

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Speaking English is one of the productive skills and important ability in learning English. Speaking can show that students are proficient in the English language. (Minh Anh, et al., 2023). Speaking allows students to convey their ideas, beliefs, and feelings orally. Speaking is frequently regarded as the most difficult ability in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) because it needs learners to actively generate language while simultaneously using correct pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension (Brown & Lee, 2015). Many EFL students have difficulty developing speaking skills. These challenges include limited vocabulary, frequent grammatical errors, a lack of confidence, and a fear of making mistakes when speaking English (Harmer, 2007). As a result, students are often passive in speaking activities and rarely use English in classroom interactions, which may limit their capacity to communicate effectively.

Similar issues were discovered among eleventh-grade students at MAS Al Falah Padang. The students' speaking abilities remained rather low, especially in terms of grammar and vocabulary usage. Many students hesitated to speak English because they are afraid of producing incorrect sentences. Additionally, when speaking, students frequently used short, repetitive words when speaking, which limited their ability to express ideas clearly. This condition reflects common speaking problems faced by EFL Learners

(Richards, 2008). Another contributing factor to this problem is the teaching media used in speaking classes. In many cases, speaking instruction still based on conventional methods such as textbooks and teacher-centered explanations. These methods enables students with limited possibilities to be exposed to authentic English input, which is necessary for building speaking competency (Harmer, 2007).

To overcome these challenges, teacher are encouraged to integrate technology based media into English language teaching. One type of technology based media that can be used is podcast media. Podcast are digital audio recordings that can be accessed easily through the internet and various digital platforms (Salsabella et al., 2023). Therefore technology can also be used to improve communication and speaking skills (Kusmaryani, 2024).

A podcast is an audio recording of a discussion on a specific topic that can be listened to. Podcasts are commonly used to listen to the news, science, and so on. The podcast is different from radio, we can access it anywhere and anytime and, also choose the topic that we want to listen, repeat the trick, and skip the parts that we don't like on the topic.

Podcasts help to upload or download audio files in the desired language and can be used as learning audio materials that are useful for class activities like discussion, and so on. The audio covers different pronunciations and accents in learning to speak English. It helps students to improve their Speaking English skills. Students can use these files in and outside the classroom as entertainment and as a part of their education.

The *Miss Honey* Podcast videos on Youtube are a podcast with content to help students develop their speaking skills in class. In this podcast, we can choose which playlist to utilize as learning media in class. In this research, researchers employed three different types of video podcasts but all on the same YouTube channel. Researcher used *Learn English with slow conversations(comprehensible input):Weekend routines*, *Learn english with slow interviews(comprehensible input) Sleep routines,and interview about Childhood memories* . As a result, the researcher will use the role-playing technique to associate the Expression of stating opinion content with this topic.

The researchers used MAS Al-Falah Padang as a research location, focusing on class XI IPA and IPS students. This school was picked because it has enough technology, but the teachers there would rather use traditional media or just use textbooks. It was discovered that the pupils' speaking skills were still quite poor, that they were hesitant to express their ideas in English, and that they lacked confidence and doubt when speaking in the classroom. Based on the background above, the researcher submits a untitled **“The Effectiveness of Using Podcast Media on Improving Speaking Skill at XI Class of MAS Al-Falah Padang”**.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the description that has been explained in the background of the problem above, various problems can be identified, including:

1. The Students' speaking skill was still low

2. The Students frequently hesitate or feel uncertain when communicating in English at classroom.
3. Less effective media used by the teacher in teaching speaking

C. Limitation of the Problem

This research has several limitations. First, the samples were taken from intact classes without random assignment. According to (Creswell, 2013) the use of non randomized groups may result in pre-existing differences among participants, which can pose a threat to internal validity. In this study, the experimental and control groups differed in major and gender composition, and these differences might influence students' speaking performance. Second, differences in participants' characteristics such as academic background and gender could not be fully controlled by the researcher. Creswell (2013) states that selection threat may occur when groups differ on certain characteristics prior to the treatment.

Therefore, the improvement in students' speaking skills might not be influenced solely by the treatment but also by these pre-existing differences. Third, the number of participants involved in this research was relatively limited. As explained by Creswell (2013), a limited sample size may affect the generalizability of research findings. Thus, the results of this study are limited to the context of MAS Al-Falah Padang and cannot be generalized to other educational settings.

Despite these limitations, this research still provides meaningful findings regarding the effectiveness of podcast media in improving students' speaking skills, particularly in grammar and vocabulary aspects. Based on background

and identification problem discribed above, this research focuses on the usage of podcasts media in English subject, at XI class MAS Al-Falah Padang especifically speaking skills, that an applied to the dialogue on the material Expresssion of stating opinion.

D. Formulation of the Problem

The writer focuses on the investigation of the effectiveness of using Podcast media on improving speaking skills. So, the question of the research is **“Is there any difference in students' speaking learning outcomes between those taught with podcasts and those taught conventionally at eleventh grade MAS Al-Falah Padang?”**

E. Purpose of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to investigated the effect of using Podcasts in Expression of stating opinion on the teaching speaking of XI class at MAS Al-Falah Padang.

F. Significance of the Research

This research aims to improve understanding of teaching media for both teachers and students. Teachers are encouraged to consider the use of reciprocal learning media when teaching speaking skills in order to solve challenges that students may encounter. This research will benefit the English Department by increasing knowledge of the theory and practice of research sciences, but it will also be useful for teaching English in the future.

G. Defenition of Key Terms

1. Media

The use of media in the classroom is one of the learning supports. Media is a tool for education that can help students reach their learning objectives more successfully and efficiently. Learning media refers to tools used by teachers to communicate with their pupils (Al-Asmahi et al., 2022). To produce successful media in the learning process, teachers must first understand the learning topic that will be taught, as well as what media may be used to communicate that subject. Learning media is a type of media that is used by teachers to communicate material or information to students.

Aside from that, learning media can be used to pique students' interest and improve their drive to learn. Learning media in the learning process seeks to balance students' perspectives of the material delivered. Media, as one of the system's components, serves as a nonverbal communication channel. As one of the system components, media must be present or utilized in every class. It is stated that if one of these components is missing, the results will be suboptimal. Learning media refers to the hardware or software used by teachers to transmit material to pupils throughout the learning process. In learning, media is intended to make the learning process more effective and efficient in order to achieve learning objectives (Magdalena et al., n.d.)

2. Podcast

The word "podcast" comes from a combination of two words are "iPod" and "broadcasting". Based on New Oxford American Dictionary, a

podcast is "a digital recording of a radio broadcast or other similar program available on the Internet for download to a personal audio player." Podcasts are interactive media used to help the learning process in the classroom, to develop listening and speaking skills (Bella, 2022).

Podcasts are a useful and efficient learning tool. Podcasts are thought to be useful because they may be used as a variety of teaching and learning mediums, the player is simple and quick to access, and they can be listened to anywhere and at any time while doing other activities or job. With a variety of audio content and topics, podcasts can offer their own unique flavor. Podcasts serve as a channel for giving listeners the knowledge and information they require. Thus, using podcasts as a learning tool can help you enhance your speaking skills.(Suriani et al., 2021).

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking is the process of verbally communicating thoughts, ideas, and feelings to another. Speaking is the most common method of communication in everyday social interactions. Brown(2001:267) states that speaking is a constructive, collaborative and interactive process that occurs directly between two or more parties, involving sending and receiving messages. Besides that Speaking is believed as one of the hardest skills in English, as Indonesian is not a second language, developing this ability may need some work. Speaking skills are a set of complicated language abilities that include pronunciation, grammar,

fluency, and vocabulary. Furthermore, these abilities are influenced by psychological elements such as speaking fear, a lack of self-confidence, and social aspects such as practice chances..(Maula & Awwalia, n.d.).

