

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter is consist of background, problem statement, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, research methodology and key terms definition.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Education is one of the basic needs in human life that thinks about how to live the life of this world in order to maintain life in life. Maria Montessori, one of the experts in the field of education from Italy, views education as a way to help children develop their potential to the fullest. As time goes by, education is increasingly connected to technology and demands are increasing to be able to reach a global level. In this modern era or what is often referred to as the Industrial Revolution 5.0 era, education is a response to rapid changes in the world of technology and the ever-changing needs of the job market.

Industrial Revolution 5.0 highlights the increasingly deeper integration of technology into everyday life, including artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, robotics and other technologies. In this context, education seeks to adapt the curriculum and teaching methods to the latest technological trends. Due to significant transformations in various aspects of life, especially in the context of globalization, technology and an increasingly connected global economy, English language skills are very

important in Era 5.0. The relationship with education is very close because education is the main foundation in preparing individuals to face the demands of Era 5.0.

In learning English, there are several important elements such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and others. Looking back at the previous paragraph, the aim of English taught in schools is to prepare students to be able to communicate at a global level. So, the important thing that needs to be considered in this case is the student's pronunciation ability. The meaning of pronunciation, from the Oxford Dictionary, is the way how a given language or particular phrase or sound is delivered. The ability to pronounce word by word correctly was facilitate communication between speakers. On the other hand, if the pronunciation is not correct it was have serious consequences that can lead to misunderstandings. Therefore, English subjects continue to be taught in schools.

With English learning in every school, there is hope that students' abilities was increase, especially in terms of communicating using English. However, the reality was the opposite after Researcher conducted interviews with several students at schools in Tana Toraja, namely SMA Negeri 5 Tana Toraja. This school is the only school in Tana Toraja that has a language and culture science department. After conducting interviews with several of these students, the researcher discovered the problem that they still often experienced difficulties in English pronunciation. According to them, this happens due to environmental influences. English as a foreign language means

they rarely interact using that language. So it can be concluded that this problem occurs due to lack of practice. As we know that pronunciation can improve if you keep practicing.

That case shows that there is a problem about students' English pronunciation. Pronouncing words incorrectly can have bad consequences because it can cause misunderstandings and even affect the quality of a person's communication skills. If a solution is not found for this problem, then the vision of English language learning was not achieved. Apart from that, students were also left behind in following the world of industrial revolution 5.0 which always guides their English language skills in several important aspects. The important aspects referred to by the researcher are the ability to communicate at a global level, professional work and this is also important in the academic world.

To overcome this problem, studying at school alone is not enough considering that there are only a few hours to study English each week. The researcher made observations on the English lesson material provided in language classes, and this material did not only focus on pronunciation. There needs to be time for additional lessons for them because studying according to the schedule available at school alone is not enough to improve students' pronunciation skills. The additional lesson that the researcher means here is independent learning. One simple but broad definition of Independent Learning or Autonomous Learning is "The ability to lead one's learning. (Holec, 1981:3).

Independent learning carried out consistently can improve a person's abilities. With the rapid development of technology as written in the previous paragraph, independent learning is becoming easier for students to implement. If this independent learning has been implemented by students, then there was definitely be an improvement in the field they are studying. However, in its implementation, students certainly need help to make this independent learning process easier. The current state of technology is the solution to this. In this case the researcher was try to use the ELSA (English Language Speech Assistant) application, as an independent learning tool that can improve students' English pronunciation at SMA Negeri 5 Tana Toraja.

The choice of the ELSA application as a tool for independent learning is timely and pertinent. The ELSA application, with its focus on personalized pronunciation improvement, aligns with the current trend of leveraging technology to enhance language skills. ELSA use speech recognition technology which is capable of detecting and analyzing users' voice patterns and pronunciation in English. The ELSA application can differentiate correct pronunciation from incorrect, helping users to hone their pronunciation skills.

Based on the problem above, the researcher was conducted a research entitle **“Using the ELSA (English Language Speech Assisstant) Application as an Independent Learning Tool in Improving Students’ English Pronunciation Skills at SMA Negeri 5 Tana Toraja”**.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background, the researcher formulates the research question:

Does using the ELSA application as an independent learning tool significantly improve the students' english pronunciation skills at SMAN Negeri 5 Tana Toraja?

## **1.3 The Objective of the Research**

This study was investigate and assess the effectiveness of the ELSA (English Language Speech Assistant) application as an independent learning tool in enhancing students' English pronunciation at SMA Negeri 5 Tana Toraja.

## **1.4 Significance of the Research**

### **A. Students**

The use of the ELSA application has the potential to significantly benefit students by enhancing their English pronunciation skills and fostering independent and effective language learning.

### **B. Teacher**

The use of ELSA application was helped teacher to found new ways in improving students' english pronunciation skill. Through this research, teachers can develop more effective teaching strategies in improving students' English speaking skills. They can the research results as a basis for integrating similar technologies into their teaching methods. So, research on ELSA applications can provide benefits to teachers in terms of deeper understanding of the use of technology in learning,

development of more effective teaching methods, and providing empirical data to evaluate its impact on students' speaking skills.

### **C. Next Researcher**

This research was used as a reference material regarding the ELSA (English Language Speech Assistant) application as an independent learning tool in improving students' English pronunciation for next researcher.

## **1.5 Research Methodology**

This research was used a quantitative research method, which is pre-experimental research. Pre-experimental research involves manipulating one or more variables to observe the effect on a dependent variable, while controlling for other variables that may influence the outcome.

## **1.6 Key Terms Definition**

### **A. ELSA (English Language Speech Assistant)**

ELSA is a mobile application designed to help individuals improve their English pronunciation through AI-powered technology. It offers personalized language training and feedback to users to enhance their spoken English skills.

### **B. English Pronunciation**

It pertains to the way words in the English language are articulated or spoken, including the accurate production of sounds, stress, intonation, and rhythm to convey meaning effectively and clearly.

### **C. Independent Learning**

This refers to the process in which learners take responsibility for their own learning without direct supervision from a teacher. It involves self-directed learning activities where individuals manage their learning pace, resources, and strategies.

#### D. Improving

Improving refers to the process of making something better or enhancing its quality, condition, or performance. It denotes progress or development in the ability to articulate English words and sounds accurately and comprehensibly.