

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the background of the study, research question, objective of research, research hypothesis, significant of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key terms.

#### **A. Background of Study**

Speaking is one of the most basic and most important communication skills for humans. By speaking, we can convey thoughts, feelings, ideas and information to other people. Through speaking we can also interact, share knowledge, and build strong relationships with others. Speaking also plays a key role in learning, teaching, and collaboration. So, speaking becomes an essential skill in everyday life, both in social and professional environments. According to Aamer Qureshi et al. (2007) language is a communication tool that can be communicate with other people, express our ideas and also know other people's ideas. Communication occurs when there is a conversation. Without words, we cannot communicate with each other. Therefore, the speaking skills is very important for every language learner.

Speaking also has an important aspect in the English language teaching process. Preparing students to speak confidently and effectively is the main goal in teaching speaking. Teachers must create a classroom environment that supports and encourages students to learn speaking, appreciate a variety of language learning and improve English language skills. Apart from that, learning to speak English also involves skills and development. Such as correct intonation, clear pronunciation, and choosing appropriate words. Apart from that, teachers can also use teaching methods that involve group discussions or roles in carrying out effective speaking lessons.

In the educational context, students are currently facing challenges in developing English speaking skills. Globalization and current information technology have also increased the importance of speaking English as a very important and crucial skill in the global work environment and community. Many students feel that they need to master English for long-term investment in both the world of work and everyday life. However, they themselves often

find it difficult to overcome their nervousness, confusion in grammar, or lack of adequate vocabulary when speaking English. Therefore, education that focuses on speaking teaching techniques is very relevant for current conditions. English language learning programs need to enable students to practice speaking actively, especially in daily conversations. By providing broader and more relevant opportunities to speak English, students can overcome communication barriers and improve their ability to interact in an increasingly connected world.

There are some previous studies related to the topic of using Lola speak application toward speaking skills, this research from Rohayati & Widiyanti (2022) examines how the use of technology-based media such as cell phones is used to teach speaking in education. This research proves that the use of cell phones to teach speaking in intercultural education is effective in assisting teachers in delivering material and increasing students' motivation to speak. The second research was carried out by Wahyuningsih & Putra (2020). This research aims to determine the effectiveness of implementing technology-based teaching media to improve students' speaking skills. This research focuses on the use of the Duolingo and YouTube applications. This research shows that the use of technology-based learning media such as Duolingo and YouTube is effective in improving students' speaking abilities.

Next study by Octavianita et al. (2020) also researched the effectiveness of the cake application for learning how to speak English in a classroom environment. Research findings show that students are interested in using the Cake application because it is easy to use and has many features that help improve speaking skills. Then research by Susanti et al. (2019) examine a comprehensive understanding of why foreign language teaching, especially English, relies on the use of digital trend applications to increase efficiency and the value of learning is assessed in the context of current opportunities and challenges. They found that digital applications are believed to improve teaching and assessment, because these applications have proven to be very innovative and effective in increasing overall productivity. Another study is from Abugohar et al. (2019) who investigated teachers' perceptions and current

actual practices in utilizing a suite of three categories of smartphone applications as a technique for teaching student speaking. These findings were analyzed using two data collection instruments with satisfactory results. This research proves that the majority of participants have a high and positive perception about the use of smartphone applications in teaching speaking.

The use of technology has become an important part of the learning process as teaching media. Technology has been used to both help and improve language learning. Technology enable teacher to adapt classroom activities through enhancing the language learning process. Technology helps the teacher to make the effective and attractive teaching language process teacher can use technology at class trough applying a computer-based language activity. According to Harmer (2007), using computer-based language activities improve cooperative learning in learners.

In dealing with the topic, the researcher found one media to improve student speaking skill. The researcher used Lola Speak application that can be used to help students in speaking skill. Lola Speak is one of the flexible programe that provide some feature such as talking to AI. Its main advantage lies in its ability to change the type of speech according to the user's interests and needs. In addition, the Lola Speak application also offers various features such as automatic translation, advanced text-to-speech, and integration with voice recognition technology that allows users to access information easily and efficiently. Due to its versatility, the Lola Speak application is a useful tool for solving various communication problems that users may face. Relying on the previous study mentioned earlier, it proves that using technology-based media can help to improve of speaking skill. So, based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in taking the research which is entitled “The Effectiveness of Lola Speak Application to Improve Speaking Skill”

## **B. Research Question**

1. Is Lola Speak Application effective to improve students' speaking ability?

### **C. Objective of Research**

The objective of research is to determine the effectiveness of using Lola speak application on students' speaking skill at second grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kediri.

### **D. Research Hypothesis**

The hypothesis of the research can be stated as follows:

#### 1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no significant difference between the speaking skill of the students who are taught using Lola Speak application and those who are taught using reading aloud strategy

#### 2. Alternative Hypothesis (Hi)

There is significant difference between the speaking skill of the students who are taught using Lola Speak application and those who are taught using reading aloud strategy.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

#### 1. For English teacher

This study's significance for teachers is about empowering them with knowledge to make informed decisions, improve their teaching methods, and enhance their students' language learning experiences. It contributes to the ongoing improvement of language education and the achievement of educational goals.

#### 2. For students

The study's significance for students lies in its potential to empower them, enhance their language learning experience, and equip them with practical skills that are not only academically valuable but also beneficial in their personal and professional lives. It encourages a positive and proactive approach to language learning, ultimately contributing to their holistic development.

#### 3. For other researchers

This research is expected to be useful information and can be references to conduct further studies related to speaking skill by using Lola Speak application.

## **F. Scope and Limitation of Study**

The scope of the problem is important to avoid misunderstanding. The problem faced in this research is limited to understanding how the use of the Lola Speak application has influenced learning and how using it has increased understanding in speaking English.

The study's limitations of the research are limited to how Lola Speak applications are used for learning and how they help students in improving their speaking skills better. The discussion of this research may not cover other aspects.

## **G. Definition of key terms**

### **1. Speaking skill**

Speaking is the process of learning a language through imitation using various parts of the body, such as the hands, feet, eyes, and ears. This is an important form of communication that enables people to express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions to other people.

Effective speaking skills are crucial in various aspects of life, from personal relationships to professional success. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the ability to communicate effectively is consistently ranked as one of the top skills employers seek in job candidates (NACE, 2019). Strong speaking skills enable individuals to convey ideas clearly, build rapport, and persuade others.

### **2. LOLA Speak Application.**

Lola Speak is a language-learning application that has gained recognition for its innovative approach to language acquisition. This app utilizes AI technology to provide personalized language lessons and conversation practice, catering to the individual needs of learners. With an emphasis on real-world interactions and practical vocabulary, Lola Speak aligns with the modern language learning trends, where practical usage and context are paramount.