

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Nasution (2019) explains that media provides various benefits for students in learning. They will quickly master the media and even create something useful, not just students; everyone can use it. Technology is slowly changing every human activity. One is education, which is also changing, such as curriculum changes, the use of the Internet and electronic devices, and the addition of new media in every class.

Podcasts are one of the media that is a favorite of many people today. This podcast media is easy for all groups to use. People can listen to podcasts anywhere and anytime. Making podcasts is also relatively easy, and anyone can participate. So it is only natural that this technology in the form of audio media has become widely available and popular. There are even some teachers who use podcasts as language learning media.

Podcast can be used as a learning medium in teaching English. As Majid (2011) has written, technological media can be used as a bridge for teachers to teach language. The use of podcasts can also increase confidence in speaking English in addition to improving speaking ability. In general, speaking is an oral exercise in which a person uses language and expresses his ideas, feelings, and thoughts in communication. According to Iskandarwassid & Sunendar (2011), language

learning can be said to be effective if learners are able to use language as a tool to interact and communicate.

In addition, students' attitudes towards the use of technology in the classroom may vary in response to the incorporation of technology in the curriculum. As explained by Astalini et al. (2018), the term 'learning attitude' usually indicates students' favorable disposition towards a particular learning action and their willingness to engage with it.

The significance of conducting this lies in its potential to enhance the teaching and learning process in language education, particularly in improving speaking skills. Speaking proficiency is a critical component of communicative competence in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) contexts, where learners often face challenges in developing fluency, pronunciation, and confidence. Podcasts, as an accessible and versatile technology, offer authentic listening materials and opportunities for learners to engage in self-paced practice, making them a valuable resource for enhancing speaking instruction.

B. Research Question

Developing a research question is the most important aspect of planning a research study. According to the research background, the research question is clearly stated as follows:

"What are students' attitudes to the use of podcasts in the speaking courses?"

C. Research Aim

This study aims to investigate students' attitudes to the use of podcasts in speaking courses.

D. Significant of Study

It is hoped that the results of this study will shed light on two key variables which could prove to be significant.

Firstly, the researcher intends to generate information that could prove helpful in the learning process, particularly in speaking English.

Secondly, it is possible that this research could contribute to the body of knowledge on the use of technology as a learning tool. It is also hoped that the findings of this research could provide ideas for the development of technology-based learning.

E. Classification of The Key terms

The following are the keywords that will be the subject matter of this research:

1. Speaking well and directed can show how good the environment is and even speaking can increase potential by a person (Zahra & Sugiyatno, 2023).
2. Podcast is an audio or video recording which is then uploaded on a website or application, then users can listen and download it easily anywhere and anytime.
3. Attitude is a belief about perception and feeling, then it becomes related to language and learning which is related to the success of language learning (Oroujlou and Vehedi, 2011).