

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

English has become the primary language, used spoken or written, in numerous countries. According to Wikipedia (2006: 1), nowadays, it is used by 1.9 billion people or nearly one third of the worlds' population. It proves that English is the dominant international language used by most of the people in this world. Because of that, English has become a valuable subject to be studied from different points of view such as English literature or the teaching of English. A factual example that happens around us in Surabaya is between Petra University and Widya Mandala Catholic University. In Petra University, the emphasis is on English Literature while Widya Mandala Catholic University focuses on teaching English. In Widya Mandala University, students are not only provided with facilities to improve their teaching ability but also their English mastery. These facilities are *language laboratory*, which provides listening booth, recorder equipment and audio visual; *Multimedia laboratory*, which provides hardware and software for Computer Aided Language Learning program and with an internet access; *Reading and Writing laboratory* that provides reading and writing exercise materials ;*library* that provides many English books; and **SAC (Self-Access Center)**, where students study independently. In the SAC, students can study independently by choosing the various programs that are provided there, such as: Friday movie to improve their listening skill and SAC Conversation Club

to improve their speaking ability. Moreover, to enhance the students' mastery of English, many lecturers suggest that students follow the SAC programs, such as doing "Independent Study", reading "Reading Board", joining "Friday Movie", and joining "SAC Conversation Club. However up to now, no study has been conducted to prove whether SAC Conversation Club really influences the students' speaking achievement. Therefore, the writer has decided to take this issue as her research problem.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the description above, the study attempts to find the answer to the following question:

Do the Speaking II students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University who followed the SAC conversation club get higher speaking achievement than those who did not follow the SAC conversation club?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to find out whether Speaking II students who followed the SAC conversation club get higher speaking achievement than those who did not follow the SAC conversation club.

1.4 Significance of the study

The results of this study are expected to give a clear point of view on the SAC's role on the speaking class in order to help students in achieving a satisfying speaking achievement in their Speaking II class.

Besides, it is also hoped that lecturers will introduce the advantages of joining the SAC conversation club to their speaking students so that it can improve the students' speaking ability.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

This study will be based on the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), the nature of speaking, the speaking II class at the English Department, and the Self-Access Centre.

1.6 Limitation and Scope

This study will be limited for Students of Widya Mandala Catholic University that followed the speaking II class. However, the writer's research will not include students who did not pass their speaking I class. After that, the students are divided into 2 groups. Group one is for Speaking II Students who did not join SAC Conversation Club while group two is for those who joined SAC Conversation Club. And in this research, the writer will only take 17 students in the 2 groups or 34 students in total.

1.7 Hypothesis

There are two kinds of hypothesis used in this study:

1.5.1 Null hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the speaking achievement of the Speaking II class of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University students between those who followed and those who did not follow the SAC conversation club.

1.5.2 Alternative hypothesis

There is a significant difference in the speaking achievement of the Speaking II class of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University students between those who followed and those who did not follow the SAC conversation club.

1.8 Definition of key terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the following terms are defined as they are used in this study.

- Speaking II class: The continuity of the speaking I class and in this class, students must be able to carry out an oral interaction in post intermediate level Anon (2005: 1).
- SAC conversation club: A program offered by the SAC to improve the English Department students' speaking skill.

- Speaking achievement: The final score of the speaking II students which comprises on the 40% of Mid-Term test and 60% on the End of semester test Anon (2005: 4).

1.9 Organization of the study

The research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. Chapter II elaborates the theories of the study. Chapter III presents the research methodology. Chapter IV consists of data analysis and findings. And the last chapter, chapter V, presents the conclusion and suggestions.