CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a Background of The Study, Statement of The Research Problems, Objectives of The Research, Significance of The Study, Scope and Limitation of The Research, The Defining Key Terms, that aims to explain in detail the flow of this research. In this chapter, it starts with a general explanation and then moves into specifics.

A. Background of Study

The development of knowledge in the world of education is very evident from various perspectives, including the human desire to balance knowledge and skills. The mastery of knowledge can be linked to the subjects that have been studied, for example, someone who is an expert in the field of language and humanities will study subjects related to that field. However, a body of knowledge (theory) will be stronger when balanced with skills (practice). The skills present today refer to the 4.0 evolution era, which focuses on balancing the need for human knowledge and skills with ideology as the main foundation of quality and integrity in human resources. Education in the industrial era 4.0 is an important issue because good management in education involves focus on the curriculum, learning systems, supporting facilities and infrastructure, and human resources.[1] English is widely used internationally. The use of English as a second language for non-native

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[1] Monoarfa, H., Rawis, J.A., Tambingon, H. N., & Kambey, J. (2003). Leadership Education System in Education Management in Indusry 4.0 Era. *International Journal of Technology and Education, 2(2), 138-147.*

speakers in the world, because the existence of English has advanced. The environments open various opportunities that we can try to explore by ourselves free starting from watching YouTube. In English, there are four basic skills that must be acknowledged by the English learners including, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. To improve these four skills, we need an effective way to improve them.

Speaking skills are crucial skills that we can find in our environments. Speaking skills linked from listening as an oral communication in our daily activity. For someone who is successful in oral communication, they can develop in the pronunciation, stress words, and intonation, grammatical. Thus, we call it improving speaking skill. Whereas, parts of speaking that you must know are pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, fluency and comprehension. All these parts are fundamental, thus the receiver can understand what we are talking about. This research also discusses learning styles of English learners. They can choose what the learning style suits them, it can be autonomy learning or non-autonomy learning. Furthermore, the English learners who are mastery in speaking can choose to improve speaking through social media, such as YouTube, that can have free access. From self-concept, learners become active in improving their skills. The one who applies those processes of their learning styles by developing knowledge and skills started from themselves can be interpreted as autonomous learners.[2]

In our environment, we have to know about the autonomous learner.

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[2] R. Smith, *"Learner autonomy"* ELT journal, vol. 62, pp. 395-397, 2008.

The researcher is relating this headline in education, for the example the students who want to learn speaking in the way to reach a goal to be a good speaker to achieve an instinctive understanding, the English learner will strive to find ways to become a good speaker; this process of seeking ways by themselves is applied by an autonomous learner. This research is conducted to address reasoning within the autonomous learner and the self-concept as a state of mind by the autonomous English learners. Self-concept is typically defined as the set of thoughts and feelings that the person has about self, involving an individual having full awareness of the importance of learning and reflecting on their own habits in learning. Just like during the lockdown era in 2020, where students were also encouraged to study independently and become autonomous learners. In another study there is a discontinuity between learners' learning awareness to establish their self- concept as autonomous learners and teachers' effectiveness on learning process. For the exact purpose of the last study the intervention is still needed especially in the area of speaking practice, an autonomous learner has a lack of confidence in adolescence, this is when the mental strength of an autonomous learner is tested.[3]

From those statements, this research relates the topic with the current phenomena of Marina Mogilko as the autonomous English learners. She is a youtuber from Russia who lives currently in the United States of America. Marina started her English by herself towards education abroad and creating

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[3] *Ibid.*

business in the United States of America. She is an English autonomous learner since she goes abroad to Saint Petersburg State University in the United States of America. Starting learning English from basic to mastery in English by herself, from moving to the United States, starting her YouTube channels, raising money from companies, investing from other companies. Between Marina and the non-native speakers who are willing to improve their speaking skills: they are autonomous English learners using self- concept who want to improve their speaking skill, they only rely on themselves to learn the language according to their abilities, by utilizing reference videos from social media like YouTube and written references such as books, journals, articles for academic needs.

By recognizing the importance of having a self-concept in the learning process, it will make it easier for us to achieve our learning goals. In this study, the researcher aims to re-examine how the self-concept of autonomous English learners can be effectively applied, particularly in speaking skills, and to prove that autonomous English learners can succeed in demonstrating performance in developing speaking skill. In addition, this research is also rarely conducted because no one realizes that it is not easy to analyze someone's learning methods alongside a person's character by linking psychology theories. Moreover, the reason why this research conducts is to prove that autonomous English learners can succeed in demonstrating performance in developing their speaking skill through self- concept. In this research the self-concept is expected to affect the autonomous English

learners to decrease challenges mostly found to the autonomous English learners in improving speaking skill.

B. Statement of The Research Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the research problems can be formulated as follows:

1. How does the self-concept helps the autonomous English learners to improve speaking skills?

2. What are the challenges faced by Autonomous English Learners in improving speaking skills?

C. Objectives of The Research

Based on the research problems, the objectives of the research are:

1. To explore how the self-concept helps the autonomous English learners for improving speaking skills.

2. To know the challenges faced by Autonomous English Learners in improving speaking skills.

D. Significance of The Research

Based on the objectives of the research, the significance of the research states the purpose of the self-concept helps for autonomous English learners. The results of this research can be used to help English learners understand the implication of self-concept to reach achievements.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Research

This research is focussed to analyze the use of self-concept for autonomous English learners in the way to improve speaking skills, using videos from Marina Mogilko as the implication of the self-concept itself.

F. The Defining Key Terms

Based on the scope and limitation research above, this research states the defining key terms to describe the broad topics of the research, there are Self- concept, Autonomous Learners, Speaking Skill.

1. Self-concept

Self-concept as a state of mind that values a very important role to learn, work, discover interests. Therefore, self-concept, also known as self-study, is defined as an individual's feelings about themselves who act as a whole person and have unique characteristics, so that the individual will be recognized as an individual.[4] Self-concept also plays an important role as a part of the self that can understand needs within the individual as well as introspection of their own shortcomings and strengths of themselves objectively.

In this study, self-concept influences one subject namely English, which turns out to play a very important role among others, in affecting students' academic performance, student achievements, and for people who desire to learn English. This happens because if someone has a self-concept that dominates a certain subject, it indicates that the one has the ability to start learning and has clear learning goals. As simple as developing a self-concept aids in identifying a clear goal to accomplish.

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[4] Bong, M., & Clark, R. E. (1999). *Comparison between self-concept and self-efficacy in academic motivation research. Educational Psychologist,* 34(3), 139-153.

2. Autonomous English Learners

The research states that autonomous English Learners are learners who learn by themselves. The autonomous English learners can take charge of their own learning, which sees learners as individuals who can and should control and be responsible for their own learning. The autonomous English learners use self- concept in their learning process, which is then used to improve their English skills. They can take charge of their own learning, which sees learners as individuals who can and should control and be responsible for their own learning.[5]

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking is one of the skill that a person must possess as a tool for communication, whether in the field of Education or used in achieving a career. Speaking is an output aspect of listening that can determine what information is produced by the speaker to the listener, which is why speaking is an aspect that must be learned. Not only should it be studied, but also how we can speak accurately, without hesitation. Speaking has received much attention, especially in the English teaching and learning process. In this study, speaking is used because academically, most English learners experience a lack of confidence in speaking English and consider that speaking is a difficult English skill. Efforts are needed to improve speaking skill, including starting to learn to enhance speaking from simple things such as determining learning strategies or

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[5] H. Holec, *Autonomy and foreign language learning*: ERIC, 1979.

concepts. The researcher links the topic of speaking with the self-concept theory used by autonomous English learners with the aim of improving speaking skill, beginning with the willingness to learn independently.