

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The researcher provides several points such as the background of the study, research questions, assumption, objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope, and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the study

The first step to do communicating with each other is by speaking. Besides, people share their ideas through communication. That is one of the reasons why speaking is very important for us, moreover speaking English. Ur (1996) claims that speaking is the most important than listening, reading, and writing. Aye and Phyu (2015) state that we need to learn an effective way to study English especially in speaking English in this era. Then, Sepahvand (2014) argues that there are some causes to choose speaking is the first aim of studies such as individual satisfaction and reaching their career goals because they can speak fluently. Additionally, Tahir (2015) says that when somebody can speak, they will reach their success in learning English.

Since Coronavirus comes to Indonesia, all activities have been hampered, including teaching and learning English. Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) first appeared in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this virus a global pandemic (Cucinotta, 2020). Various wisdom has been carried out by the Indonesian government to reduce the level of the spread of the coronavirus by enforcing social distancing and physical distancing to the enactment of PSBB (Large-Scale Social

Restrictions) in various cities/districts in Indonesia. Therefore, all educational activities are done online, not only in elementary school but also in junior high school, senior high school, and college (Sun, et al., 2020).

Nowadays, most elementary students' do not interest in speaking. They think that speak English is difficult. They just mastery in material but not too good in practice. Almost people said that students from village always can not speaking English. Besides, there are some problems in speaking, according to Ur (1996:121), the first problem is inhibition. It means that when the students try to speak English with their friends, they feel worried to make some mistakes while speaking with their friends. Second is nothing to say, this problem comes when they get a topic that not familiar to them. The third is the participants are low or uneven. It will happen when each student will have very little talking time. The last problem is the mother tongue, the students feel that the mother tongue is easier.

Teachers in Indonesia said that mastery of English at the Elementary School level is one of the competencies that must be possessed in this era. It is thought that young children can learn English faster than adults. They talk about children who seem to learn a new language easily. This is related to the plasticity of a young brain (Harmer J. , 2007). They believe that younger children do better at learning foreign languages. Actually, the success of learning a foreign language is not only determined by age. There are many factors to ensure that teaching English to young learners will be effective, such as teaching materials; teaching styles; learning styles; etc.

However, the researcher chooses Hello English because it has many features, such as 475 interactive lessons, and games to interact or discuss with the teacher directly. This application is used by approximately 55 million users in the world, free to download on the Playstore, there are millions of new dialogs spoken and corrected each day to help people improve their spoken English and what I rarely find in other applications is the material explanation information is very clear, it can be in the form of meaning or common mistakes in sentence usage. The researcher hopes Hello English application can help students to solve their problems and also improve their speaking skills more fluently and accurately.

Hello English is an application of social medium that can make the users, especially students interactive and creative. Many features can be given from the Hello English application, such as grammar; vocabulary; conversation; and so on (Yunita, 2019; Kuning, 2020). In this study, the researcher focused on the conversation feature that will be implemented on students to improve their speaking ability more fluent and accurate. Besides that, this application also has feature "games" to make the users or students more interested to learn. Then, they can discuss some topics with other users of Hello English to studying English, especially in speaking. This researcher will use Hello English as a medium of learning from home and also it can be medium of teaching speaking in the classroom. The participants of this study are fifth grade students of SDN Sidorejo 1 registered in the 2020/2021 academic year.

According to a previous study by Yunita (2019) from the Departement of the English Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta that used Hello English application as medium to teach speaking skill at the tenth-grade students at SMKN Karanganyar, she used observation and interview to 5 students of Tourism 1 class and 1 English teacher. The results of the study teaching and learning process used by Hello English makes students active in English language skills, the students very enthusiastic and interested in using this application. Thus, Yunita concluded from the perspective of the teacher and students that the Hello English application has advantages and disadvantages in implementing the English learning process.

Besides, there is also a study by Sivakumar (2015) from Education Wing-DDE, Annamalai University, this study is used in the experimental method. The Control group was exposed to the traditional method of teaching and it consists of 40 students of which belong to VII standard; and the experimental group was given treatment through Hello English application in teaching. The results of this study reveal that the Experimental method of teaching more effective than the traditional method of teaching English. It can be concluded that teaching English by using Android apps such as Hello English is more effective. There is no significant difference between the Control group and the Experimental group in the pre-test, but in the post-test, the Experimental group performed better than the Control group.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the questions of the study is formulated as “How can Hello English application improve student’s speaking skill for fifth grade students’ of SDN Sidorejo 1?”

C. Assumption

Teaching and learning the English language using Hello English application can improve student's speaking skills more fluently and accurately.

D. The objective of the Study

The aim of this study is Hello English application can improve student's speaking skills in fifth grade students of SDN Sidorejo 1.

E. Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that the results of the study are useful for:

- The teacher: the teacher can implement this application to help student’s in the learning process from home, especially learning speaking to improve the quality of classroom learning; to become a solution for learning in today's digital era
- The student: they can improve speaking skills using Hello English at home without meeting with their teachers. They also can practice individuals in their learning of English.
- The next researchers: they can get general knowledge on how to improve student's speaking skills with Hello English application in this digital era.

The research also can be used as the foundation for the next research.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses on improving speaking skills through Hello English application as the medium of learning from home. The subject of this study is the fifth grade of SDN Sidorejo 1. Researchers choose this school because she find the students of SDN Sidorejo 1 think that speak English is difficult, and their students just mastery of material not too good on practice. That's why the researcher chooses this place because she won't the students lose their capability to speak English when they return home and do not practice. The topic is about "Leisure and Sports" and "Places to Go".

The limit of the study is the researcher can not conduct the classes maximally face to face because of the pandemic condition. It will be online classes. So, the researcher did the test with video call and asked the student who can not join a video call they must make a video. Sometimes the students can not get a strong signal to join the video call. Not only about signal but also their phone is bringing by their parents.

G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding in this study, the researcher gives the definitions of some key terms used in the study, they are:

1. Speaking skill

Speaking is a skill that aims to be able to express themselves in certain situations in real life or report any incident with words that can be understood by others. According to Nunan (1989), there are two main aspects of speaking skills, such as accuracy, and fluency.

2. Hello English application

Hello English is an application that can facilitate games and lessons for English learners through games. This application is made for Android. Android is a name for a mobile operating system made by America Company, Google. It can be installed on a variety of smartphones and tablets (Sivakumar, 2015).