

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Speaking is a verbal action in which the mouth serves as an intermediary in transmitting messages to the interlocutor. Speaking involves saying words that transmit the meaning of the message to the other person. Speaking is essential in everyday life. Speaking is the second most important language skill after listening. According to Danny and Natalia's book, "babies, around seven months of age, they will begin listening some of their parents' utterances before imitating those, such as 'baba, mama,' and 'panpan'." It indicates that human language development, in fact, always begin from listening and being applied by speaking (Steinberg, et al., 2006). Likewise, Listening and speaking are linked in such a way that what we hear is what we get, and what we say is what we get (Hamad, et al., 2019). Beside that, speaking is important as a part of language which can send message to other. In his research, Qasim thought that speaking entails not only expressing words but also transmitting messages through these words. In order for a human relationship to last, good communication is required (Qasim, 2021). In other words, speaking skill plays a critical function in human life.

Even though speaking is a major part of language learning, the fact is that there are still many schools and educational institutions that do not teach speaking as a major part of language learning. Linguists and psychologists state that the most important thing in language is speech (Qasim, 2021). This is contrast to what happened. One of the reasons of the problem is the limited facilities and geographical areas that do not support speaking learning. Ab Hamid and Faizah Idrus (2021), found that the reason the school did not hold speaking and listening skills was because the school's facilities were limited so they were unable to hold

proper speaking skills lessons for the students there. To sum up, it is clear that limited facilities make a big obstacle in learning English speaking well.

The background of students is one of the success factors of students in mastering language skills, especially speaking skills. As stated by Hamouda quoted by Alfuhaid in his research that there are 3 factors of EFL learners in improving their English language skills; their personality and educational background; their school environment and the influence of educators and the text of the book used (Alfuhaid, 2021). This indicates that background is also an important influence in improving students' English proficiency, especially speaking skills. However, a study conducted in Kudus, Indonesia, found that the problems faced by students of the English study program at the State Islamic University of Kudus in learning speaking English include lack of sufficient vocabulary, lack of ability to master grammar, and lack of correct pronunciation in speaking (Wahyuningsih, et al., 2020). Another study in Thailand, Anchunda Henry Yuh and his friends found that the problem of linguistic differences between English and their mother tongue, Thai, was also a major factor in the number of students who were unable to speak English with correct pronunciation and grammar (Yuh, et al., 2021). These studies show that an important factor in improving language skills, especially speaking skills, is a strong reason why students are not able to master the ability to speak English properly.

Still related to students, the motivational side of a student will greatly affect how students speak with others. This is clarified by Nuan's opinion in his book that the use of motivation will easily affect the speaking ability of students, especially in overcoming their doubts (Amoah, et al., 2021). However, this is not as simple as it seems. The fact is that there are still many students who sometimes do not have the motivation to speak English so this affects their speaking ability. Amoah and Yeboah in their research found that many Nanjing Tech University

students faced psychological problems in speaking English. They found that it was their motivation that influenced it so that the students' speaking skills were bad. The evidence suggests that the motivation of the students themselves is also an influence on the good or bad of students' English speaking skills.

Despite the background of students is a big problem in learning speaking as a major part of language teaching, the role of educators will be an important point in solving problems. Otherwise, educators who should be an important point in solving these problems, on the contrary, also become a new problem in teaching speaking in language teaching. The limited knowledge sometimes possessed by some educators triggers new problems in teaching speaking. Mahbub Ibnu Seraj and his friends (2021) found that in Bangladesh, there are still many educators who are not able to face problems in teaching English speaking skills to their students because of the use of their mother tongue which has been inherent since birth so that students cannot adapt pronunciation of English words. Then, many educators use teaching methods that are not appropriate for their students so that students do not understand and are even less interested in learning English speaking skills. In short, there is no doubt that background of teacher also be a big problem in learning English speaking skill.

Based on observations at SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu on February 10th, 2023, the researcher conducted interviews with 3 students of G 7th class. From the interviews that were held, the researcher found that they still had difficulty speaking English even though their enthusiasm was high. Students also said that the teachers had used an application to support their English learning but it only helped their vocabulary and grammar skills and did not focus on their speaking skills(**See at Appendix 1**). To sum up, the cause of their lack of ability to speak English was because the language is still something new for them so it took a long time to adjust. Not only that, the factor of their daily language was also a

barrier in speaking English. Even though they could not speak English well, their enthusiasm in learning English was quite high so they might be able to pass it well.

In the same date, February 10th, 2023, the researcher conducted an interview with a teacher who teaches English in SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu. From the interviews conducted, the researcher found that she taught English comprehensively. Therefore, speaking skills were not prioritized. In addition, the influence of their mother tongue was also a big factor in their difficulty learning English. That is why she advised her students to use the U-Dictionary application to help them learn English. It was just that this application focuses more on grammar and vocabulary(**See at Appendix 2**).

Discord is an online communication platform which able to do chatting, voice call, and video call. The application is design in 2015 with online game community user as the target of user. The application was conceived by Jason Citron who had founded *OpenFeint*. The concept come from his team experience in playing *Final Fantasy XIV* and *League of Legends*. At that time, he noticed that played the strategic games using available *voice over IP(VoIP) software* based on those games are difficult. That is why almost of discord users are from online game player. The application has 'server' feature that is a grup of more than hundred users. The feature can make the users on the server do group chatting, sharing photos, sharing videos, group voice call, and group video call. Furthermore, the application is an application that is almost used by many countries in the world. Therefore, it is possible that English will be very much needed to communicate between users. The platform is also downloaded for free in playstore, applestore, and official website.

Not only online game players, discord is also applied in teaching learning. For instance, Mashud and his friends in their research, in South Kalimantan, Indonesia 2021 to be exact. The sudden change in learning models during the COVID-19 pandemic can certainly cause inconvenience

to students as targets of the learning process. Therefore, this research was conducted. As a result, it has succeeded in increasing SMAN 1 Banjarbaru students' wellbeing in physical education learning by Discord. (Mashud, et al., 2021).

Other research, Endang and Baidi have approved in using Discord as a tool in learning. This research was held as a form of utilizing the potential of applications that already exist today. As a result, using discord as a learning tool bring a positive respons for students. Beside, the communication which is done by discord is more interesting and comfortable for students (Wahyuningsih, et al., 2021).

Research related to the Discord application was also carried out by Aulia and her friends in East Cikarang. The research focuses on students' responses to the use of discord in online learning media for English speaking skills. The results show that the use of these applications has a good impact on them. In addition, the use of the discord application has also proven to be more effective than other applications (Ramadhan, et al., 2021).

In the current year, it is not possible for lecturers and students to continue to take advantage of applications that have the potential to help the ongoing development of English speaking skills. In addition, online-based activities would of course still be carried out even though the COVID-19 pandemic period has passed. Based on theory, observation, interviews and previous research, the researcher proposed a research entitled *The Effect of Discord Application on Students' Speaking Skill (A Quasi Experimental at the 8th Grade Students of SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu Academic Year 2023/2024)*. The research would be conducted on the basis of several principles that the researchers found, namely creating the confidence of the research target students in speaking English. In addition, the research would be conducted with the aim of finding the results of the effect of discord applications on the problems of the research target students in speaking English.

B. Identification of Problems

Based on the background of study above, the identification of problems were:

1. Students had lack of ability to speak English.
2. Students' background which did not learn English in Elementary School become a big problem in speaking English.
3. The factor of their daily language was also a barrier in speaking English.

C. Limitation of Problems

In this study, the researcher would focus on Students' English Speaking Skill. The research would be limited on the Effect of Discord Application with Discovery Learning at the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu in Academic Year 2023/2024.

D. Research Questions

Based on the the problems above, the research question could be formulated as the following question : Is there an effect on speaking skill between the students who are taught using Discord Application and that of those who were not at the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu in Academic Year 2023/2024?

E. The Objective of Research

The purpose of this study was to find out whether or not there is an effect in using Discord Application on students' speaking skill at the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kota Bengkulu in Academic Year 2023/2024.

F. Significance of the Research

The significance of the research expected by researchers from this implementation are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Teachers can use this research as a scientific reference about teaching English speaking skills and also use this research for teaching English skills problems they face.

Besides, Students can use and obtain information from this research as a reference in utilizing technology and the use of discord applications so as to improve their speaking skills.

For the next researcher, it can use as their scientific reference in developing the theory of using discord as a medium in improving the quality of students.

2. Practical Significance

For practical, teachers can use research results as suggestions in developing their teaching method and apply the results of this research as suggestions and input in learning activities, especially in teaching students' English speaking skills.

Students obtain information on the applying technology in the process of mastering English speaking skills and use the Discord Application as a new means of developing English speaking skills informally or non-formally.

Next researchers can use the results of this study as an evaluation in developing the latest research and implement the research results into his research.

G. Operational Definition of Key Terms

Knowing these key terms makes this research easier for researcher and other readers to understand. Many of key terms associated with this research such as Speaking Skill and Discord Application.

1. *Speaking Skill* is a language activity that involves the mouth as the medium so that sounds that have meaning are created and are able to convey messages to the other person.
2. *Discord Application* is an online communication platform made in 2015 that is capable of operating not only voice calls, but also short messages and video calls with unlimited users from all over the world.

