

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

In this era of technology and social media, there are many ways to learn a foreign language. Particularly in foreign language education, EFL teachers who wish to go past traditional approaches where teachers handled much of the work have come to appreciate and love social media (Namaziandost & Nasri, 2019).

Studying and teaching a foreign language might be challenging, especially when learning speaking skills. Even though Indonesian students have been studying English for twelve years in formal junior high, senior high, and universities due to the possibility of receiving a good score on the English proficiency test but not yet being able to speak English effectively, it is regrettably still challenging for them to practice their communication skills in daily conversation (Musthafa, 2001)

Previous researchers have conducted a study about Podcasts in learning English. According to (John & Yunus, 2021) research, Social media might be a teaching tool to help students become more fluent speakers. In his study, he combined qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method techniques. The research examined 36 peer-reviewed journal articles from Google Scholar and ERIC between 2016 and 2021. This study shows that social media has evolved and grown, providing educators who use it for education with pedagogical affordances. It goes beyond the notion that it's appropriate for fun and socializing.

(Koçak, 2021) have examined the efficacy of learner podcasts as a cutting-edge, technology-based teaching aid for enhancing EFL students' speaking abilities in English language classrooms. Data was collected using a quantitative approach. Forty EFL students attend a public university in Turkey and serve as the research subjects. Podcasts can increase English language teaching as an inventive supplemental instructional tool rather than a primary educational tool to help EFL learners build their speaking abilities. This research shows that podcasts substantially impact learners' improvement of speaking skills.

(Indahsari, 2020) has studied how podcasts might help with language acquisition. This research study examined 20 articles published between 2020 and 2010. The study's findings demonstrated that podcasts improve language proficiency, particularly in listening. It can also inspire pupils to pick up the language and be a valuable technical aid for Indonesian students studying it. Teachers may use podcasts to integrate technology into their lessons, and they are a viable option for supporting English language learners.

Based on the above research results, podcasts are considered a modern media used in EFL classrooms nowadays due to the use of technology in their implementation. Podcasts are internet-based digital radio shows that may be listened to on a computer or MP3 player. It is a digital medium comprising audio (or video) episodes related to specific themes. In addition, (Rahman et al., 2018) consider that podcasts help students become more familiar with the target language and can change how language is taught and learned. Podcasts are well known for playing a role in language teaching and learning.

However, to practice daily conversation to be more proficient, I needed to get used to the conversation first. The English Daily Conversation was effective in improving students' speaking skills. (Najiyah Aulia et al., 2021) Learning to speak English will be boring if only done materially, so direct practice is needed. With the current breadth of social media, learning daily conversations can be done through one of the platforms, namely Podcasts. Podcasting is a modern version of storytelling or monologue. (Lestary, 2021) Although Podcasts have been used in several previous studies to improve students' listening skills, there is still limited research investigating their use to improve students' speaking skills.

Therefore, Podcasts significantly affect learners' speaking skill improvement. Consequently, as a learning medium, Podcasts from social media also have strengths and weaknesses. The strength of podcasts is that they are appropriate portable tools that students can access anytime and anywhere using their smartphones. It provided learning experiences that transcend conceptual, temporal, and physical boundaries. (Rahman et al., 2018) Therefore, knowing the other strengths of podcasts as a learning medium for speaking is essential.

However, the weaknesses of implementing Podcasts in teaching and learning Speaking skills are appealing. Otherwise, it could be difficult for students unfamiliar with British English because most podcasts use British English. For this reason, teachers need to adopt the best Podcast choices to ensure their students' success when using it as a teaching or learning tool or as additional language material. (Rahman et al., 2018)

Additionally, studies on Podcasts in the context of EFL classrooms are being conducted more frequently in different nations with various topics as study participants. Only some studies are using Podcasts that focus on listening skills. As a medium, a Podcast is fascinating when used for teaching listening. (Indahsari, 2020) The freedom to choose topics, flexibility in improving their listening skills, and motivation to learn more about listening are benefits of Podcast listening by students. (Gunawan et al., 2023) In terms of speaking skills used, Podcast makes speaking fluent and accurate, with fewer pauses and incorrect pronunciations (Yeh et al., 2021)

Nevertheless, the researcher found a scarcity of studies about Podcasts to improve Speaking skills. Studying podcasts is an accepted method to improve speaking accuracy and fluency. The most recent study focused on using Podcasts to improve speech abilities. The current research aims to know the strengths and weaknesses of using Podcasts as a medium for learning to speak.

1.2 Research Problem

To answer this issue, in this present research, this is the research question:

- (1) What are the strengths of using Podcasts to learn speaking skills for college students?
- (2) What are the weaknesses of using Podcasts to learn speaking skills for college students?

1.3 Research Objectives

This study aims to determine the strengths and weaknesses of using Podcasts in learning English speaking skills according to the perceptions of English Learning Education Department students at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on Podcasts' perspective strengths and weaknesses in learning speaking skills, as perceived by English Learning Education Students at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.5 Research Significance

This study aims to broaden the perspective of the writer and the reader in general.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

EFL: EFL stands for English as a Foreign Language. Usually, this refers to English being taught in a Non-English Speaking country but may also refer to any situation where English is being taught to a speaker of another language.

Media: The media is the very source of mass communication. The media plays the most informative role in our society.

Podcast: Podcasts are internet-based digital radio shows that may be listened to on a computer or MP3 player.

Speaking: Speaking is a language skill or a mean of communication in which people can express His/her idea or information to others in spoken form.

Strengths: According to (Lavy, 2020), strength is the capacity to use force to achieve positivity in quality and quantity.

Weaknesses: Regarding as impeding someone's ability to achieve their objectives. This negative results from restrictions, difficulties, or deficiencies in tools and resources that lead to individual or collective losses.

