

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Research

Speaking plays a crucial role for students as it helps them express emotions to others, convey ideas or thoughts clearly, communicate effectively, and build trust from others in what they communicate. Additionally, this skill is beneficial for showcasing individual abilities. Speaking is an essential skill that students must learn and master as it lays the foundation for language acquisition. In the practice of speaking, attention is not only directed at what is being discussed and the language used but also at the audience. Furthermore, a wise speaker also pays attention to the topic being discussed and utilizes language that is easily understood by their listeners. Moat (2016:88) says that speaking seem to be an important skill that a learner should acquire. Speaking one of skill very important the students learning and mastered, because it is the fundamental of learning a language. Speaking plays a crucial role in learning English as its purpose is to enable students to communicate effectively in oral conversations (Wahyuni et al., 2021).

However, a considerable number of students experience hesitancy in speaking. Most of them use English in the classroom due to academic requirements and rarely engage in it beyond the class setting. Hesitation in speaking often occurs in daily life, especially during unplanned speeches or interactions in English. In the interaction process, this hesitancy may manifest in sounds or noises that disrupt the fluency of speech. Carroll (2007) defines that hesitations are a silent moment that emerges between the units of language in uttering sentences (Dewi, 2020).

Creating a conducive and engaging atmosphere is a teacher's responsibility to keep students enthusiastic during the learning process. One effective method is utilizing media as a means of delivering messages to students. According to Andang Ismail (2009), play equipment is defined as any tool that can stimulate activities and bring joy to children. Meanwhile, educational play tools (APE) are a type of play equipment designed not only for entertainment but also to enhance educational functions (Wicaksono, 2015).

One of the methods that can be employed in language learning is the use of media. Media refers to the method used to convey specific messages or information to its recipients. In the field of education, media is commonly adopted as a means of instructional delivery. Learning media according to Cahyo (2019) a media that can be used in gaining knowledge, which includes teachers as coaches and methods of supporting knowledge to message recipients to gain knowledge.

Mystery box is a box-shaped medium containing information about learning materials, physical objects, or instructional content. Mystery Box is a tool that is the idea of cardboard items used in learning (Arumsasi, 2022). In education, Mystery Box makes students curious about the content in the media so that it encourages students to understand the material (Khasanah, 2021). Mystery boxes are not commonly employed in English language learning, but they can serve as an engaging tool to capture students' interest in the educational process (Utami et al., 2022).

Nevertheless, despite the promise of this strategy, there is limited research that specifically investigates the effectiveness of the Mystery Box Strategy in addressing stuttering or hesitancy among junior high school students. Consequently, this study aims to fill this knowledge gap by examining how the implementation of the Mystery Box Strategy can effectively alleviate issues related to speaking hesitation in junior high school classrooms.

In this context, this research not only has the potential to offer practical solutions for teachers and students in addressing speaking difficulties but also to enhance the understanding of effective teaching methodologies that can enhance students' speaking skills at the junior high school level. Thus, this research holds high relevance in promoting a more holistic and effective educational growth for junior high school students.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

According to the background of study above, the researchers need to find the answer of the problems, as bellows:

1. How does the mystery box improve students' English speaking proficiency?
2. What are the factors contributing to English speaking proficiency?

## **1.3 Objective of The Reaserch**

1. To enhance students' English speaking proficiency through the implementation of mystery box media.
2. To identify the factors contributing to improvement of students' English speaking proficiency.

## **1.4 Limitation of The Reasearch**

The scope of this study is limited to VIII grade students in SMP Mayjend Sutoyo SM Medan, with a focus on addressing speaking hesitation through the Mystery Box Strategy. The research delves into the specific context of language learning difficulties related to speaking in this particular grade

## **1.5 Significance of The Research**

The significance of this research lies in its potential to offer valuable insights, both theoretically and practically, which can be of great benefit students and fellow researchers.

### **a. Theoretical Significance**

This study was designed to investigate the effectiveness of the Mystery Box Strategy in reducing speech hesitancy among junior high school students. Despite existing knowledge of teaching methodologies, this study aims to contribute new perspectives by exploring the unique impact of the Mystery Box Strategy on speech hesitancy.

b. Practical Significance

1. For The Students

The findings of this study can provide students with a practical approach to overcome speech hesitancy. By evaluating the effectiveness of the Mystery Box Strategy, students can gain valuable insights into increasing their confidence and fluency.

2. For Educators and Researchers

Educators and researchers can benefit from the results of this study when they seek innovative methods to overcome speaking hesitancy in educational settings. The results of the research can inspire the integration of the Mystery Box Strategy into teaching practice and serve as a basis for further exploration of effective strategies for improving students' communication skills.