

## ABSTRACT

**Maghfiroh, A.** 2010. *Communication Strategies Used by the Students of English Club (a case at SMA Negeri 1 Pekalongan in the academic year of 2009- 2010)*. Final Project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. First Advisor: Widhiyanto, S. Pd, M. Pd. Second Advisor: Dr. Dwi Anggani Linggar B., M.Pd.

**Key words: communication strategies, Celce Murcia et al, conversation, English club.**

This final project is based on a study which attempts to investigate the use of communication strategies in conversation activities. In conducting conversation in foreign language especially in English, the students might face some difficulties as they have to learn grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary items, and other linguistic aspects of the target language. These difficulties can lead to a communication breakdown which happens when the learner can not deliver the message or transfer the goal of communication. Therefore, in order to keep the conversation run smoothly and to avoid the communication breakdowns, the speakers attempt to use some strategies in order to achieve their goals of communication. The purpose of this study is to investigate communication strategies which are used by the students of English club at SMA N 1 Pekalongan while doing their communication activities. This study attempts to discover the strategies and then describe them in a qualitative way through an analysis which is based on some theories related to the study.

The approach used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. In this study, the researcher played a role as a data analyst. The data were obtained from recorded conversations done by twelve students who were divided into four groups consisted of three students for each. Each group was asked to conduct a conversation which was then recorded and transcribed. The transcripts of the conversations were analyzed in order to discover the communication strategies employed in the conversations. The analysis was based on the classification of communication strategies proposed by Celce Murcia et al (1995).

The results indicated that almost all of the strategies proposed were used as the attempts to compensate for breakdowns in the conversations. It was found that the most used strategy was stalling or time gaining strategy specifically hesitation device which took 47.90% of total calculation of the strategies used. Based on the analysis of the study, it can be concluded that the use of communication strategies are beneficial as the effort to avoid communication breakdowns and to keep the goal of communication in conversation activities. Therefore, the existence and theories of communication strategies should be introduced to the students as one of the efforts or strategies that can be used to improve the mastery of speaking skill.