

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Speaking is an essential skill of language learning which can be developed by learning new words. Speaking is an important skill in language learning that enables individuals to communicate and express ideas effectively. This skill can be enhanced through the new vocabulary, which helps in conveying messages more accurately. In foreign language learning, the more vocabulary one masters, the more fluent and confident they become when speaking, which is particularly important in academic contexts. Therefore, vocabulary development should be a primary focus so that students can communicate well and engage in meaningful conversations.

In today's globalized world, effective communication in English is essential, especially in academic settings. English speaking classes aim to enhance students' speaking skills, yet many learners struggle with vocabulary, which directly impacts their ability to express themselves. A limited vocabulary can hinder fluency and confidence when engaging in conversations, several factors contribute to students' poor vocabulary in English speaking class. These may include limited exposure to language, lack of reading habits, insufficient practice and use lack of motivation, and poor learning strategies. Understanding these factors is crucial for educators to enhance teaching strategies and provide better support for students.

Speaking is the process of constructing and revealing meaning through the use of words and body language in different context (Rivers, 2018). Speaking also is defined as the ability to communicate effectively to convey information verbally in order to be understood by the listeners (Harmer, 2001). Speaking is one of the four language skills which are interpreted as an expression of idea, opinion, or message. According to (Cahyono and Indah, 2012.P, 8).

After understanding the importance of speaking skills in language learning, attention should be given to the development of vocabulary. Vocabulary refers to the collection of words used in a language and plays a crucial role in an

individual's communication ability. Mastery of diverse vocabulary not only enables one to express their thoughts and feelings more easily, but also allows them to comprehend and interpret information more effectively. In an educational context, vocabulary improvement contributes to reading and writing skills, as many ideas and concepts are expressed through words. Therefore, vocabulary learning must be implemented in a planned manner through various methods, such as reading, speaking practice, and interactive media usage, to enable students to use new vocabulary in contextually appropriate settings.

Vocabulary also is one of important factors in language learning and develops the language skills. As Alemi and Tayebi (2012, p.1) states that “vocabulary is the basis component of language proficiency which provides the basis for learners’ performance in other skills, such as: speaking, reading, listening, and writing.” Based on the statements above, it can be seen that vocabulary is very important to master the four-language skill such as: speaking, reading, listening, and writing and additionally vocabulary can help people to communicate with others.

According to Nation (2001), a weak vocabulary can hinder students' ability to express complex thoughts persuasively in public speaking contexts. Therefore, the development of a broad and deep vocabulary becomes essential in helping students enhance their speaking skills. With a larger vocabulary, students can more easily convey their ideas and thoughts clearly and effectively, enabling them to achieve greater success in language use. On the other hand, a lack of vocabulary can lead to confusion and difficulties in communication, which makes it crucial to focus on vocabulary development within the educational curriculum.

Poor vocabulary is one of the common issues faced by students in the language learning process, this can hinder students' ability to communicate effectively and articulate their thoughts clearly. Research shows that students with limited vocabulary to struggle in following discussions, presenting arguments, and participating in public speaking activities. Additionally, a lack of vocabulary can disrupt their ability to understand more complex texts, which negatively impacts their overall academic performance. In this context, it is important to raise awareness about the vital role of vocabulary in language learning, as well as to

implement effective strategies to enrich students' vocabulary to support their language and communication skills in the future.

In order to clearly explain and understand the background of the issues examined in this research, the reasons why the researcher took the title is because that vocabulary has a very important role in the ability to speak English. Students who have a limited vocabulary often have difficulty communicating their thoughts and ideas clearly, thus affecting their confidence and participation in class. Why did researcher choose a third semester student as a research subject? At this stage, they have gained a sufficient foundation of English knowledge, but are still in the process of developing speaking skills.

By focusing on them, researcher hope to identify the factors that cause the lack of vocabulary, so that it can provide useful solutions in learning and help them become more confident in speaking English. This research is expected to provide insights for more effective teaching and help students improve their speaking skills. Conducting this research, the researcher interested to identify factors contributing to students' poor vocabulary in Speaking Class for third semester students and gain insights into the difficulties speaking skill of English student at university. The researcher also wants to do research this problem because there has been a previous study about poor speaking skills of English department students, so it makes the researcher eager to conduct what are the main factors affecting poor speaking skills for third semester students of English Education Study Program at Christian ArthaWacana University.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the background above the writer formulates the research problem as follows:

1. What are factors affecting Poor Vocabulary of English Speaking Skills In Speaking Class?

## **1.3 Aim of Study**

The main purpose of this research is to find out factors affecting poor vocabulary speaking skill of third semester students in speaking Class, at Christian ArthaWacana University.

## **1.4 Significance of Study**

This research is expected to provide significant contributions in both implication and application.

### **1.4.1 Implication**

The result of the study is expected to support and enrich theory about factors of students' poor vocabulary of speaking skills by Bire, E Selfina, Feliks (2014).

### **1.4.2 Application**

This article is usefull :

1. For Students: This research provided a better understanding of the problem of lack of vocabulary in their speaking skills. This paper can provide insight into the importance of having a rich vocabulary to communicate effectively. Students can also identify their weaknesses in speaking vocabulary and obtain strategies or resources to improve them.
2. For Teachers: This research provides teachers with valuable information regarding challenges faced by students in acquiring adequate speaking vocabulary. This allows teachers to identify areas where students often experience difficulties and design relevant teaching strategies. Teachers can use the information provided to develop learning materials, exercises, and teaching approaches that can help students increase their speaking vocabulary.
3. For Researchers: This research is a valuable source of data for researchers who are interested in studying the problem of lacking of vocabulary in students' speaking skills. Researchers can use this paper as a reference to identify related issues, explore the causes and consequences of a lack of speaking vocabulary, and develop further research to understand and solve the problem. This paper can be a basis for designing studies, methodologies, and other research approaches in this field.