

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed the background, problem formulation, research objectives, and the expected benefits of the research. The background explained the context and importance of the topic, the problem statement identified the research questions that were the focus of the study. The research objectives outlined what was to be achieved through the study, and the benefits of the research were expected to make a meaningful contribution.

A. Background of the study

In learning English, speaking is a criterion for assessing fluency in the mastery of a language. Because of that reason, mastering speaking skills is very important if they want to communicate more spontaneously. Speaking skill is also ability to produce appropriate, correct, and relevant spoken language in communicating using creative and flexible language¹. The purpose of learning a foreign language for student is to be able to communicate in that language so that can useful to them in certain situation.

However, mastering speaking skills is often hindered by challenges in memorizing and utilizing vocabulary effectively. A significant obstacle students face is transferring their knowledge into direct communication. While they may understand spoken English, many struggle to construct and express sentences fluently during interactions. This gap between comprehension and verbal expression can be attributed to insufficient practice, limited casual discussions in English, and lack of speaking confidence.

In the practice of teaching speaking, teachers must be able to pay attention to students one by one, so that students' understanding is more even, but due to time constraints with a large number of students, not all students receive good attention.

¹ Thornbury. (2015). *English language teaching textbooks: Content, consumption, production*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan

However, teachers can ask students to study independently using easily accessible English learning applications via personal cell phone, because nowadays almost every child has a phone. According to Kompas said more than fifty percent of students in Indonesia use smartphones in class, and an even higher percentage 81% use them for completing homework. This indicates that smartphones have become an integral part of students' learning activities, providing both opportunities and challenges in the educational environment.

Using applications on cell phones for classroom learning helps teachers and students create a good learning environment and can improve the teaching and learning process. There is an application namely Cake Application. This application contains short videos, exercises, conversation videos. This program created by Playlist Corporation can fit a lot of video discussion content into a device capacity of only 14 MB and still allows users to access it for free. The Cake application provides grammar, vocabulary, and idiom explanations adapted for intermediate school levels. One of the interesting features of this application is the 'Speech Recognition' feature. This feature can help users to assess accuracy pronunciation, the pronunciation correction results will be immediately detected immediately after recording. Users can also play samples conversation several times and the application will ask the user to repeat the dialogue and then the user will receive direct feedback from application. Therefore, using this applications can helps english learners improve their basic skills speaking skills by increasing vocabulary and fluency in pronunciation.

Therefore, researchers use Cake as a media in learning, especially students' speaking skills. On the other hand, researchers think the Cake application is a suitable media because it presents video content that provides new words at various levels adjustment. Audiovisuals such as video are considered better instrument than audio because the students were able to see the shape lips and tongue position from the native². This make users can practice their speaking skills by watching video

² Dwi Astuti Wahyu Nurhayati (2020). Plosive and Fricative Sounds Produced by EFL Students Using Online Media: A Perspective on Learning English Phonology: Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Folklore, Language, Education and Exhibition (ICOFLEX 2019).

series on the Cake application, which is more exciting and entertaining because learning is easier to understand.

The existence of technology makes things easier for everyone, including for learning English especially in speaking. Real use of technology can be create positive effects in the process learning³. One impact the application of technology is increasing student motivation in following the process learning. With the right technology, students can receive various educational resources and be motivated to learn a new language. Therefore, the researcher wants to identify the program in the Cake as a learning media.

This research used media applications that enable users to access content and information through mobile devices such as smartphones. Based on that, the researcher took the same case from previous studies that used the Duolingo application media. Duolingo is a language teaching platform that offers free online courses available on mobile and web applications⁴. Duolingo has proven very effective in teaching receptive listening and reading skills⁵. The Cake application is similar to Duolingo; however, it differs in its more varied content. Cake's provided features are specifically designed for practicing speaking, offering a more focused approach compared to other, more general applications. It offers short videos from various sources, such as vlogs and films, equipped with subtitles that help students understand the context of language use and practice listening and speaking skills simultaneously. It includes a 'Real-Time Feedback' feature with voice recording, allowing students to record their pronunciation and receive immediate feedback regarding accuracy, so students can identify and directly correct their mistakes. This app also integrates gamification elements, such as points and challenges, which can

Jakarta: 1st International Conference on Folklore, Language, Education and Exhibition (ICOFLEX 2019).

³ Imam Santosa, Neni Nurkhamidah, & Theresia Arianti, (2021). Tren Pemanfaatan Teknologi Pembelajaran Dalam Pengajaran Kosakata Bahasa Inggris Pada Sekolah Dasar. *Jurnal Holistika*, 72-84.

⁴ Pangkuh Ajisoko. (2020). The Use of Duolingo Apps to Improve English Vocabulary Learning. *International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning (iJET)*, 149-155.

⁵ Ari Irawan, Agus Wilson, & Sutrisno. (2020). The implementation of Duolingo mobile application in English vocabulary learning. *Journal of Language Learning and Technology*, 5(2), 45-56

increase students' motivation to practice more often and participate actively in learning.

Several previous studies related to the use of the Cake application in English teaching and learning. First, Ani Deswita stated that the Cake application helps overcome students' problems in speaking skills, also the Cake application provides opportunities that can improve students' speaking skills in an interesting way⁶. Besides, students can learn independently with this media, wherever and whenever. This research gains the result that Cake application can be used as an alternative online media for English speaking learning materials. In this research it is also mentioned that student's English speaking skill should be improve and meet the learning which has been determined. Also, the teacher should integrate this media into the school syllabus as the innovative learning to improve student's speaking skills.

Second, Intan Lailatur summarized that learning to use the Cake application can motivate students to practice English speaking skills⁷, where this application provides a feature for users how to pronounce correctly and appropriately like native speakers and is also rich in vocabulary, phrases and idioms . From this study it was concluded that the Cake application is very effective for student's speaking abilities in 2020. But, for the future the 5 researcher it is hoped that will carry out further research on speaking abilities based technology especially Cake application also conducts research on modern technology which supports education, which can make it more creative and innovative for technology-based learning media.

Thrid, Mita Agustin said that Cake application is a modern application that is good as a medium for English learning skills⁸, especially for speaking skills. This

⁶ Chaniago, A. D. (2022). The Effect Of Cake Usage As Mobile Assisted Language Learning On Students' English Speaking Skill In Smp Hang Tuah 1 Belawan. *ETERNAL (English, Teaching, Learning, and Research Journal)*, 131-144.

⁷ Rahmani, I. L. (2021). The Effectiveness Of Cake Apps Towards Students' speaking Ability To Second Semester Students Of English Education Study Program At Stkip Pgri Sidoarjo. Repository Stkip Pgri Sidoarjo.

⁸ Agustin, M., Lindawati, R., & Mustopa, D. (2022). The Effectiveness of Utilizing Cake Application in Speaking Ability of 10th Students at SMK PGRI Sooko. In *Seminar Nasional Pendidikan*, 285-292.

can be seen from the increase in scores from the pre-test to the post-test in this study. Students can easily and happily learn English, especially speaking skills with the Cake application, where this application can help learners to develop and improve their skills as well.

Some of the studies above state that Cake application is effective as a learning medium, especially in English learning for students' speaking abilities. Cake application can give effect and assist students in learning speaking skills, where this is evidenced by an increase in student scores before-after using the application. Some of these studies also state that the Cake application is an application that is proven to be able to attract students' attention to learning in a fun way with a variety of features on it. Some of the studies above used Cake application as an improvement in speaking skills or speaking comprehension, taking into account various possibilities, problems that have been exposed and paying attention to the advantages that exist in Cake application, The researcher is particularly interested in exploring the application's impact on vocabulary enrichment, pronunciation accuracy, and confidence building. By conducting an experimental study, this research seeks to contribute to the existing literature and provide practical insights for language educators. The study is titled "The Effect of Using Cake Application on Student's Speaking Ability at Seventh Grade of MTsN 9 Blitar."

B. Research Question

The researcher formulates the research problem following the background "Is there any significant effect on the students' speaking ability before and after being taught using the Cake Learning application at the seventh grade of MTsN 9 Blitar?"

C. Objective of the Problem

Based on the formulation of the research problem, the purpose of this study is to find out if there is a significant effect on the speaking ability of seventh-grade students at MTsN 9 Blitar.

D. Hypothesis of the Study

A hypothesis is a presumption that must be tested for truth through data or facts obtained through research. To find out the answer, the researcher wrote an alternative hypothesis (H_a) with the following explanation

1. Alternative Hypothesis (H_{a_1}): There is significant effect before and after being taught using Cake application.
2. Null Hypothesis (H_{0_1}): There is no significant effect before and after being taught using Cake application.

E. Significant of the study

a. For the Teacher

The researcher hopes that the study's findings would inspire teachers to improve their English teaching skills, particularly their speaking ability. The researcher anticipates that using the Cake Application will encourage teachers to use media in more innovative ways due to its effectiveness.

b. For the Students

The researcher suggests that students can improve their speaking skills by utilizing the Cake Application. The program's enticing graphics make learning easier while in a learning mindset. This software aims to develop students' skills and may be used anytime, anyplace.

c. For the Researcher

This research can serve as a reference for other researches to evaluate the usefulness of the Cake Application in improving learners' understanding of specific talents from different angles.

F. Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of the research was limited to investigate a few things. The researcher only focuses on the case to be investigated in this study. This research is limited to the use of Cake Application on students' speaking skills. Then, the

limitation of this research specifically observes seven grade students at MTsN 9 Blitar

G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the key terms used in this study, the researcher defines several terms as follows:

1. Cake Application

Cake is the application used for free English learning. This application has a feature that users can access such as; conversation with native speaker, recording the voice for the pronunciation correction, listen and correction the voice through film or movie, conversation, etc

2. Speaking Ability

Speaking is one of the productive skills in oral form which is a way of communicating to convey information and express ideas, opinions, feelings and thoughts that can be understood by speakers and listeners so that interaction occurs.

3. Effectiveness

Effectiveness means successful in producing a desired or intended outcome. It implies that an action, method, or strategy achieves its goals efficiently. If student learning outcomes have increased then the model or learning media is called effective