

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the researcher discusses about (1) Background, (2) Focus and subfocus of the study (3) Formulation of the problem, (4) Objective of the study, (5) Significance of the study

#### 1.1 Background

Language is a tool used by everyone to communicate with each other. By mastering a particular language, we can communicate with everyone in the world, including people who are fluent in English. English is an important part of human life because it is an international language. Indonesians learn English as a foreign language because it is needed in the modern world (Arochman & Hasani, 2023).

English is an important part of life, so English language abilities need to be improved, one of which is speaking abilities. Speaking is a way of expressing our opinions and the words we want to say. By speaking, it is as if we are translating, which indirectly involves our brain in two processes. There are many ways to improve your English speaking abilities, one of which is by using the internet and social media (Sari & Lestari, 2019). Social media is quite affecting students academically and is very beneficial for language learning because students use social media a lot through laptops and cell phones. Even students have self-managed accounts where they can interact with their friends. Therefore, teachers can use it to improve students' language abilities.

The internet has the potential to facilitate its users. Technological developments continue to increase with the introduction of various applications. Many applications create video facilities to attract Internet users, one of which is the TikTok application (Helda & Ismail, 2023). TikTok, a Chinese music video and social networking platform, was launched in early September 2016. The app gives users access to create their short music videos. TikTok can be turned into an engaging and interactive learning medium for students (Aji, 2020). One example is how the app can be used to teach English. There are 4 abilities in English, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Language ability is related to the ability to speak. The more able a person is to speak, the richer the language abilities, and the richer the language abilities, the more confident the child is to speak. Learners may have difficulty speaking when learning a language, especially English. Learners must be able to use vocabulary and use it correctly. The following factors can cause speaking difficulties: a) Difficulty expressing ideas orally (speaking), b) limited vocabulary, c) limited grammar abilities, making it difficult to speak with the right rules, and d) limited pronunciation, making it difficult to pronounce words correctly (Sari & Lestari, 2019).

Below are some of the reasons why this research is important to conduct:

1. The use of social media, such as TikTok, is increasingly widespread among young people, especially in Indonesia. This research is relevant to understand how this technology can be positively utilized in the English learning process.

2. The importance of speaking skills in English education, the ability to communicate effectively is an important aspect that is often overlooked. This research can provide insight into how the use of social media can improve the ability to communicate with others.

3. Students' Perspectives Understanding students' perspectives when using TikTok can help them improve their ability to communicate effectively and create learning strategies relevant to their interests.

TikTok can be used to teach language, especially English, because learners are used to using it and many of them have TikTok accounts. Since most learners already have laptops and this software and use it frequently, learners do not need much cost and special training to use it. In this case, it can be concluded that TikTok is feasible to use to develop English speaking abilities. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the perceptions of secondary school students about the use of TikTok for English language learning, especially speaking abilities.

## **1.2 Focus and Sub-focus of the study**

Based on the explanation above, to avoid misunderstandings and also to be clearer, the researcher wants to make it more focused and detailed. The study limitations are as follows:

### **1.2.1 The focus of the Study**

The researcher focused on investigating the utilisation of English videos on TikTok, and how students used English videos on the TikTok platform as a language learning resource.

### **1.2.2 Sub-Focus of the Study**

The sub-focus of this study was that the researcher explored students' speaking ability, then analyzed it based on students' engagement with English videos on TikTok and its benefits for speaking ability.

### **1.3 Formulation of the Problem**

The problem of this study was formulated into the following question: How did students perceive the effectiveness of using English videos on the TikTok platform to improve their speaking skills?

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study was to analyze students' perceptions of the effectiveness of using English videos on the TikTok platform in improving their speaking abilities.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

The results of this study are expected to give the benefits for any elements:

#### **1. For teachers**

The researcher hoped that the results would help teachers find new methods to improve students' speaking ability. Teachers can also understand how students act towards social media such as TikTok when learning English so that they can adjust learning methods to better suit students' interests and learning styles.

#### **2. For Students**

The researcher hoped that the results of the study would give students a better understanding of effective learning methods. TikTok helps students learn

English in a more interesting and fun way, and students can recognize its benefits.

3. For Other Researcher

The researcher hoped that this study would help other researchers find new studies on the use of media.

4. For the Researcher itself

The researcher hoped that it would improve the researcher's knowledge and abilities through planning, conducting, and analyzing in this study.