CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background of the research, the question of research, objective of research, significance of research, and scope of research.

1.1   Research Background

English is one of the most common subjects taught in Indonesian schools, with students learning it as early as elementary school. The goal of learning English in school is for children to gain a strong understanding of the language so that they can communicate effectively in both oral and written English. Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing are the four English skills that need be acquired in order to master those abilities. Mastering four English skills takes a long learning process. It's because there are many aspects of English that must be comprehended in order to acquire skills like grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Speaking skills is one of the four English skills that students should master. It is because speaking skills does not only about know the meaning of the conversation but also about the grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, topical knowledge and Speaking skill to be considered in order to achieve the ultimate goal of learning English, which is communication. Spoken language usually has two functions: interactional and transactional. The essential goal of the former is to keep social relationships, but that of the latter is to pass information and ideas. (Derakhshan et al., 2016). The function of speaking ability is usually implicated in the daily live.

The ability to speak English proficiently is increasingly crucial in today's interconnected world. English has evolved into a global lingua franca, essential for effective communication across cultures and borders. Proficiency in English not only enhances personal communication skills but also opens doors to academic and professional opportunities worldwide. In the context of Education 4.0, which emphasizes student-centered learning and technological integration, speaking skills are more vital than ever.

In Education 4.0, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through personalized and interactive methods facilitated by technology. Mobile devices like smartphones and tablets, equipped with educational apps and resources, enable students to engage with English language content both inside and outside the classroom. These tools support individualized learning experiences that cater to diverse learning styles and paces, fostering deeper comprehension and retention of English language skills.

Effective speaking skills in English empower students to express themselves confidently and fluently. However, many students struggle with motivation and engagement in learning English due to traditional teaching methods that may lack creativity and fail to stimulate interest. Teachers play a pivotal role in transforming this dynamic by introducing innovative approaches such as interactive activities, multimedia resources, and real-world simulations that make learning English engaging and relevant. By creating a stimulating learning environment where students actively practice speaking and receive constructive

feedback, educators can cultivate students' confidence and proficiency in English communication.

Based on the researcher's observation at SMKN 3 Palangka Raya, there are several factors that affect students in learning to speak. One of the problems is the lack of motivation and boredom in learning English. Therefore, the researcher recommends using the ELSA Speak app. This app offers an interactive and fun learning approach through technology, such as word games and engaging speaking exercises, so as to increase students' interest and motivation in developing speaking skills.

Based on the discussion above, from the results of using an application that has been used by the author, namely the ELSA Speak application, the author proposes to implement a teaching method that is not monotonous and effective. Because students can use the application to learn, the application is called ELSA Speak. ELSA is short for English Speech Assistant. This application is an Android application that can be downloaded for free on the AppStore or Google Play. ELSA Speak allows students to practice speaking live as if hearing a voice. This app is useful for all learners as it is easy to use and helps us learn English pronunciation. In addition, this app also has interesting features that can create variety for students in learning.

In addition, ELSA Speak can also help improve pronunciation and intonation. Many students lack confidence in speaking English due to difficulties in imitating and practicing the correct pronunciation of words. This app provides

voice recognition and live feedback to help students correct their pronunciation, thus increasing their confidence in communicating in English.

In addition, ELSA Speak can also help overcome the challenges of self-study. By providing easy access through mobile devices, the app allows students to study anytime and anywhere at their own pace. This is in line with the education 4.0 approach that emphasizes personalized and student-centered learning, thus providing the flexibility needed to improve English speaking skills independently.

Overall, ELSA Speak is an effective tool in overcoming some of the common barriers to English learning, including lack of motivation, pronunciation difficulties, and self-learning challenges. With its innovative approach and advanced technology, the app helps to improve students' overall English speaking skills in this era of increasingly connected education.

As seen in the student problems that the researcher has described above, namely the existence of students is lazy to look for vocabulary, fear of making mistakes in speaking English, lack of motivation, lack of confidence, embarrassment to express it, the method taught by the teacher is not right. The researcher here wants to offer some features of the ELSA Speak application that might change some of these problems. such as the lack of vocabulary, in this application there is a feature that is quite interesting where students can access a free online dictionary and at the same time learn the pronunciation of the vocabulary. then like the second problem students are afraid of making mistakes in speaking English. in this application, students can easily practice themselves in

pronunciation and this is also related to the previous learning after students have enough vocabulary so that students become more confident. The last on the problem that according to the researcher is less interesting learning methods done by the teacher, in this application the teacher can also make a change to do more interesting learning techniques through the ELSA Speak application.

Now, many language learning tools are in the form of software and digital platforms, such as ELSA Speak software for speaking. Learning does not have to only happen in the classroom, but students can take advantage of it outside through online education applications Ismail, Elihami, and Mustakim, (2019). This means that learning media that are mostly digital can be done anywhere. The app is powered by features such as voice recognition, personalized curriculum, free online dictionary, and free scoring, which is one of the intelligent AI techniques for language management, especially for measuring speaking ability. For example, when students say a certain word or phrase, the ELSA Speak system works to analyze it and provide corrective feedback, including talking points.

Based on the above arguments, the researcher was intrigued by the potential to address common challenges in English language learning through the innovative ELSA Speak app. Recognizing the existence of problems such as pronunciation difficulties, and the need for an effective self-learning tool, the researcher saw ELSA Speak as a promising solution. The app's ability to provide an interactive and engaging learning experience can significantly improve students' speaking skills, particularly at SMKN 3 Palangka Raya.

This study aims to investigate the impact of ELSA Speak at SMKN 3 Palangka Raya on students' speaking ability in English. By focusing on this particular context, this study seeks to uncover how technology-enabled language learning tools such as ELSA Speak can contribute to improving students' confidence and competence in speaking English. The ultimate goal is to provide empirical evidence supporting the effectiveness of ELSA Speak in improving students' English language proficiency, so as to inform educational practices and strategies for future language learning initiatives. This research effort is in line with the principles of Education 4.0 by leveraging technology to drive personalized and effective learning experiences tailored to students' needs and aspirations, then the researcher became interested in conducting research "THE EFFECT OF USING THE ELSA SPEAK APPLICATION ON STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS AT SMKN 3 PALANGKA RAYA".

1.2   Research Problem

According to the background above, the researcher formulates the problem of research as following: "Is there any effect of using ELSA Speak Applications on students' speaking skill?"

1.3   Research Delimitation

This research limitations, research more focused and specific in evaluating the effects of using the ELSA Speak application on students' speaking skills at SMKN 3 Palangka Raya especially on Asking & Giving Opinion material.

1.4   Research Objective

To find out the effect of using ELSA Speak application in improving students' speaking skills at SMKN 3 Palangka Raya.

1.5   Research significance

The result from this research hopefully would be some significances theoretically and practically, as following:

1. Theoretically

The author hopes that this study can provide useful information about vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension achievement. The results of this study will be able to enrich readers' knowledge about teaching English using ELSA Speak to improve students' speaking skills.

2. Practically

Researchers hope that the findings of this research will be useful:

A. For students can enhance their speaking confidence, fluency, and pronunciation by utilizing the ELSA Speak application. The app is a great tool for language learners because it offers interactive activities and individualized feedback that are specifically meant to improve speaking skill.

B. For teachers, would be used as a teaching media in teaching speaking and also teachers can make changes in learning method techniques in the use of this application.

C. For researcher realizes that the full results of this research are not perfect. However, the researcher hopes that the results of this study will be able to help further researchers who may have a connection to this research topic.