

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Problem

Speaking skill, is one of the skills that give us the ability to communicate effectively. Speaking skills can be defined as an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves the production, reception and processing of information. Speaking skills are the most uses skills rather than the other as Rivers said in Torky Speaking is used twice as much as reading and writing in our communication.¹ English has an important role in building up and maintaining a smooth communication as well as a good relationship among students. In this era, students need English to participate and to access information. Therefore, Researcher has shown that language output is important in helping students develop their second language by encouraging them to speak.²

Speaking is the act of constructing meaning through the use of spoken and unspoken signs, in a variety of different circumstances and then conveying this meaning to others. Bouzar stated that Speaking is the activity of sharing feelings and thoughts using spoken language. Apart from

¹ Shima Abd EL Fattah Torky. *The Effectiveness of a Task-Based Instruction Program in Developing the English Language Speaking Skill of Secondary Stage Students*, (Cairo: Ain Shams University, 2006). p.14.

² Christine C. M. Goh & Anne Burns, *Teaching Speaking: A Holistic Approach* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2012), p. 16.

writing, listening, and reading skills, this skill is considered one of the most difficult aspects of learning a foreign language.³ However, sometimes when learning to speak English students can often understand what other students are saying, but they are not able to communicate it. This may occur due to lack of practice, lack of mastery of vocabulary and grammar, the students have difficulties to develop and arrange their ideas for speaking. Thornbury stated that speaking could be an ability and has to be developed and practiced severally.⁴

Based on initial observations at SMKN 4 Serang, there were several problems in learning English, students who had low interest in learning English. There are several factors that cause this, they are not interested in learning English because they feel that English is not the language used in everyday communication. Apart from that, lack of vocabulary mastery, students difficulties to develop and arrange their ideas for speaking. And teachers need to use effective and applicable media to improve speaking skills.

From the prior problems, researcher want to improve students' speaking skills through digital media. The use of digital media in the learning process today is not just an option. However, the use of digital

³ Bouzar. *Fostering students' Speaking Ability Through English Club Activities*, (Arab World English Journal vol. 13. No 3, 2019) p. 417.

⁴ Scott Thornbury, *How to Teach Speaking*, (Longman: New York), 2005, p.1

media has become a requirement for all teachers to be able to use it as an effort to make it easier for students in the learning process.⁵ It cannot be denied that currently the use of digital media is very popular as an authentic medium for learning and interesting.

Digital media is nothing new in the world of 21st century education. Research uses digital media to help optimize learning and achieve learning goals. In the world of learning in the current digital era, students are required to be skilled in using technological tools and apply practices appropriately. The introduction of technology starts from the use of digital-based media in the learning process at school. Research proves that digital-based multimedia has a better influence on language learning. The digital media system was developed based on a rational or real form, making it easier for students to understand the material. Teaching speaking in English language learning requires appropriate techniques or methods for successful learning. One of the methods used is learning English through the Noice application to improve students' English language skills.

The Noice application is the first audio content house in Indonesia which has radio, music and podcast content, which is a subsidiary of PT Mahakam Radio Integra Tbk (MARI) which was first established in 2018. The Noice application was founded by the Minister of State-Owned

⁵ Lukman Arif, *Improving Students' Speaking Ability Through Mobile Social Networking*, (Makassar: Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar, 2016), p. 23.

Enterprises (BUMN) namely Erick Thohir, with the vision of becoming a forum and driver for the ecosystem of local content creators in Indonesia by providing podcast, radio, audiobook and live audio streaming features. This podcast application is packaged creatively, freshly and provides features for the use of several languages, therefore the Noice application is suitable for use as a medium for learning to speak English.

Based on the researcher observation on March 8, 2023 in English speaking skill materials in the tenth grade at SMKN 4 Serang majoring in accounting and office management.⁶ The result of interviews with English teachers at school, the reason why students have problems with speaking skills is that some students experience difficulties such as lack of practice speaking English, lack of mastery of vocabulary and grammar, students have difficulties to develop and arrange their ideas for speaking, and students have no interest in speaking English. This happens because of monotonous media learning and a lack of teachers variety of strategy in teaching English.

Therefore, researcher offer digital media, namely Noice, a more interesting application to help students improve their speaking skills. Researcher focused on this research. The problems faced by students range from difficulties in lack of practice speaking English, lack of mastery of

⁶ The Class in Observation are Conducted on March 8, 2023

vocabulary and grammar, students have difficulties to develop and arrange their ideas for speaking. By using English Listening and Speaking, more and more students are practicing speaking inside and outside the classroom. Using Noice application can help students become better English speakers in a more skilled way.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to conduct quasi-experimental research which is entitled:

“Fostering Speaking Skills Through Noice Application (A Quasi-Experimental Research at the Tenth Grade of SMKN 4 Serang)”.

B. Identification of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher identifies the students' problems in speaking are as follows:

1. Lack of speaking practice.
2. Lack of mastery of vocabulary and grammar in students.
3. The students have difficulties to develop and arrange their ideas for speaking.
4. The students have no interest in speaking English.
5. Teachers need to use effective and applicable media to improve speaking skills.

C. Research Questions

The problems can be defined as something that is normal or not normal. The formulation of the problem is usually in the form of questions to be asked the source of the problem. Based on limitation of the problems, the researcher proposes three research questions as follows:

1. How was the speaking skills at the tenth grade of SMKN 4 Serang before given treatment?
2. Does Noice application has a significant effect on students' speaking skills?

D. Objectives of the Research

According to the problems stated above, the objectives to be achieved in this study are as follow:

1. To observe students' speaking skills at class tenth grade of SMKN 4 Serang before giving treatment
2. To test how effective the tester is in improving students' speaking skills

E. Research Significance

There are two fold of significance of this research, they are theoretically and practically. On one hand, theoretical benefits this research is expected to give valuable contribution especially on adding treasure of knowledge related to the development of speaking theories and use of learning.

On the other hand, the result of this research are expected to provide benefits to many classes, especially for the researcher, English teachers and students:

1. For Students

- a. Students can improve speaking skills
- b. Students can use the Noice application in everyday life to learn English.

2. For Teachers

- a. Providing innovation to teachers with learning media through the Noice application
- b. Helping teachers identify problems in teaching speaking

3. For school

- a. Become a more developed educational facility by learning new digital strategies
- b. Help schools in active and innovative learning strategies

F. Previous Studies

In conducting research, to make this research valid, the researcher used three previous studies to back up the researcher's findings.

The first research was conducted by Malahayati (2020), "*Improving Students' Listening Skills Through Podcast*". The research shows how to improve understanding of podcast listening skills in eighth grade students at MTs Islamiyah Gunting Saga in the 2019/2020 academic year. Data analysis shows an increase in students' listening skills through podcast. Researcher

used qualitative research, data collection methods used by means of tests, interviews, observation and documentation. The aim of this research is to find out whether podcasts can improve students' listening skills. Based on the findings, there are similarities in the research that will be carried out by researcher, namely focusing on podcast application. But there were differences, that used a quantitative method of quasi-experimental classroom research with pre-test and post-test treatment. This design is uses to compare the results of student learning achievement when using a control class and an experimental class for tenth grade students by improving students' speaking skills.

The second research was conducted by Alfauzan (2019), *“Improving Students Speaking Ability Through Mobile Social Networking”*. The research focuses on how to improve students' abilities in learning English speaking for tenth grade students at SMAN 8 Makassar, by using social networks as open material media specifically using Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. The type of research used in this research is quasi-experimental with pre-test and post-test treatment. This design is used to compare student learning achievement results when using a control class and an experimental class. Based on the findings, there are similarities in the research that will that will be carried out by researcher, namely focusing on speaking ability and quantitative method. But there were significance

differences between the result of using social networks, specifically using Facebook, Instagram or Twitter applications as media for teaching materials, while this research used the Noice application to improve the English speaking skills of tenth grade students at SMKN 4 Serang using this podcast application.

The third research was conducted by Belinda Lesmana (2022), "*Using ELSA Speak Application to Improve Students' Speaking Skill at UPT SMPN 17 Makassar*". The research aims to use the ELSA (English Learning Speech Assistant) learning application as an effective learning medium to improve students' ability to improve English speaking skills. The type of research used in this research is quasi-experimental with pre-test and post-test treatment. This design is used to compare student learning achievement results when using a control class and an experimental class. Based on the findings, there are similarities in the research that will be carried out by researcher, namely focusing on speaking ability and quantitative method. But there were differences research on the seventh grade of junior high school, as an experiment using the ELSA application, while this research used the higher class at the tenth grade of SMKN, using the Noice application to see its effectiveness.

However, from the previous studies, researcher found similarities and differences. previously, researcher used qualitative methods with types of data collection using tests, interviews, observations and documentation using supporting media such as Facebook applications, Instagram or podcasts in the teaching and learning process for lower classes. And the difference with previous studies is that the application of the current research method uses a quantitative method, namely a type of quasi-experimental class that is tested in tenth grade in order to improve speaking skills using specific Noice application. Therefore, researcher believe that this research is new and will make a significant contribution to improving speaking skills through the Noice Application.

G. Hypothesis of The Research

The hypothesis of the research are formulated as follows:

1. Null hypothesis (Ho): There was not a significant effect of using Noice application in improving student's speaking skills.
2. Alternative hypothesis (Ha): There was a significant effect of using Noice application in improving student's speaking skills.