

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND

1.1 Research Background

Technology is advancing rapidly in many areas of life, including education. These changes do not only affect how people interact and work but also how education is conducted. Today, most students are from Generation Z, often called the Internet Generation. This generation was born and raised in the digital era, where access to technology and the internet is a normal part of life. They're used to the ease that technology provides, especially when it comes to finding information and learning. This forces educators to adjust their teaching methods to suit students' preferences and learning styles. The application of digital media as a means of learning can make learning effective. This because it can speed up the learning process and help students in their efforts to understand the material presented by the teacher (Urba, 2024). On the other hand, traditional methods, like lectures and textbooks, might not work as well for nowadays students. Instead, they prefer interactive, tech-based approaches where they can be more involved in the learning process.

Generation Z learns differently from previous generations, like millennials and baby boomers. One key difference is their reliance on mobile devices, especially smartphones. For them, smartphones are not just

for communication; they're also their main tool for learning. They use them to access a variety of learning resources, from articles and videos to educational apps. They also tend to understand information better when it's presented in visual and audio formats rather than in written text. Urba (2024) states that learning using audio visuals can influence visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles. This makes learning methods that include visual and audio elements, like tutorial videos and podcasts, more effective for them. Indahsari (2020) found that podcast is very useful in language learning because it does not only help students learn and practice English, but also motivates students to learn. Podcasts offer flexibility, allowing students to learn anytime and anywhere, without being tied to a specific time or place.

There are some means about podcast. According to Andriani et al. (2024), Podcasts are digital audio files that can be downloaded from the internet and accessed on computers and mobile devices. In education, podcasts can be used to deliver lessons, discussions, or interviews with experts in specific fields. One of the main advantages of podcasts as a learning tool is that they combine audio with informative and educational content. Students can find many English materials that they interests through podcast, such as education, lifestyle, and politics (Agis, 2024). Students can choose from a variety of podcasts made by native English speakers or ones created in Indonesia. By listening to podcasts, students can improve their listening skills, expand their vocabulary, enhance their

grammar, and boost their speaking abilities. Podcasts also give students a chance to hear different accents and ways of pronouncing English from around the world, which helps them better understand the variations in the language.

Research has shown that that students hold positive beliefs toward the use of podcasts as a tool for learning vocabulary. Bahri and Halimatussadiah (2024) found that students believe podcasts are an effective tool for vocabulary learning because they can learn directly from native speakers. A study conducted by Andriani et al. (2024) also revealed that students believe podcasts are a flexible learning medium since they can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Aprianto (2024) further stated that students believe podcasts can increase motivation and interest in learning English, as podcasts often contain entertaining content, making the learning process less monotonous and more enjoyable.

Apart from the strength of podcast, there are also some challenges of using podcast as a vocabulary learning tool. The speakers' varying accents in podcasts can be a challenge in understanding vocabulary (Rachmaniputri et al., 2021; Gunawan et al., 2023). A study conducted by Motamedynia and Shahri (2022) found that learners may need to master thousands of words to reach an adequate understanding of the lexical demands of podcasts. Edi et al. (2025) also argued that the lack of lecturer involvement can be a challenge in optimizing podcasts as a vocabulary learning tool. Therefore,

understanding students' beliefs and challenges in using podcasts is essential for maximizing the effectiveness of this medium for vocabulary learning.

This study will look more closely at the beliefs and challenges faced by English Education students when using podcasts to learn English. The results of this study are expected to provide deeper insights into the role of podcasts in English learning and offer recommendations for teachers on how to make the most of this tool.

1.2 Research Questions

The questions of this research are:

- 1) What are students' beliefs about using English podcasts as their tool to learn vocabulary?
- 2) What are students' challenges in using English podcasts as their tool to learn vocabulary?
- 3) What types of podcast content do students perceive as effective for vocabulary learning?
- 4) What are students' strategies for learning vocabulary using podcasts?

1.3 Research Objectives

This study aims to find out what are English students' beliefs and challenges of using English podcasts as vocabulary learning tools.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The results of this study are expected to be useful for:

- 1) Students, it can help students enhance their motivations and engagements in learning English vocabulary through podcasts.
- 2) Teachers, it provides insights for teachers to develop and use podcasts as a tool for learning English vocabulary.
- 3) Increasing knowledge about students' beliefs and challenges on learning English Vocabulary through English podcasts.
- 4) Increasing knowledge about type of podcasts that help student learn vocabulary.
- 5) Providing insights into effective ways of learning vocabulary through English podcasts.