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### DECLARATION

I, the undersign,

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Certify that the thesis entitled "The Use of Environmental Observation Strategy to Improve Speaking Achievement of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 3 Tanjung Raja" is my own work, and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethic and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face the court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

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#### DEDICATION

#### This thesis is dedicated to:

- The Almighty God, Allah SWT, whom the writer believes that He is the best planner of her life journey.
- My dearly beloved parents, Papa Heri Suwono and Mama Mastiana
- My beloved brother, Rafqi Armand Afiffi.
- My dearest grandfathers, grandmothers, and all of the families and relatives who have prayed and supported the writer's study.
- My families, friends, seniors, and juniors of SEESPA Unsri.
- My best comrades: Aresti, Bayun, Ratna, Roganda, and Vera who have fulfilled the writer's more than five years' collegiate life.
- Last but not least, someone out there, my future "Rizki Ramdani" who always support and accompany me to finish my thesis.
- And for those:
  - Who never stop praying, supporting, motivating, and inspiring her
  - Who are tireless to care and accompany her
  - Whom the writer loves and love her
  - Whose names are not written here, but always on the writer's heart and mind.

#### Motto:

"And Allah is with you wherever you are" Al-qur'an (57:4)

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> Inderalaya, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 The Writer,

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#### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to find out: (1) whether or not there was a significant difference in speaking achievement after the students were taught by using environmental observation strategy and (2) whether or not there was a significant difference in speaking achievement between the students who were taught by using environmental observation strategy and those who were not. Quasiexperimental design was used in this study. The sample of this study was 72 students of tenth graders of SMA Negeri 3 Tanjung Raja which were taken by using convenience sampling method. They were divided into experimental group and control group. To collect the data, each group was assigned a pre-test and a post-test. The data were analyzed by using paired sample and independent sample t-test through SPSS version 25. The result of this study showed: (1) there was a significant difference in speaking achievement of the experimental group after they were taught by using environmental observation strategy; mean of post-test and pre-test was 67.64 and 53.69, the significance value was 0.000 (pvalue<0.05), and (2) there was a significant difference in speaking achievement between the students who were taught by using environmental observation strategy and those who were not. The mean difference of the experimental group was greater than the control group (67.64>53.17). It can be concluded that environmental observation strategy is effective to enhance students' speaking achievement.

**Keywords**: Environmental Observation Strategy, Speaking Achievement, Spoken Descriptive

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# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes: (1) background, (2) the problem of the study, (3) the objective of the study, and (4) the significance of the study.

#### 1.1 Background

The ending of learning English is that the learners are able to use it as a mean of communication either by speech or written, so the use of English for the students is compulsory because mastering English is a priority for many second or foreign language learners. Richards (1990) says, "The mastery of speaking skills in English is a priority for many second or foreign language learners. Learners consequently often evaluate their success in language learning as well as the effectiveness of English course on the basis of how well they feel they have improved in their spoken language proficiency".

Speaking is one of four important skills in foreign language learning. To express idea students have to speak. By active speaking, it is very useful to increase their ability as students who learn English as foreign language. According to Brown (2001), speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information. Bygate (1987) states that speaking is often thought of as a 'popular' form of expression. Kayi (2006) adds that speaking is the productive skill in the oral mode. From the statements of the experts above, we can conclude that speaking is one of the important skills in English, since English is a universal language that can be used everywhere to communicate with everyone around the world.

However, one of the difficulties for students in learning EFL is also speaking since the goal of the students in learning EFL is also to communicate. In real life, many students think if the people who get success in speaking surely get success in learning English because they think the first aim in learning English is being successful in speaking. Dirgayasa (2014) says in fact Indonesian students still get difficulties and often reluctant to speak because they are shy and not confident to express themselves in front of other people, especially when they are being asked to give personal information or opinion. Frequently, there is a worry about speaking badly and therefore losing face in front of their classmates.

Moreover, the problems that the students usually face are the students sometimes feel ashamed to talk with their friends even talk with foreigners because they do not know how to express what they want to say and they are not confident to say anything because they are afraid that they say something wrong in way such as they mispronounce words and say sentences incorrect grammatical rule. According to Pollard (2008), speaking is one of the most difficult skills for students to master without getting a miss communication. To minimize the mistakes and get a good communication with native speakers, the students must know and comprehend in using the expressions and elements in speaking.

Some researchers got the facts of the students' weakness in speaking English. First, Prihatin (2013) found that 30% of students experienced the difficulties related to the ability of speaking, the average value for the students' speaking ability was 6.1, it was far below the KKM which was 6.7. Researcher indicated that the lack of speaking ability is a result of the lack of interest and motivation of students towards learning. Another fact, according to Dirgayasa (2014), the proportion of English-speaking skills in Maritime Academy Indonesia Medan (AMI-field), Maritime Academy Belawan (AMB-Belawan), and Maritime Academy Sapta Samudra Padang (AMSSP-Padang) was still relatively low only reaching 11.11%.

Speaking achievement will demonstrate the level of intelligence to others. However, not all of speaking achievement in Indonesia is good. It is proven by the rank of Indonesia in English Proficiency Index (EF EPI), which was in 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 72 countries in the 2016 with score of 52.91 based on research conducted by the international education company English First (EF). The national scale of speaking achievement of Indonesian students is also below the average. It is supported by Zulianti (2013), who stated that students of SMK Negeri 01 Batu in West Java still faced the problem in learning speaking subject especially in the third grade. The standard minimum score was >70, but the mean score of the student in the third grade was 61, so their scores were still lower than the standard minimum score. It links to the study done by Efrizal (2012, p.127) that stated that students in MTs Ja-Alhaq Bengkulu, did not use English in their conversation. They would rather use Arabic or Indonesia than English as a medium of communication. It was because of the method in teaching English that was used by English teacher in the classroom was boring and seemed monotone.

Based on the previous brief explanation about teaching and learning speaking, the writer chooses SMA Negeri 3 Tanjung Raja as the setting of the study because the writer had already interviewed some students and English teacher at this school. The students said that most of them got bored in speaking class because it was not really interesting. They just discussed the topic that they were not really interested and understandable in, made the conversation, and read it in front of the class. The students said that it was hard for them to speak about the topics because they did not know about what they should talk about, how they started, and sometimes it was hard to find the idea that was related with the topic. Actually the students had good score in English, but when the writer asked them to speak English, most of the students did not want to do it. They were shy because they were not accustomed to speaking English. Besides, the teacher did not focus in improving speaking skill. She just focused on how students could pass the examination, so she focused on teaching grammar and reading skill. Then, she did not find the good way to teach speaking class because if she taught about speaking, most of the students were lazy to join it. The English teacher said that there are some reasons why students have difficulties in speaking. First, students cannot practice English in daily life because their environment does not support them to use English. Second, students were afraid of making mistakes in grammar and lack of confident when speaking. The last reason was that most of the students in SMA N 3 Tanjung Raja did not perform English in their conversation in English class. They would rather use mother-tongue or Indonesia language than English as a medium of communication during the English class. Furthermore, she said that some of the tenth grade students had low-average

scores in speaking whereas the passing grade (Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal or KKM) of SMA Negeri 03 Tanjung Raja is 70.

Based on the problems above, the writer will apply Environmental Observation as a strategy to improve student's speaking achievement. The strategy is assumed to contribute to the teaching-learning process. It should be able to facilitate the teaching-learning process because when the teacher used the strategy, she or he would improve the students' creativities and their critical thinking (Budiastuti, 2007, p.5). Therefore, the teacher became the facilitator to improve students' achievement. Actually, if students enjoy the activities, the activities will make them speak bravely. To make it interesting, the teacher can modify the material, topics, and activities to be something new.

What is Environmental Observation? Word 'Environment' is most commonly used in describing 'natural environment'. The environment includes all elements, factors, and conditions that have some impacts for humans. Natural environment is contrasted with the built environment, which comprises the areas and component that are strongly influenced by humans. In addition, environment is the familiar places that occur in human life. However, if students observe around their environment, they will more easily describe it orally because it is familiar for them. For example: teacher asks them to observe about their class, automatically they have known and familiar with their class so that they will be more interested to describe it.

The use of environmental observation in teaching principally is performing a fact, event, or thing into actual form to help teaching process. On the other hand, teacher and students can learn actual event in outdoor class by facing students to their environment to be learned and observed which is adapted with learning materials. This way is effective enough because the students are faced with real event or condition naturally. The use of environmental observation can keep its truth and accurateness of the data based on material. The environment around us both in the class and out class can be the learning source. The environment consists of community, physical environment, natural event, etc around school. Through this method, students are guided to recognize their environment to be inspiration in learning (Usman, 2002, p. 108-109). A research using Environmental Observation Strategy was ever undertaken by Harmenita and Tiarina (2013) from FBS Negeri Padang University. The study showed that this strategy can increase the students' attention and motivation during classroom activity. The other research using Environmental Observation has ever been done by Febriyanti, Inderawati, and Fiftinova (2016) from Sriwijaya University. The results of the study showed that the scores of students in posttest improved, and also the students had positive responses toward Environmental Observation. Febriyanti, Inderawati, and Fiftinova (2016) found that Environmental Observation enhanced students' critical thinking, confidence, creativity, and motivation. In addition, a thesis conducted by Dhamayanto (2015) from faculty of Teacher Training and Education, English Education Department, Muria Kudus University who took the tenth graders of SMA Negeri 1 Karanganyar Demak in the academic year of 2015/2016. He found that the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Karanganyar Demak had better achievement in speaking descriptive text after they were taught by using Environmental Observation Strategy. The strategy could help the students to express their feeling, their ideas, and their thoughts in English and helped them to have a good ability in communication. Besides, the writer also had experience using this kind of method in Writing II class. The writer observes many kinds of aspect such as person, place, and thing. It also showed that this strategy was successfully improving students' achievement. However, observation can help teachers to improve students' speaking skill by asking students to observe their environment such as class, library and field. After that, they describe it orally.

Therefore, if we combine the definition of environment and observation, it can be concluded that environmental observation is a kind of alternative strategy that can be used by teachers. This strategy is important in order to make the learning process alive. Bandura (2012) says that learning theory based on the ideas that students learn by watching what others do, and that human thought processes are central to understanding personality. This theory provides a framework for understanding, predicting and changing human behavior. Based on the statements above it can be concluded that students learn the object that they will observe by understanding that object first.

Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting an experimental study entitled **"The Use of Environmental Observation Strategy to Improve Speaking Achievement of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 3 Tanjung Raja"**. In this study, the writer tries to help the students to improve their speaking achievement. Hopefully, by using Environmental Observation Strategy, the speaking class would be more interesting and the students' speaking achievement can be improved.

### **1.2** The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study were formulated in the following question:

- 1. Was there any significant difference in speaking achievement between before and after the students were taught by using Environmental Observation Strategy?
- 2. Was there any significant difference in speaking achievement between the students who were taught by using Environmental Observation Strategy and those who were not?

### **1.3** The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the study were to find out whether or not:

- 1. There was any significant difference in speaking achievement before and after the students were taught by using Environmental Observation Strategy.
- There was any significant difference in speaking achievement between the students who were taught by using Environmental Observation Strategy and those who were not.

### **1.4** The Significance of the Study

By doing this study, the writer hopes that she can facilitate the students to improve their speaking achievement by using Environmental Observation Strategy. The writer expects that the results of this study can be useful for the students, teachers, and future researchers. It is expected that using environmental observation strategy to speak can support the students to enjoy English class and can improve students' knowledge in speaking. The writer also expects that the result of this research can give more information and knowledge as a source for further study. For the writer herself, this study would improve her English and give her some experience in conducting educational research.

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