CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this introductory section, several sub-chapters will be presented which have a relationship to this research including; the research background, the research problem, the research objective, the significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Language is one of the inseparable things in human life. Language is a basic communication tool used by humans. Ahmad & Abdullah (2012) in linguistic science characterises language as: language is a system, language is meaningful, language is sound, language is arbitrary, language is universal, etc. Among the many varieties of languages in the world, English is one of the most widely and popularly used languages today. Quoted from the Ahmad Dahlan University English Language Education postgraduate web page, there are several reasons that make English an international language including. English is the oldest language originating from mainland Britain, around the 8th century. In addition, English produces 8,500 words per year and currently there are around 1,022,000 words. While Indonesia itself is only 91,000 vocabularies. In addition, the progress of the British State can be seen from the innovation and spread of science from western countries. This also applies when science is controlled by the Arabs with Arabic, the Latins with Latin, the Greeks with Greek and so on. Another fact also states that England is the country with the most colonies in the world (Ahmad Dahlan University, 2012).

As an international language, English is the most widely used language in international communication (Rifai, 2019). In various countries, such as Malaysia, English is used as a second language. This is influenced by the fact that Malaysia is one of the former British colonies. Whereas in Indonesia, English is designated as a foreign language. As quoted by Sagita (2022) on the reasons why English is not a second language, according to a survey conducted by the language development and coaching agency in 2017, there are 11 extinct regional languages in Indonesia, and the simple reason is that the Indonesian nation was never under British colonisation. In addition to the colonisation factor, technology products are also produced using English, we know English is also used as a computer programming language. As an international language, English is used as an official means of communication for global meetings, making English increasingly popular worldwide. The increasingly popular role of English has made English one of the languages worth learning. In Indonesia, English has been taught since early childhood, elementary school, junior high school, high school, and college. Some levels of education have made English a compulsory subject. In the education curriculum in Indonesia, English is one of the subjects that has a systematic and tiered curriculum structure. Therefore, some schools or universities that have international classes require their students to communicate in English.

English plays an important role in various sectors of life. This important role makes English one of the assets that every individual must have. It is undeniable that, as a student or academic, English is one of the greatest assets in the world of education. Education is one of the sectors that has a bond with

English, not only academics need to learn English, but, formal education and non-formal education or Muslim students (santri) also need to be equipped with English as a tool to add scientific insight and also follow global competition. Given the importance of English in supporting science and following global competition, some Islamic boarding school make English as one of the sciences that must be learned and applied in boarding school life. One of them is Hamalatul Quran boarding school in Jombang. The Islamic boarding school has realised this phenomenon, that English is one of the sciences that must be supplied to students. Following up on this phenomenon, this boarding school implemented a superior programme by establishing a special dormitory, which added English as one of the compulsory subject to support the knowledge of students. The establishment of this dormitory is certainly an interesting phenomenon and worthy of consideration in conducting research. In implementing the programme, a system is needed to support the success of a programme.

The success of language learners is influenced by a number of factors, as Apriani, et all. (2019) argues in their research. These include the ability to communicate effectively, as well as the three perspectives that strengthen the success of language learners: social tools (sociolinguistics), a reflection of one's behaviour (behaviourists), mental rule systems and symbols (psycholinguistics). Consequently, in order to utilise language proficiently and effectively, it is necessary to engage in continuous practice, as language is an applicative phenomenon that necessitates ongoing training. As a researcher, one of the interesting things to study in depth is the existence of an English Zone as a way

to improve speaking skills implemented in the dormitory. There are several things behind the English Zone; first, from the initial observations made by researchers, there are several students who are reluctant to speak English because there is no forum that requires them to practice English. Second, it is hoped that the English Zone will be able to form habits that make them able to speak English. The existence of English Zone is able to change old habits that hinder the success of learning English into positive new habits. This habit changes students who were once reluctant to communicate with English, of course, it takes coercion to create habits, and makes students able to communicate with English.

English zone is an area designated as a place where dormitory residents are required to communicate in English. The purpose of the English zone is as a way to improve speaking skills. In addition to practising, an English zone is also needed which is designed as an environment to support continuous practice. This is also supported by the opinion stating that, the impact of the environment on human development which emphasises the role of genotype in not only the living environment but also the learning environment (Andrews, 2010). Through observing how the application of English Zone or language environment in the Quran Village dormitory of Hamalatul Quran and to find out what are the forms and obstacles in English Zone in the Quran Village dormitory of Hamalatul Quran. In addition, this research aims to find how English Zone improves speaking skills. This research is very important because through this research it can be seen how the ideal English Zone for dormitory residents, through information about the constraints that exist in the Quran Village of Hamalatul

Quran dormitory, solutions can be found to further streamline the application of this English Zone so that it can help in improving English language skills, especially speaking. It is because the success of the learning process is determined by the learning approach, methods, tools, media, and student psychology (Karolina, 2018).

Here are some previous studies that have discussed the English Zone, including the first study is conducted by Setyowati (2019). This study aimed to determine student perceptions of the English Zone at the IAIN Curup English Department. The research design was descriptive research presented quantitatively. The results showed that the majority of students had a good perception of the English Zone. In conclusion, students have a positive perception of the English Zone, which helps them improve their ability to speak English. In addition, there is also research compiled by Septiyana, et al. (2020) which describes the implementation of English Zone (EZo) activities in learning English speaking skills for young learners using a qualitative descriptive approach. The findings clearly show that EZo significantly improves students' confidence when speaking.

The additional background of this research is then about improving speaking skills. The first research was conducted by (Alsaraireh, 2022). This study examined the most popular methods for learning a language in order to improve speaking proficiency. The articles were found in Google Scholar and ERIC, and they were published between 2017 and 2021. PRISMA 2020 serves as the study's foundation. According to the study, compensatory and social procedures were the next most regularly used strategies for enhancing speaking

abilities, after metacognitive and cognitive strategies. The strategies that students liked the least were memory and emotional warfare. The findings might aid educators in selecting the best teaching method for their pupils in the modern classroom. The second research is conducted by Afri, et al. (2021), the goal of this study was to use debating strategies to help students become more proficient speakers. The two cycles of this research method—classroom action research— each consist of four steps: preparation, action, observation, and reflection. The information offered in this study was gathered through speech assessments, interviews, and observation of the students. From the aforementioned facts, it can be inferred that students' speaking abilities can be enhanced by studying English, particularly when speaking using debating methods.

Based on several previous studies, there are many indications that structured and systematic learning strategies will have an impact on good learning outcomes. In this case, the researcher tries to take an in-depth approach to one of the Quran Village dormitories which is known to have been established in recent years with graduates who have quite good speaking skills. Researchers will find explore the English Zone to improve speaking skills, what forms of activities are in the English Zone, what obstacles are faced in the English Zone. This research certainly has novelty from previous studies including: researchers will explore the implementation of the English zone, the reasons for the English zone to be a supporting factor, obstacles, and solutions given in overcoming obstacles. Therefore, based on the background of previous research, the researcher used the title The implementation of english zone program in

enhancing speaking skills in Quran Village of Hamalatul Quran Boarding School.

B. Research Question

1. How is the implementation of the English Zone to enhance speaking skills in the Quran Village of Hamalatul Quran Boarding School?
2. What are the supporting factors in emplementing English Zone in enhancing speaking skills in the Quran Village of Hamalatul Quran boarding school?
3. What are the obstacles faced in implementing the English Zone program?
4. What are the solution provided to overcome obstacles in the implementation of the English zone?

C. Research Objective

1. To know the implementation of the English Zone to enhance speaking skills in the Quran Village of Hamalatul Quran boarding school.
2. To know the supporting factors in implementing English Zone in enhancing speaking skills in Quran Village of Hamalatul Quran boarding school.
3. To find out the obstacles faced when implementing the English Zone program.
4. To know the solutions provided to overcome obstacles in the implementation of the English Zone.

D. Significance of Study

1. Theoretical

   This research will present some information related to English language learning strategies that can be applied by a formal or non-formal educational institution. Through this research, it is expected to contribute valid data that can be used as a consideration or reference in organising learning. This research can also be developed and analysed based on the advantages and disadvantages that exist in this research. In the future, this research can be used by further researchers as a reference related to enhancing English skill especially on speaking.

2. Practical

   a. For Student

      Students gain new insights into the learning system when improvements are needed. Improvements made will have a positive impact on students, especially in the learning process.

   b. For Institution

      The conduct of this research certainly has an impact on the institution. Not only institutions related to this research, but outside institutions can also utilise the results of this research as guidelines or considerations related to the English language learning system in related institutions.

   c. For Researcher

      The existence of this research provides new experiences to researchers on the preparation of a scientific paper. This research

contributes to how a scientific paper should be structured. In addition to providing benefits to researchers, besides that this research can be used as a source of research data in the future.

3. Pedagogical significant

In pedagogical significant, this research certainly helps teachers find innovations related to a learning system. Maximising the situation by improving the learning system, or just imitating what is in the learning system in the institution that is used as the object of research.

E. Scope and Limitation Research

1. Scope

Based on the research question, of course, this research will examine an English learning strategy used to improve speaking skills. The focus of this research is on what are the variations of English Zone activities, how the English Zone programme can improve speaking skills, and what obstacles are faced in the English Zone programme.

2. Limitation

In accordance with the scope written earlier, this research was conducted to find out whether English Zone can improve speaking skills. The limitation of this research focuses on the topic of speaking skills.

F. Key Term Definition

1. Speaking Skill

The ability to communicate verbally in a variety of contexts using spoken or nonverbal signals is known as speaking skill, and it can be developed through language learning.

2. English Zone

    Based on the meaning of the word zone is an area or boundary of a region. then the English Zone is a combination of the two which means, the area where communication using English is required.

3. Quran Village

    Quran Village is one of the units of Hamalatul Quran Boarding School Jogoroto-Jombang. This dormitory unit was founded on the wishes of the caregiver, so that his students have English language provision, which is English as an asset or provision for students to be able to compete globally.