

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

The ability to speak English well is a good value nowadays because, in this era, many job vacancies require employees to speak English well. This is also confirmed by Tarmizi et al. (2021), the fact that English is becoming a world language means that people have to master it, so that they have better opportunities for a social life. However, many Indonesian people still cannot speak English, especially if they have to speak it, even for EFL students. As we know, EFL students should be expected to be able to speak or communicate in English properly. On the other hand, many EFL students cannot speak English, especially in public. Most of them feel afraid if they make mistakes while speaking, such as grammatical errors, mispronunciations, and mother tongue factors that can also affect students' lack of confidence as we know that the mother tongue can often affect the pronunciation of the target language, so that is what sometimes makes students reluctant to speak English in public because they are embarrassed by their accent. However, these problems can be overcome in many ways, including practicing speaking English frequently. Practicing speaking English doesn't have to practice with native speakers directly. We can use other alternatives, one of which is learning media. Fortunately, in this day and age, technological progress has increased. There are lots of technologies

that can be used to support education. In this digital era, many media can be used to learn English, which can be done individually or in groups. According to Zaitun et al. (2021), learning media can be interpreted as a learning resource that develops along with educational technology and takes several forms, from audio and visual to audio-visual. Using social media as a learning tool is easy because the time is flexible and can be done independently. Thus, learning through the media can be an effective way for students to learn because students will not miss the material and also easily accessible for students to get learning material.

Many applications can be used to practice speaking English, increasing students' self-confidence so that students can speak more fluently (Kuning, 2020). One of the online social media that is currently widely used is the TikTok application. This app was first launched in 2016 and originated in China. Everyone can access this application easily because the TikTok application is already available on the App Store for iPhone users and the Google Play Store for Android users, and it's free. At the beginning of the creation of this application, initially, it only focused on music and music videos. However, now this application has also penetrated all fields, such as promotion to education.

Many TikTok users use this application as a medium to teach everything according to their respective fields. These people are usually called "Content Creators." One of the contents on TikTok is about learning English. Content creators can provide learning about English conversation not only in an easy way but in an interesting way and of course, easily understood by the

audience. Usually, they provide learning related to English material using direct audio-visual media, making it easier for the audience to understand quickly to find out what the content creator wants to convey and make students feel comfortable learning because if they feel safe, it will help they are easy to talk to (Al Fath, 2018).

The most interesting thing is that we can find many native English speakers who are Content Creators on TikTok. Most of them make learning videos about English, such as pronouncing words, synonyms, idioms, etc. And they even often create conversational content by utilizing features from Tiktok, namely Duet and Stitch, to provide learning. This feature aims to allow fellow users to create collaborative content so that it looks like there is direct interaction. Native English speakers often teach how to pronounce a word and then ask other users to imitate it. As we know, by imitating and tracing, of course, it can help students increase or improve their pronunciation, and at the same time, students can learn several accents through the videos on TikTok. Therefore, researchers are interested in finding out how students' perceptions, especially EFL students, of TikTok as a medium for them to learn or even practice speaking English independently outside of class. If this research gives positive perception results, it can provide an overview of the learning system in Indonesia to start considering Tiktok as learning English in Indonesia.

Then this research was conducted on 8th-semester English Education students at Muhammadiyah University Purwokerto as the research subject. Because semester 8 students can be classified as the highest class or upper-level

students, the researchers argue that they have tried several media to serve as individual learning outside the classroom compared to lower semester students.

This research was conducted to find out how EFL students' perception of the use of TikTok application as a media to facilitate their learning or practicing English individually outside the classroom. If this research provides positive perception, it is hoped that this can be a consideration for the education system in Indonesia and teachers to consider using the TikTok application as a learning medium. If this research provides negative perception results, it is hoped that it can be used as an illustration for educators to choose better learning media.

B. Research Question

In this research, the authors pose a problem:

What are EFL students' perception of the use of Tiktok application as a media for them to facilitating their English speaking skill ?

C. The Aims of Research

The purpose of this research was to find out the EFL Students' perception of the use of TikTok application as a media for them to facilitating their English speaking skill.

D. The Benefits of Research

Researchers hope this research can provide information about using the Tik-Tok application as a learning medium for speaking English. In

addition, this research is also expected to provide or add insight for individuals to understand it. For English Language Education institutions, it is hoped that this research will become one of the foundations to help prepare new learning media, one of which is the use of social media or digital platforms such as the TikTok application in the teaching and learning process, especially in students' speaking abilities. With this understanding, it is hoped that various digital platforms or social media can be used to learn speaking skills.

