

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the research, statement of the problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definitions.

1.1 Background of the Research

English has become the global language of communication for the peoples of the world. In fact, it is now common for English to be referred to as an international or even global language. Being fluent in English has become one factor that influences social or even economic aspects in order to run a business life. In any company in the modern world of open economies, the ability to speak English is one of the principal requirements of employees and stakeholders alike. To meet the demands of the global economy, sound English speaking skills have become the medium for ease of communication. The Ministry of Education has stated that English is needed, especially in the development of Indonesian human resources towards the digital economy, in order to compete globally (The Ministry of Education, 2020). Mastery of English is a mandatory course at the school level since elementary (see also the government regulation 2020). Students are expected to use English in various situations, both in and out of their classrooms, and with local or even foreign communities. But the reality that occurs in a huge number of students is that speaking ability frequently fails to meet the required standard.

Speaking is one of the important skills in language learning besides listening, writing, and reading. Speaking is an activity of giving and asking for information as if dialoguing with two or more people. In teaching and learning English as a foreign language, most students can not speak English well. Related to this condition, there are several factors that cause difficulties. There are internal and external factors. Internal factors come from the students themselves. These concern personality factors. There might be justifiable reasons for this, not least that students feel too shy to speak what comes in their mind, make mistakes, and they

might struggle with pronunciation or have not had enough time to practice. It has also been claimed that students do not have enough opportunities to use their English skills in 'real life' situations. Since, the spread of Covid-19, all systems have been disrupted, including the education aspect. On March 16, 2020, the Government of Indonesia adopted a policy of temporarily closing the teaching and learning process at all schools and universities. Our students are not attending school and the government is trying to support the continuity of education by utilizing technology. The latest Insights into the State of Digital 2021 mentioned that the statistic data showed from 274,9 millions Indonesian citizen, 170 millions are indicated as media social users. The number of social media users in Indonesia increased by 10 million which same with 6,3% between 2020 and 2021 and several learning application also used to support the teaching and learning process such Zoom with 257,853 users and it followed with Skype, and Hangouts Meet as the most widely used video conferencing application. Since Indonesian students are required to study from home through an online learning system and all learning subjects are taught through e-learning, including speaking. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in observing and finding out the perception of students of learning speaking with e-learning method. Therefore, the researcher became curious and tried to investigate this with a research entitled **"THE PERCEPTION OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA NU AL MA'RUF KUDUS TOWARDS E-LEARNING TO TEACH SPEAKING SKILL"**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on background's explanation above, the researcher formulated the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What kind of e-learning application used to teach speaking to the eleventh grade students of SMA NU AL MA'RUF Kudus in academic year 2020/2021?

2. How is the perception of the eleventh grade students of SMA NU AL MA'RUF Kudus towards e-learning to teach speaking skill in academic year 2020/2021?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the problem, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To find out the kind of e-learning application that teacher use to teach speaking skill in the eleventh grade students of SMA NU AL MA'RUF Kudus in academic year 2020/2021.
2. To describe the perception of the eleventh grade students of SMA NU AL MA'RUF Kudus towards e-learning to teach speaking skill in the academic year 2020/2021.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The result of the study is expected to be beneficial theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to give information related to students' point of view in teaching speaking skills through E-Learning. Moreover, this study provides a favorable description for further research to become a useful reference for another researcher that is studying the same case.
2. Practically, this study hopefully can be used as a reference for other teachers to teach English subjects, especially speaking skills, through the E-Learning method and have an enjoyable class with an active, effective, and efficient learning method.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The limitation of this research is the perception of students towards e-learning for speaking skills. Asking and giving opinions, Expressing satisfaction and dissatisfaction, Expressing pleasure and displeasure, Expressing love and sadness, Expressing anger and annoyance are several materials that are taught in English classes that contain speaking competency. In this research, the researchers explored

more about the kinds of e-learning application that teachers used to teach speaking and how students receive the material for their speaking skills This research was conducted at SMA NU AL MA'RUF Kudus, particularly during the even semester period of 2020/2021.

1.6 Operational Definition

1. The perception of students means the foundation of their point of view and the values that they have related to studying by using e-learning.
2. E-learning means a learning system that utilizes the internet with new multimedia technology that offer the quality of learning by facilitating access to various resources, includes the following features which refers to students' freedom of time, place, speed, learning style, content, kind of learning, and type of evaluation.
3. Speaking skill means one of four skills in English as international language that categorized as active/productive skill.