CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

      Speaking skills are an essential skill that students must master in order to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. It is also an important aspect of language learning and can help students to improve their general language skills. During communication, language plays an important role in conveying purpose to others. Language allows people to express their thoughts and feelings. Life, communication and language are inseparable. There are many areas in which language can be used, including education, society, politics, business and culture. Speaking skills are one aspect of language skills that is very important in the learning process. Good speaking skills not only help students to communicate, but also have a positive impact on their critical thinking skills, self-expression and social skills. Speaking is a skill that deserves attention in both first and second languages.

      Changing times, especially with technological developments and globalization, require individuals to have good speaking skills in order to communicate effectively in various contexts, both at the local and global levels. In the era of globalization, English has increasingly become the medium of communication in various fields. English is considered an international language and a second language in many countries around the world. In Indonesia, English is considered a foreign language because it is a language learned in an environment where it is not the main means of daily interaction and the use of the language is restricted. Even though English is

considered difficult to learn and use, it still attracts people to learn it.

Speaking is one of the components of language, so everyone needs to understand language, especially speaking skills.[1]

Richards in Kaharuddin states that it might be challenging for certain students to master the art of speaking during engagement. Nonetheless, students must become accustomed to this kind of speaking if they hope to engage with others in the global community. It will be challenging for those without the skills to communicate interactively to build harmonious relationships with others through the use of interactional speaking.[2]

Creating and communicating meaning via the use of both spoken and non-spoken symbols is the process of speaking. Speaking is an essential component of teaching and learning a second language.[3] In the modern world, speaking instruction must aim to enhance students' communicative abilities so that they can express themselves and pick up language usage skills. The pupils struggled to speak in situations like pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

English teachers should use creativity in the classroom,

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[1] St. Asmayanti & Rezcy Amalia, "S*peaking Is an Interaction for Exchanging Ideas When Two or More People Speak. It Allows Students to Work Together in Speaking and Allows Students to Practice This in a Realistic Environment*.," 2016, 1–23; Ika Sastrawati, "Improving the Students' Ability To Write Descriptive Paragraph Through Draw Label Caption (Dlc) Technique," *Exposure : Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Inggris* 4, no. 1 (2015): 1, https://doi.org/10.26618/ejpbi.v4i1.917.

[2] *Muh Fauzan, "Improving Student's Speaking Ability Through Mobile Social Networking (Pre-Experiment Researh at the Tenth Grade of SMA Negeri 8 Makassar*)," 2019, 1–108; Trung Tâm et al., 01, no. Dlc (2016): 1–23.

[3] Lusi Marleni, Nurhidayah Sari, and Vitri Angraini Hardi, "Improving the Students' Speaking Skill by Using Tik Tok Application," *Lembaga Pengabdian, Dan Pahlawan, Universitas Tambusai, Tuanku*, 2021, https://staff.universitaspahlawan.ac.id/upload/riset/.pdf.

provide a positive learning environment, help students become better speakers, focus on the spoken word, and make learning English more engaging. Active practice is necessary if you wish to talk clearly. Speakers can effectively convey their message with experience. Speaking activities such as this one can actually help teachers explain things in the classroom and help their speaker's communication abilities. Using digital book is one method to assist pupils in improving their speaking abilities.

One of the main problems often faced by seventh-grade students at SMPN 5 Sobang is the lack of interest and motivation in learning to speak English. Many students in the seventh grade at SMPN 5 Sobang feel that the material presented is less relevant or uninteresting, causing them to lose interest in practicing. They may focus more on reading or writing aspects rather than speaking, which is actually very important in effective communication.

In the first four years of learning English, students should ideally have a solid foundation in speaking. However, in reality, many seventh-grade students at SMPN 5 Sobang still struggle to express their ideas in English, either due to a lack of vocabulary, fear of making mistakes, or limited opportunities to speak in real-life situations. As a result, their speaking skills stagnate or do not develop as expected.

One potential solution to overcome this problem is by using the Let's Read Asia platform, which provides a variety of engaging reading materials and activities in English. Let's Read Asia offers stories tailored to the students' skill levels, which can encourage them to practice speaking more actively and increase their interest in learning English. With a more interactive and fun approach, students

can feel more involved in the learning process, which in turn can boost their motivation to practice speaking English more frequently.

This platform not only helps students enrich their vocabulary through stories but also provides relevant contexts for use in daily conversations. Moreover, by reading interesting stories, students can build better comprehension skills, which will support their overall speaking abilities.

Using Let's Read Asia can be an effective solution for improving students' English-speaking skills for several reasons. First, it provides an engaging learning experience: interesting stories will enhance students' motivation and interest in learning and speaking English. Second, vocabulary enhancement: students can expand their vocabulary through stories, which will support their speaking skills. Third, contextual learning: students can learn how to use English in everyday contexts through relevant story narratives. Fourth, easy access and interactivity: this platform is easily accessible and offers a more interactive learning method compared to conventional approaches. Therefore, *Let's Read Asia* can be a valuable tool for addressing students' difficulties in speaking English while also increasing their overall interest in learning the language.

B. Identification Of Problem

The problem identification, the research's main focus is on using Let's Read Asia Digital Books to improve speaking abilities.

C. Scope and Limitation Problem

The primary issue as stated in the research backdrop will be the writer's primary emphasis in this investigation. The study will look at Let's ReadAsia, the digital book, as a tool for enhancing

pupils' speaking skills. The class being researched, Smpn 5 Sobang class Seventh, will be the site of the research.

D. Formulation of problem

Based on the description in the background of research, the identification of problem and limitation of problem, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. Is There Improvement of students'speaking skill usig digital book Let's read asia?

E. Objective of study
The Objective of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the extent to which students' speaking skills have developed after the implementation of the Let's Read Asia digital book usage.

F. Study significance

The benefits of this study can be categorized into theoretical, practical, and specific benefits for students, teachers, and researchers:

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to provide information and knowledge regarding the use of Let's Read Asia on students' speaking abilities using the Digital Book Let's Read Asia

2. Practically

In practical terms, the findings of this study should be valuable to educators, learners, and researchers alike.

a. The instructor should advise the English teacher about using Let's Read Asia to teach speaking skills to students.

b. Students can benefit from this research by learning more about how using Let's Read Asia affects students' speaking ability.

c. For The Investigator For the author, the research is significant since it offers avenues for professional, scholarly, and personal development. Furthermore, the purpose of this research is to assess interesting subjects and gain a deeper comprehension of the field. And students' speaking abilities can be enhanced through the use of digital books as a learning tool

G. Writing Organization

This study is divided into five chapters, which contains several points that describe the chapter.

Chapter I Introduction, covers Background of the research, Scope and Limitation of problem, Formulation of problem, Objective of Study, Significance of Study and Writing Organization.

Chapter II Theoretical Framework, covers Definition Of Speaking, Components Of English Speaking,Principles Of Teaching English, Indicators Of Assesing Speaking Skill.Definition Digital Book (Let's Read Asia),an Digital Book (Let's Read Asia) as Learning Media.

Chapter III Research Methodology, covers Research Design, Population and Sample Research, Research Instrument, Data Collection Technique and Data Analysis Technique.

Chapter IV Finding and Discussion, this chapter explains the description of data, analysis of data, statistic analysis and interpretation.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion, which is the last chapter in a part of discussion from chapter I to chapter V. This chapter aims to make it easier for readers to understand the essence of this research which includes conclusion and suggestion.

The last part of this research report includes: bibliography, attachments, curriculum vitae, research permit, statement of authenticity of work.