students are lack of participation when they did group work and they kept silent in that group. From those cases, the researcher proposes questions whether or not the students' psychological state has any correlation with students' speaking ability. Therefore, the researcher is interested in instigating a research to find out the correlation between levels of students' psychological state and the speaking ability of the English Language Education Department in an Islamic private university in Yogyakarta.

Statement of the problems

English is the acknowledged language for international communication therefore it is considered important to be taught in schools in countries all over the world, including Indonesia. Mastering spoken English ability is become a vital to society. This also applies for Indonesian society which strives to compete in the International stage. Nowadays, students seem to be afraid to speak and ashamed to express their ideas in public situations. They still look doubtful and reluctant to connect with their teachers and friends using English. There are lots of students who have not yet acquired the ability to speak English fluently, even though they have been studying English for many years. Some reasons that cause students to face difficulties in speaking are their shyness, lack of self-confidence, anxiety, and fear of mistakes. Those psychological issues are often met in the speaking classroom.

According to Bourezzane (2014), experts explained that psychological aspects contribute to the negative impact on the students' speaking activities. For instance, research from Putri (2014) has concluded that one of the psychological factors called anxiety has a significant correlation with students' speaking incompetence. The other studies are from Gurler (2015) stated that there is a significant correlation between self-confidence and speaking skills. Speaking needs a good confidence level, it can be said as a circumstance of being sure of act

something, so diffident people tend to unsure with what they said and have no faith in themselves. In a nutshell, psychological state has the potential to influence the students' speaking ability.

According to the researcher's experience, the role of the psychological state has a huge impact on students' oral performance, especially for the first semester students in the English Language Education Department in an Islamic private university in Yogyakarta. The researcher examines third-semester students who took the Listening and Speaking for Formal Setting course in the first semester provided in this university. This course is arranged to trains students to utilize some listening strategies for understanding English conversations. In addition, this course leads the students to utilize appropriate expressions in conversations which take place in formal setting including business meeting presentation, business phone call, and other speaking activities. Through this course, the students are intended to be capable to understand English conversations in listening sections also the students intended to take part in formal conversations utilizing appropriate English expressions.

Delimitation of the research

A major challenge of foreign language learners is to master oral communication abilities. In this study, the researcher establishes the research to be about the interrelationship between the students' psychological aspects and their speaking ability. The researcher conducts this research in the Listening and Speaking for Formal Setting class as it provides opportunities for students to practice their English-speaking skills. This research focuses on speaking skills. Besides, the psychological states refer in this study include state of aptitude, anxiety, and self-confidence. Other psychological states are not the focus of this current research. The researcher also investigates the correlation between levels of students' psychological state and their speaking

ability. Moreover, in this research ‘psychological states’ and ‘psychological aspects’ are used interchangeably.

Research question

1. How are the levels of ELED students’ psychological state?
2. How is the ELED students’ speaking ability?
3. What is the correlation between the levels of ELED students’ psychological state and their speaking ability?

Research objectives

This research is fixated to the correlation between levels of students’ psychological state and speaking ability in ELED of an Islamic private university in Yogyakarta. According to the research questions, the objectives of the research include:

1. To identify the levels of ELED students’ psychological state.
2. To identify the ELED students’ speaking ability.
3. To identify the correlation between the levels of ELED students’ psychological state and speaking ability.

Significances of the research

This part discussed the significance that can be obtained from this research. The researcher expects that this research give contributions to the students, the lecturers, and other researchers.

Lecturers

The results of this research can be used as a reference by lecturers to be more aware of students' possible psychological issues and any other negative vibes that can affect their oral performance.

Students

Through this research, ELED students will understand the interrelationship between psychological aspects and students' speaking ability. The results of this research can be used by students to be more mindful and make more efforts to bring down their problems in speaking. Students who read this research can recognize the psychological aspects that influence their speaking ability and realize whether those problems exist in themselves or not.

Other researchers

The researcher hopes that this research can be one of the references that can be used for further research with topics related to this research.