

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

All human beings speak language. No society has ever been found without a language. All languages are complete in the sense that the users of them are able to carry out daily affairs through the use of them.

Finocchiaro states that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols which permits all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact (1967:8).

The term vocal symbols here are due to the fact that the medium of instruction is men's voice. Men's writing is included as visual symbol. Some time ago linguists thought that visual symbol represented vocal symbol. In recent years this opinion has changed. Visual symbol has the same position as the vocal symbol. The latest opinion is supported by the evidence that the oral language is not the same as the written one, although there are similarities. By language people may express their feelings and understand the message which is told or written by others.

Not long after we obtained independence, certain people were instructed to set up educational program in our country. One thing they had to consider was whether learning foreign languages was necessary for the Indonesian students, and if so, which languages should be taught as the first foreign language. It had to be a compulsory subject in the curriculum of Junior High School and Senior

High School. The choice fell on English. There were a lot of reasons for such a decision. Among those is that most countries in the world use English as a means of communication. Prior to the last decade in the nineteenth century, there are three instructional traditions vied for dominance in applying English as a subject to be taught in schools. They are as follows:

1. An ethical tradition that placed its emphasis on moral and cultural development.
2. A classical tradition of intellectual discipline and close textual study.
3. A non academic tradition largely concerned with enjoyment and appreciation.

Many theories and methods have been applied in turn today. Effective method has been searched and applied to achieve the proficiency of better communication in English. As we know, English is a compulsory foreign language to be taught in Indonesia. It becomes the second language, under which the development of the country runs rapidly. It is really a hard task for teachers to have their students communicate in English freely without any reluctance in making mistakes. Students should have a habit in the communication in English.

English language education is a complex field of teaching and learning. The teachers have to apply the skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The students learn English as a means of communication in sharing their feelings, ideas or information.



## 1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The title of this thesis is *A Study of the Students' Achievement in Doing the Tests of the Four Skills in English Based on the Communicative Approach*. The discussion includes the comprehension, the application, the result of the students' achievement in doing the tests.

The writer thinks that the method is flexible enough to be applied. The speakers are wished to send messages freely. It means that they do not have to pay attention on the grammar a lot. No matter how the dialogue runs as long as both the speakers and the listeners understand the messages, and then there is communication. We may not ignore that grammar is important. Sometimes there is *traffic jam* in the communication. The students could not express their ideas. One of the reasons is that both of them lacked in vocabulary.

As students of Office Administration study program, formerly it was Secretary Study program, they have to be in a habit of communication mostly in English. They should realize that the competition in finding the job is getting greater and greater. One of the qualifications in getting a job is that they should know how to communicate in both oral and written English well. The main factor in supporting the learning process is the students' motivation. It is deeply involved to reach the goal. But the most important factor is teachers as the *motivators*. The teachers have to try as hard as possible to improve students' ability. Usually they have such equipment which is used to teach as teaching aids in the learning process, but they are not as important as teachers' capability in applying reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

### **1.3 The Statement of the Problem**

In line with the topic of the study, that is, the students' achievement in doing the four kinds of English tests, the researcher finds three problems to discuss. They are as the following:

1. How is the students' achievement in doing the tests of the four skills based on the Communicative Approach?
2. What kinds of mistakes do they make?
3. What common mistakes do they make?

### **1.4 The Objectives of the Study**

In order to get the result of the application of the Communicative Approach in the learning process, the researcher determines three aims of this study. They are:

1. To explain the result of the students' achievement in doing the four kinds of the tests.
2. To observe the mistakes which made by the students.
3. To clarify the common mistakes made by the students.

### **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

There are a lot of methods used in the application of the study of English as a second language. Each method has its own characteristic. For years, the result of the learning and teaching process has not yet fulfilled the needs of



communication in English. The linguists then try to develop a new method, namely the Communicative Approach.

In this research, the researcher limits the discussion on the comprehension of the students' achievement in doing the four kinds of the tests which are given by the teacher. The researcher hopes that the application of this method runs effectively and the result reaches its goal to fulfill the needs of their capability in the communication in English.

#### **1.6 The Significance of the Study**

The researcher wishes that this research will give valuable information to the readers. Hopefully, after reading this research, the readers will find a new way how to improve students' ability in having communication in English.

#### **1.7 The Method of the Study**

The researcher applies descriptive method in conducting the research. It is used to solve the problems of the study through some steps: collecting, classifying, and analyzing the data as stated by Surakhmad in *Dasar dan Teknik Research: Pengantar Metodologi Research* that descriptive method is a way used to solve the problems by collecting, classifying, and analyzing the data (1978:132).

In this case the researcher just describes the data based on the students' achievement in doing *reading, writing, listening, and speaking tests*.

Consequently, the result of this research is applicable only for this study. In other words, the result of the research cannot be generalized.