**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 The Background of Problem**

Communication is an activity that we always do every day, at school, home, office, market, restaurant, campus and so on. Language is a tool that humans need to communicate. Without language, we cannot convey what we want to others. To speak well we have to master a lot of vocabulary and good grammar too. We know that English is an international language that has been accepted by many countries in the world. English functions itself as a communication tool when conducting business meetings or activities around government around the world. In addition, English is used as a science.

Indonesia as a developing country really needs English because the Indonesian government is trying to develop all aspects that are commonly found by every country. Education is included, which is very important. In Indonesia, English is taught from Elementary School to University.

Based on these situations and conditions, English is an important thing to be taught to students at school. However, there are still obstacles faced by students. Some students still got bad grades. It proves that there are still many difficulties faced by students. The difficulties that are often experienced by students in learning English are the lack of interest of students in learning, fear of expressing opinions and students' lack of understanding of what is being taught.

In learning English there are four skills that students must understand, namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is one of the language skills that must be achieved by students in learning English. In the curriculum, speaking is to be able to express meaningful ideas both for simple transactional (to get things done or get information) and interpersonal (to relate to other people for social purposes) to interact with their environment (Depdiknas: 2006).

One of the greatest enemies of successful teaching is student boredom Harmer (2006:5). From this theory it can be concluded that boredom is one of the things that must be overcome by teachers in teaching. Because boredom will always be faced by teachers if they choose the wrong method and media they will use in teaching. Teachers must use speaking activities to meet these competency standards. But in reality, the activities carried out did not make students participate properly and even looked uninterested when speaking in class. They look scared and also worried when spoken to because they themselves do not understand what they are going to talk about. Speaking is important because speaking is an activity that humans always do to communicate, speaking cannot be separated from human life. Speaking is used to express ideas and opinions and also to communicate with other people.

In the span of a year, the Covid Pandemic has joined the community, where as an academic community, of course, it is required to be able to make new breakthroughs and make changes in learning. Conventional learning that has been applied so far is expected to be transformed into all-technology learning. In this case the researcher tries to apply podcasting to improve speaking skills.

Monotonous activities and use of media are one of the two factors that cause weak speaking skills, which stem from the lack of variation in the use of techniques and media when teachers carry out the teaching and learning process. In other words, monotony in the use of teaching technique and media can make students bored and not interested in the subject and this affects students' abilities.

The technique and media are interesting and suitable as a way of teaching English. To reach a good atmosphere, improve the students’ skill, and make them interested in the lesson, many activities can be used especially in this modern era of technology; one of them is designing media. The media will make them have challenging and active to create and develop creative ideas towards their English Speaking activities. Many kinds of media are usually used in teaching. One of them is a podcast. The term ‘podcast’ was first coined in 2004, and it is defined as an internet audio publishing. According to Robinson (2009), the term podcast is a combination of two words: Pod means iPod- the name of a popular MP3 player and Broadcasting. As he defines, podcasts are audio or video files on the web which can be freely downloaded to a computer and listened to a computer or any portable playback device that supports MP3 files. Podcasts allow anywhere, anytime learning. They permit students to access educational materials at home, while travelling to university or work, or doing any activity they choose. They can play the recordings at any time which is convenient for them rather than be confined to set class times. They have an obvious place in distance education, fulfilling the same role that audiocassettes performed in a previous era. Different from other audios, podcasts are delivered online automatically via website or music application. Those offer English teachers and students a wide range of possibilities of extra speaking practices both inside and outside of the classroom. A podcast does not only give an impact on improving speaking ability but also hopefully contributes building students’ enthusiasm in learning English generally. Therefore, the researcher is interested in Developing Speaking Skills Materials Based On Podcast As A Teaching Media For Grade VIII Students Of SMP N 2 Padang Bolak.

**1.2 The Identification of Problem**

There are some factors that influence the teaching and learning process. The first is the students. They have different interest, ability, and behavior. These will affect their achievement in learning English. Motivation is the basic factor in the learning process in the classroom. The students who have high motivation will be active but those who have low motivation will be passive and disturb the others.

The second is the teachers. As teachers, they have to design the teaching-learning process in the class in order to make it interesting and enjoyable. However, most of them do not have variations in teaching English. They just explain the materials and after that ask the students to do some exercises. That is why the students get bored in the teaching and learning process.

The third is materials. It has an important part in the learning achievement. It is because the materials are used as a source of language, as a learning support, as a stimulation, and as a reference. The students will be interested to learn English if they are provided with the appropriate and interesting materials. Waters (1987) considers that good materials contain interesting texts, enjoyable activities and opportunities for learners to use their existing knowledge and skills.

The fourth is media. It has an important role in the teaching and learning process. It is a bridge to transfer the materials to the students. Good media should be interesting and communicative in order to help the students to learn optimally.

The last is technique or method. The teaching strategy or method affects the teaching-learning process and its result. However, there is no one best strategy or method for all situations. It means that the strategy or method will be appropriate for certain activities but may not be appropriate for anothr activity.

**1.3 The Limitation of Problem**

In this study, this study will focus on Developing Speaking Skills Materials Based On Podcast As A Teaching Media For Grade VIII Students Of SMP N 2 Padang Bolak.

**1.4 The Problems of the Research**

Based on the background above, the researcher states the problem of this research as follow:

1. How is the development of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media?
2. How is validity of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media?
3. How is the effectiveness of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media?

**1.5 The Objectives of the Problem**

Based on the formulation above, the objectives of the research is to describe:

1. The development of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media.
2. The validity of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media.
3. The effectiveness of speaking skills materials based on Podcast as a teaching media.

**1.6 The Significance of the Problem**

The researcher hopes the result of this research, firstly for the researcher and the English teacher at the SMP N 2 Padang Bolak, by implementing this study is expected to be able increase their knowledge and become more creative in learning speaking skills at classroom. The second is for students, it is expected to improve their ability in speaking, to show their argument and to build their thinking skill. The last is for other researchers, in which the results are hoped as an alternative suggestion and additional information to do further study.