



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Backgorund of the Problem

One of the languages spoken by a large number of people worldwide and in various spheres of daily life is English. Consequently, the simplest approach to converse with individuals from other countries is to use English. This indicates how vital English is to us. English is a foreign language in Indonesia. Every level of education, from kindergarten to university, includes English instruction. It was only recently learned in an incongruous moment. Teachers of English must investigate efficient methods, strategies, and approaches. Additionally, the instructor has to help the students be creative in the classroom. Teaching and learning will not be successful if an approach is not suited to the circumstances in the classroom.

In learning a language there are several skills that must be mastered, one of which is speaking skills. Speaking is the main skill used to communicate. Brown and Yuke in Rao (2019:8) stated that “Speaking is the skill that the students will be judged upon most in real life situations”. The importance of speaking skills in life and also speaking skills is one of the most effective communication and the easiest communication to understand, and also Bueno, Madrid, and McLaren in Rao (2019:8) stated that “Speaking is one of the most difficult skills language learners have to face. Speaking is considered the most important of the four language skills of English. Even the learners learn the language for so many years; they find it difficult to speak in real time



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situations when it is demanded. So that speaking skills are the most essential skills for all the learners who wish to learn English to enhance their career, improve business, build confidence levels, get better job opportunities, make public speeches, attend interviews, participate in debates and group discussions, give presentations and so on. Rao, (2019:9).

Speaking is the act of verbally expressing one's thoughts and feelings. People almost instinctively take note of the speaker's voice when they hear them talk and they base decisions on what they hear. According to Hyble in Adistya (2016:3), speaking is any process in which people share information, ideas and feeling. It involves all of body language mannerism and style, anything that adds meaning to message. Moreover, Rokos in Adistya (2016:3) also supports this idea, by saying that speaking is the richest and most versatile means of communication, according to him, speaking is a skill used by someone daily life communication whether at school or outside.

Students' habits of learning, including the most effective and straight forward ways to acquire a particular subject, are referred to as their learning styles. As Pritchard in Adistya (2016:4) stated that learning styles are habit, strategies, or regular mental behaviors concerning learning, particularly deliberate, educational learning that an individual display. Not only that but also learning styles and strategies appear to be among the most important variables influencing performance in a second language acquisition. Recent research suggests that learning style has a significant influence on students' choice of learning strategies and that both styles and strategies affect learning outcomes



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Oxford in Adistya (2016:5). Based on that statement, learning styles and strategies have correlation and influence by each one to another. Students, who understand their learning styles, will find certain strategies in learning certain subject and use it in effective way it help to improve their achievement. And according to Oxford in Widharyanto & Binawan (2020:481) "learning styles and learning strategies are two major variables that help determine how and how well students master their second or foreign language.

To get a good learning style or easy to understand, students must first know what kind of learning style they prefer, because there are many kinds of learning styles. According to Suaib (2017:241) Stated that Every individual learns in a special style. These three most popular approaches make it easy for students to understand the content: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

Based on the above statement, especially the 3 learning styles have their respective roles in the learning process. Based on the researcher's experience during teaching practice at SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu, he found that many students had difficulty developing their English speaking skills. Despite having studied English for several years, most still felt nervous, hesitant, and lacked confidence when asked to speak in front of the class or in speaking activities. Furthermore, he observed that many students did not understand their own learning styles, making it difficult for them to absorb the material being taught, especially in speaking skills. Even students who had recognized their learning styles did not know how to apply them effectively in speaking practice. These three problems were the main reasons the researcher was interested in raising



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the title "Analysis of Student Learning Styles in English Speaking Skills at SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu", with the aim of determining the learning styles most preferred by 11th grade students and how these learning styles could support their English speaking skills.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problems that have been found by previous researchers, several problems can be identified as follows:

1. Difficulties in developing English speaking skills.
2. Lack of understanding of the appropriate learning style to improve speaking skills.
3. Students do not know how to apply their learning style to practice speaking.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the discussion of problem identification and research background. The main topic of this research is about the lack of understanding of the right learning style to improve speaking skills in 11th grade students of SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu.

D. Research Question

Based on the problem boundaries above, the research questions can be identified as follows:

1. How is the students learning style?
2. What kind of learning style is dominantly preferred by grade 11th students of SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu in speaking skills?



E. Objective of the Research

The purpose of this study was to identify learning styles and determine the most dominant learning styles preferred by class XI students of SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu in speaking skills.

F. Significance of the Research

Hopefully this research can provide new insights for students, teachers, and researchers:

For Teachers: This study will provide useful information about the preferred learning styles of students in 11th grade at SMAN 1 Tembilahan Hulu, giving teachers the opportunity to change their approach to teaching in order to better support students in improving their English speaking skills. Understanding the dominant learning styles can help teachers create more effective lesson plans, which will lead to enhanced classroom engagement and improved student outcomes.

For Students: Students will be able to adopt more effective learning strategies and improve their speaking skills by identifying their own learning styles. This research will give them the ability to take control of their learning process, making it easier for them to build confidence and competence in English, which is essential for their academic and future career success.

For Future Researchers: This study adds to the knowledge on the relationship between learning styles and language acquisition, particularly speaking skills. The results can serve as a reference for future research and

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as a foundation for further studies on how to optimize teaching and learning methods based on the learning styles that students prefer.

For Educational Institutions: The results of this study may help educators and legislators create professional development initiatives and curriculum modifications that will help students become more proficient speakers of English by incorporating various learning styles. This will ultimately improve the quality of education and raise student achievement in the language.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

1. Learning Style

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2. Speaking Skill

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