

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Speaking is the most crucial of the four language skills, as it is the primary means of communication in today's globalized world (Raruoalli Srinivas Rao, 2019). English proficiency is usually measured by speaking ability. For first-year students who are learning English for the first time, their main focus is on learning spoken language. They have been learning English, but in a broader and more general context. In the English department, they are prepared to improve their speaking skills, starting with the basics spoken English. Most freshmen have a low level of English proficiency due to lack of exposure, ineffective learning methods, and lack of practice and motivation. Therefore, it is necessary to provide supporting media to help students improve their skills.

In fact, individuals can enhance their fundamental linguistic abilities when they receive input. As posited by (Liu, 2015) suggests that exposure to comprehensible input alone is sufficient for second language learning. One of the most pivotal stages in the process of acquiring a language is exposure to the target language.

There are various media that can be employed to facilitate this exposure, with video podcasts being one such example. A video podcast is a podcast format that incorporates both audio and visual elements. This format represents a progression from traditional podcasts, which previously relied solely on audio, by including video elements such as the host's facial expressions, graphics, or visual

demonstrations (McGregor, 2022). Video podcasts have been an innovative solution in language learning. (Pedrero-Esteban et al., 2023) explained that the combination of audio and visual elements in video podcasts can attract students' interest and deepen their understanding. Thus, students gain a more interactive and in-depth learning experience.

One of the biggest advantages of video podcasts is the ease of flexibility in the learning process. According to (Syahria et al., 2021), the results of data analysis showed that 75 participants had a positive view of the use of Podcasts in learning Listening and Speaking. The main factor underlying their positive attitude was the flexibility of Podcasts in their use, including ease of access, customisable frequency of use, as well as the flexibility given to individuals. This provides an opportunity for students to not only learn the theory, but also apply it in practice.

While this issue has been addressed by various learning media, however, previous studies mostly were only focused on audio-based podcast to help students in their listening and speaking skills, and the use of video podcasts that integrate visual and audio has not been so much studied. Given this gap, the research sought to fill the gap by investigating the effectiveness of the video podcast as a learning medium to improve the speaking skill of the new university students.

The objective of this research is to examine wheter podcast effective used in improving students' basic spoken English skills through the application of English video podcasts. According to (Ramli & Kurniawan, 2018), podcasts offer great potential for listening and speaking skills and form an exciting learning situation. After considering the various benefits offered by video podcasts, the

researcher is interested in conducting further research on how effective of podcasts used in improving students' basic spoken English skills.

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, the writer formulates the research question, which is: Is podcasts effective used as a leveraging tool to enhance basic spoken English skills students?

C. Objective Of The Research

The objective of this study is to examine the effectiveness of podcast as a medium in improving basic spoken english skills among learners.

D. Significance Of The Research

The results of this study are expected to have benefits both in terms of theory and practice.

1. Theroretical Benefits

This research is expected to increase knowledge and contribute to the development of English learning media, especially by providing a deeper understanding of the use of English podcasts as a means of learning in basic speaking skills.

2. Practical Benefits

The practical significance is aimed at lecturers, students, readers and future researchers.

a. Lecturer

This research can be used as a reference for teachers in creating learning media that is interesting and not boring for students. The use of English podcasts can also produce flexible learning materials.

b. Students

The use of English podcasts as learning media in improving speaking skills can provide new innovations and make the learning process more interesting, so that students can understand the material better.

c. Readers

This research can help readers to increase their knowledge about the effectiveness of using video podcasts in improving students' basic spoken English skills.

d. Future Researcher

It is anticipated that this research will provide a foundation for subsequent investigations into the utilisation of English podcasts in educational contexts, particularly in relation to English language acquisition. Should the findings be favourable, this research could serve as a preliminary point of departure for more comprehensive inquiry in this domain.

E. Research Methodology

This research uses aquasi quantitative design. Researcher used pre-experimental research methods and research designs using pre-test-treatment-post-test.

F. Key Terms Definiton

1. Speaking : Speaking is the ability to express thoughts, feelings, or information orally through words.
2. Basic spoken English proficiency : Basic Spoken English Proficiency is the basic ability to speak English to understand and communicate simple information in everyday situations.
3. Video podcast : Video podcasts are content that combines audio and visual in the form of video.
4. Students : The participants in this study were first-semester students enrolled in the basic spoken English course and registered in the English education program at Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja.