

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Learning is a relatively permanent change in a behavioral tendency and is the result of reinforced practice.¹ It means that the behavior that occurred after certain learning probably settled. Someone's capabilities will not be disappearing, but will keep continue to keep developing even more when someone continues keep practicing.

There are two factors that influence students' learning, namely internal and external factors. Internal factor is the factors which come from students them selves. Meanwhile, external factor is the factor which is outside of students.² The examples of internal factors are the physical condition, skill, interest, intelligent and learning style. Meanwhile, the examples of external factors are family, friends, school, environment and learning strategy.³

The dominant factor that influences students' learning is learning style. It factor that determines the success of learning is to know and understand that every individual has unique style of learning, they are visual,

¹ H.Douglas Brown, *Principle of Language Learning and Teaching* (New York: San Fransisco State University, 2000), *Fourth Edition*,7

² Slameto, *Belajar dan Faktor- Faktor Yang Mempengaruhinya* (Jakarta : Rineka Cipta, 2010), 54

³ Slameto, *Belajar...* , 54

auditory, or kinesthetic are different each other.⁴ Those learning style are most common. According to Dr. Rita Dunn and Dr. Kenneth Dunn in *Dr. Lauren Bradway's article entitled "How Boys and Girls Differ in the Way They Learn"* that they have spent nearly 25 years in the study of learning styles. They identify the most common learning styles as *Auditory, Visual and Tactile*.⁵ VAK learning styles was developed in 1987 by Neil Fleming.⁶ Visual learner prefers to learn by seeing, auditory learner prefers to learn by listening, and kinesthetic learner prefers learn by doing. It means that students should know that learning style is the important factor that helps them to success in learning certain subject. It also develops students' performance in work, school, and personal situation.

Learning style is one of dominant factor because learning style is influenced by our brain.⁷ It is the combination between brain domination of how people manage and deal with information and modality of the easiest way how people deal with information.⁸ Based on the explanation above

⁴ Adi W. Gunawan."Knowing and Understanding Learning Style", (<http://www.cintyasantosa.cz.cc/2011/04/mengenal-dan-memahami-gaya-belajar.html>. Accessed on June 13,2012)

⁵ Dr. Lauren Bradway. . "How Boys and Girls Differ in the Way They Learn" (http://www.leapfrog.com/en/leapfrog_parents/infant/learning_for_life/article_how_boys.html, accessed on July, 12 2012)

⁶ James Withers. VAK of Learning Style Theory. http://www.ehow.com/about_6612058_vark-learning-styles-theory.html, accessed on July 13, 2012)

⁷ Ir.Akhir Winardi." Optimizing The Potential of Children Through Understanding Learning Styles". (<http://ideguru.wordpress.com/2010/04/13/mengoptimalkan-potensi-anak-melalui-pemahaman-gaya-belajar/>. Accessed on June 13, 2012)

⁸ Bobbi DePorter, et.al., *Quantum Learning : Membiasakan Belajar Nyaman dan Menyenangkan*,(Bandung : Kaifa, 2001), 110

learning style is influenced by people brain, because it is a complex organ and has great capacity to learn. It is the way how to deal with information more enjoyable and comfort during learning certain subject. Some of people have brains that are able to deal with a lot of information at once, but some are only capable of absorbing and processing of information gradually. Some are able to store and retrieve information in the brain quickly while others do so slowly.

Everyone has different learning style but each person is a unique. Students' learning style may be influenced by their reaction to personal life experiences, their approaches in learning, and their previous learning habits. In fact, people usually have just one dominant style.⁹ It means every one has different learning style from another, but only one style is dominant people have.

The characteristics of learning style differs one learner from another, such as visual auditory and kinesthetic. It will help learner to determine their strategies in learn certain subject. Strategies are general characteristics that differentiate one individual from another.¹⁰ It help learner to solve their problem in certain learning. Both learning style and strategies have strong

⁹ Bobbi Deporter, et.al., *Quantum Teaching : Mempraktikkan Quantum Learning di Ruang-Ruang Kelas* (Bandung : Kaifa, 2000), 216

¹⁰ H.Douglas Brown, *Principle of Language Learning and Teaching...*, 122

influence in learning¹¹ Based on the explanation above, learning style and strategies have correlation and influence by each other. Students, who understand their learning style, will find certain strategies in learning certain subject and use it in effective way. It helps them to improve their achievement.

According to Supriyadi, the description of learning style will be beneficial for a teacher in implementing teaching activities suitable for his students' learning style which is expected for students to improve achievement.¹² Besides, the use of appropriate learning strategies often results in improved proficiency or achievement overall or in specific skill areas.¹³ From those explanations above both the use of learning style and strategies have beneficial for students to improve an achievement. They have an important role for students', because they make students learn more enjoy, easy, and comfort.

Difficulties that arise in this study during teaching and learning process are the way how a teacher teaches English language that is not suitable with students' learning style. Furthermore, most of students do not recognize their own learning styles and strategies. As a result, they get poor

¹¹ Rebecca, L. Oxford. "Language Learning Style and Strategies". (web.ntpu.edu.tw/~language/.../read2.pdf, accessed on June 15, 2012)

¹² Supriyadi. *Strategi Belajar Mengajar* (Surabaya: Cakrawala Ilmu, 2011), 175

¹³ Rebecca, L. Oxford. "Learning Strategies: An Update", (<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/oxford01.html>, accessed on June 3, 2012)

achievement. Moreover, the teacher uses same technique in teaching English, especially in teaching speaking.

Speaking is one of English language skills .If students want to speak English fluently they have to be able to pronounce correctly. It is also called productive skill because when people speak they produce the language.¹⁴It means that speaking is ne of English language skill that has taught in school. It is not easy for students to speak in English fluently, because speaking is productive skill when students must be able to produce word to communicate with each other.

Teaching speaking is a very important part of second language learning.¹⁵ It is because the goal of teaching speaking is to improve students in communicative skill. As a result, the teacher must be innovative to create good atmosphere in speaking class, because in speaking class students are expected to communicate in second language clearly and efficiently. Sometimes, to speak clearly and efficiently is hard for students. However, there are several factors, such as students usually do not talk in English, but using their own language or mother tongue use. Besides, some of them are afraid of having mistakes when they speak English in the class. As it is a

¹⁴ Jeremy Harmer. The Practice of English Language Teaching(Cambridge: Longman, 2007), 144

¹⁵ Hayriye Kayi.” Teaching Speaking: Activities to Promote Speaking in a Second Language”.(<http://iteslj.org/Techniques/Kayi-TeachingSpeaking.html>. accessed on June 13, 2012)

matter of fact know that there are a lot of activities in speaking class, such as role play, reporting, story telling, small group discussion, debate and so on. However, students need to learn and practice about this subject.

There is a reason why the researcher interested in doing research on this study. Learning styles and strategies are part of one's personality and every one is different. Sometimes, both students and teacher is ignoring it. It is important to know that students' learning style and strategies is also the way how teacher teaches English language subject, because those factors are influenced students' achievement in learning English. Therefore, students will learn best and they have a great deal to control over how well they learn through their learning style.

There are some reasons why the researcher chooses SMA Unggala Sidoarjo. First, based on informal interview between the researcher and students that there are students who like make a note when a teacher gives an explanation certain learning. Furthermore, they not only make a note, but also they need their friends' explanation to make it clear about what teacher said. In the other hand, there are students who need play and touch something around them when they listening teacher explanation, such as play a pen, finger motion, or fold a paper even without any meaning. They do those strategies because it makes them easy to remember and understand teacher's explanation. Besides, they do not know exactly what their learning styles are.

Second, the English teacher, Mr. Tri Pamungkas, recommended the researcher to research students' English speaking because students' English speaking language subject is improved. In classroom activity students are active. In the other hand, the role of teacher is important. As quoted by Ahmad Munirul Habib, in *Born to be Genius* by Adi W.Gunawan, that the role of teacher is important through teaching and the way he teaches.¹⁶ It helps them understand, enjoy learning something and improved their achievement in certain learning. Besides, the role of teacher helps students knowing what their learning style and they will find their strategy in certain learning. Based on informal observation, the researcher found that the English teacher gives various techniques that make students interest in English speaking. Moreover, he uses any tools in English speaking, such as picture, role play, and small group discussion.

From those situations, the researcher concerns about “An Analysis of Students' VAK (Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic) Learning Style and Strategies in English Speaking at SMA Unggala Sidoarjo”

¹⁶Ahmad Muhinul Habib. Pengaruh *Gaya Belajar Siswa dan Kreatifitas Guru Terhadap Prestasi Belajar Mata Pelajaran Ekonomi MAN Tlogo Kabupaten Blitar*. UIN Malang. 2010. (lib.uin-malang.ac.id/thesis/.../06130056-ahmad-munirul-habib.ps, accessed on May 12, 2012)

B. Statement of Problem

1. How are students' VAK learning styles in English speaking of second grade SMA Unggala Sidoarjo ?
2. What are students' VAK strategies in English speaking of second grade at SMA Unggala Sidoarjo?

C. Objective of the Study

1. To know students' VAK learning styles in English speaking of second grade at SMA Unggala Sidoarjo
2. To know students' VAK strategies in English speaking of second grade at SMA Unggala Sidoarjo

D. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to have two benefits. They are:

1. Theoretically. This research results are expected to contribute to the development of education, especially in a learning style and strategies in English speaking language subject.
2. Practically. This study is expected to give benefit for :
 - a. Students : By understanding learning styles and strategies, they will be able to improve their achievement in English speaking language subject.

- b. Teacher : It will gives a teacher real description about learning style and strategies of his students and also the importance of knowing his students' learning style to improve his students' achievement in English speaking
- c. Researcher : By knowing the finding of this thesis, she will know the importance of knowing learning style and strategies used by students in learning English speaking.

E. Scope and limitation

In order to avoid the misunderstanding discussion, it is important for the writer to limit the topic of the discussion. The scope of this research is students' learning style and strategies in English speaking at SMA Unggala Sidoarjo. This research limited on the learning style and strategies as their preference learning English speaking.

F. Definition of key term

1. Learning style: It is habit, strategies, or regular behaviors concerning learning, particularly deliberate educational learning that an individual displays¹⁷.

In this study, learning style is the best way how students enjoy learning certain subject, based on their preference, whether visual, auditory or kinesthetic.

¹⁷ Alan Pritchard, *Ways Of Learning Second Edition* (New York : Routledge, 2009), 41

2. Strategies: specific methods of approaching a problem or task¹⁸, it also an action or series of action for achieving an aim.¹⁹

In this study, learning strategies is specific action that students used in learning certain subject and those actions make them easy and enjoy dealing with information.

G. Research Report Writing Organization

1. Introduction

In this chapter the researcher explain about background of study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key term

2. Review of Related Literature

In this chapter the researcher explain about learning style, it is include definition of learning style and the type of learning style, theory of learning style, learning strategies for VAK learning Styles, various perspective of learning style, definition of speaking, teaching speaking, characteristics of successful speaking, types of speaking activities and previous study.

¹⁸ H.Douglas Brown. "Principle of Language Learning and Teaching". Fourth Edition. (New York: San Fransisco State University 2000), 113

¹⁹ Summer Della, Dictionary of American English, Pearson Education

3. Research Method

In this chapter the researcher explain about research design, population and sample, subject of the study, source data, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis.

4. Findings and Discussion

In this chapter the researcher explain about the result of students learning style questionnaire, observation and interview.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

In this chapter the researcher describe about conclusion in this study and also suggestion.