ABSTRACT
This research was conducted to prove that applying short conversation can improve speaking skill of the eight grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu by using pre-experimental research design. The sample was the eight grade students which consisted of twenty one students. The researcher employed total sampling technique and adopted one group pre-test and post-test design. She used test for his research instrument in form of pre-test and post-test. The data gained was analysed in statistically. The result of the data analysis indicated that the hypothesis was accepted. It had proved by tcounted (5.300) being higher than ttable (1.725). In other words, the applying of short conversation can improve students’ speaking skill of the eight grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu significantly.

Keywords: improving, speaking, skill, strategy, short conversation.
INTRODUCTION
In daily life, people need to interact with others, by using of a language. In order to use language correctly and avoid misunderstandings, we have to learn the four skills of language namely: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Furthermore, its components are also needed to be mastered such as vocabulary, structure, pronunciation and spelling.

In Indonesia, English has been taught as a foreign language from elementary school up to university level. It shows us how important English to be mastered. Especially at junior high school, it is stated in the curriculum of SMP that teaching English focuses not only on making or encouraging students to master English but also on enabling to use English for communication.

In the classroom, it is the role of the teachers to choose the strategy for learning. Many students want to be able to communicate in English fluently. The willingness to speak means that the students want to improve their speaking skill. There are many ways to be used in the classroom to motivate student to improve their speaking skill, such as dialogues, drama, simulation or having short conversations. All of the ways to improve students’ speaking skill can make different results between one and others.

The researcher did observation in the classroom. She observed the interaction between teacher and students when teaching and learning English on process. Almost all of students were quiet, need a long time to answer and sometimes using Indonesian when teacher give some questions to students. According to their teacher, many students can not interacting by using English with their friends or teacher, even though they have been studying English more than a year. So that is why the researcher interest to solve that problem. The researcher choose short conversation as way to improve students’ speaking skill.

The researcher is interested in conducting this research because speaking is the skill that the students should improve in learning a foreign language. In this era of globalisation, the competency to use the language is much more important than knowing just the structure itself. So, the researcher would like to find out if the speaking skill of the students can be improved through the teaching of short conversations.

METHOD
Research Design
The writer employed an experimental research. This means that there are some teachings applied to the sample group, which were the eight grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu.

Population and Sample
The population of this research was the eight grade students which consisted of 1 (one) class. The total number of population was 24 students. All the population will be used the sample in this
research. Sample is actually a certain portion extracted from the total population which is employed in a research and must be representative indeed. So, all the eight grade students became the experimental group in this research. They received treatment.

**Research instruments**

Instruments are tools used in a research to help achieving the objective of research. The instruments were used by the writer in this research are observation, test and interview for the teacher. Observation was done in the classroom to check the interaction between the teacher and students. Test was given to the students after the observation and will be based on the curriculum of junior high school. Then again, at the end of the research, the writer gave the test again. Interview was addressed to the teacher in relation to the teaching of speaking skill.

**FINDINGS**

**Components of Speaking Skill**

Speaking should be supported by some language components. The mastery of language components of speaking can help the student to speak. There are some components of speaking that should be mastered by the student. They are accuracy, fluency and comprehensibility.

**Problem in Speaking**

There are two of the most common problem which are faced by the students when using spoken English: 1) Following other speakers; and 2) Expressing themselves but they do not have the exact words.

**Short Conversation**

Short conversation usually involves a short explanation for one particular think or idea or situation (Rubin and Thompson, 1994). One person will ask the other one who will explain to the first speaker of what is being questioned. The learners or speakers are free to decide how to develop the conversation.

The teacher can start or create the situation in which students or learners will have to talk. The conversation can be written up on the board. Ways of developing it might be discussed and the students should not need to look at the text when they are practicing their conversation.

It is best if the students are given situation in which they are familiar with so that they are able to explain properly and accurately when they are doing the conversation. The teacher gives the situation firstly to the students and then the students can discussed between them on what they should talk about in their conversation. New vocabularies will come out as the students try to explain the situation.

**Technique of Collecting Data**

To collect the data, firstly the writer interviewed the students to get some information about the speaking skill of the students. Then, the writer gave pretest to the students. Then, the writer
administered treatment by using short conversation technique to the students. Next, the writer gave posttest to measure the students’ speaking skill after the implementation of the treatment. The writer also gave observation checklist to the students which sometimes used in the interview, pretest, treatment or during the posttest time.

Scope of the Research

The researcher focuses on the improvement of the student’s speaking skill after the teacher giving them more short conversation. The conversation, is based on the topic in the textbook. She just focuses on accuracy/pronunciation, fluency and comprehensibility. On the students in speaking because it is more important among the students. The main topic took from the book, but the researcher developed or made new conversation.

Hypothesis of the Study

In an experimental research, it is important to have a hypothesis as the aim that want to be achieved from the research. The hypothesis of this research is: the student’s speaking skill of the eight grade of the eight of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu can be improved through short conversation.

Operational Definition of Key Terms

To avoid possible misunderstanding, the key term of definition as follows:
1. Improving is defined as an effort to make students’ ability is better than before.
2. Speaking skill is interaction that always use language as the tool to communicate with other people.
3. Short conversation is one way of teaching that use in Improved Student Speaking Skill

The Result of Testing Hypothesis

On this section, the researcher would prove whether the hypothesis of this reseracher was accepted or rejected. The researcher had done testing procedure that was intended to know whether short conversation could improved students’ speaking skill or not.

Criteria of testing hypothesis are: if tcouonted value is higher than ttable value, the Ha of this research is accepted. It this case, applying short conversation can improved students’ speaking skill of the eight grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu. In other words, the treatment conducted has significant effect toward improvement of students’ speaking.

In relation to those stetaments, the researcher had analyzed the data by using formulation of ttest. By looking at the procedure of computation previously, the researcher presented that tcouonted value was 5.300. Although tcouonted value was higher than ttable value, but it was not too significant difference.

To know the significant difference of ttest, the researcher compared between value of tcouonted (5.300) and ttable (1.725), by consulting 20 of the degree of freedom (df) N-1=21-1 with 0.05 level of significance. In the conclusion that tcouonted value was higher than ttable value, thus the hypothesis of this research was accepted. In other words, it proved that short conversation can improved students’ speaking skill of the eight grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu.
DISCUSSION

This research conducted to know the impact of applying short conversation in improving students’ speaking skill. On the previous explanation had explained that there was an improvement of students’ speaking skill of the eight grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu. Although, their speaking had improved, but it was not too significant difference. It was caused that there were about six sample was constant score between pre-test and post-test.

The researcher realized that during applying the treatment, she got many interventions from around environment. For instance: some students often went out of classroom while she was teaching. Because they had to participate in the extracurriculars of that school. In addition, some teachers ever interrupted the teaching and learning process, because students’ problem in administration school. Their concentration had lost when they were speaking discourse because they had to pay attention to the teachers who called their name on that time. Consequently, the researcher assumed that the six students who did not indicate their speaking improvement caused of those conditions.

During conducting this research, the researcher got difficulties in preparing the material discourse when applying the treatment. She had to prepare the example of short conversations that related with the learning topic well. Besides, the learning topic had to be adapted of the syllabus of the school. So it needed extraordinary efforts.

When applying the treatment, the researcher got many problems, but they could be overcome. This treatment required extraordinary focus of the students in speaking about the topic, so the researcher has to manage them in doing exercise totally. Therefore, every readers, researchers and teachers that will apply this treatment, they may consider some problems informed above. The teacher needs to overcome everything that might be an obstacle in applying the treatment to teach speaking. Because of the students do not listen the conversation only, but they have to understand its meaning too.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

She researcher had conducted his research about speaking skill at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu. She took 21 students of eight grade as her population and sample. The researcher conducted treatment for six meetings. After gathering and analyzing data, the researcher concluded that the students’ speaking skill of the eight grade SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Palu could be improved by using short conversation. Short conversation is a strategy where the students activate their background knowledge and experience to predict the intention of discourse given.

Suggestion

Conducting a research is not as easy as thinking, especially for experimental research. It needs many times, effort, and budget. During conducting this research, the research had faced many obstacles, but they could be overcome. The researcher as the writer of this writing realizes that there
are many flaws of this research. Nevertheless, this research also can be utilized by people read it. In this case, the researcher has several suggestions for the people who are active in educational world, particularly in improving of English teaching and learning process in the school or university.

For the English teachers, they should teach English integratedly of four skills. Based on the reality in the field, speaking is one and only skill that was rarely included in their teaching and learning process particularly. Whereas, speaking is one skill that was examined in the national examination. They should find out an appropriate approach, method, strategy, even technique to teach speaking for the students particularly.

For the students, they have to make their hearing or speaking ability to hear and understand some English conversation or English spoken of the native speaker frequently. It can be from English musics, movies, and discourse. Having think that it is not only listen but they have to understand too its meaning.

For the researchers, they can use this research as their reference. They have to conduct more research about speaking. Because speaking is very important for the students in English teaching and learning process. He/she has to think that in conducting a research, condition, situation, and enviroment of research field can influnce the process his/her research, then the result can be unexpectable.

REFERENCES