

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

In this Digital era, English language is important for our lives. In fact, it is the second most spoken language in the world. Digital era made the use of English language more widen. The ability to speak and to write English property has been one essential benchmark skills in the professional world. English make us can communication with people from another country. Pronunciation is one of the basic elements of speech which is very important to be mastered by any language user. Pronunciation becomes important since without accurate pronunciation, a word can be misunderstood by the interlocutors.

Pronunciation plays important role in oral communication. When learners start learning pronunciation they make new habits and overcome the difficulties resulting from the first language. Pronunciation is the production of sounds that is used for making meaning (Yates, in Gilakjan AP., 2016). Pranoto and Suprayogi in Anggun et al, (2021) expert that pronunciation is an inseperable part of speaking and it is inevitably to understan the meaning exchanged in the communication process. It can be stated that learn pronunciation is important to communicate and comprehend the meaning in communication with other people, who have different accent. People should have a good pronunciation to understand each other and to achieve the goals to be an intelligible speakers. A good pronunciation will carry on information clearly to estimate speaking skill that need to consolidate. Moreover, it is expected not only focus exclusively on the information that want to relay. But people understand what we want to really to say.

Pronunciation is one of the most difficult areas for learners, as well as for teachers. In quest of effective teaching, it is worth diagnosing carefully the nature of the difficulties that they face. Pronunciation becomes important since without accurate pronunciation, a word can be misunderstood by the interlocutors. This importance, perhaps, is the reason why pronunciation is studied in separated

subject in EFL curriculums. English pronunciation is one of the most difficult skills to learn and learners have to spend a lot of time to enhance their pronunciation skills (Aliaga García, 2007; Martínez-Flor et al. 2006; Pourhosein Gilakjani, 2016). If someone can overcome the difficulties pronunciation English then it will be easy to learn English.

It can be difficult to perform with accurate pronunciation in EFL countries like Indonesia. This is accurate given that English and Indonesian words are pronounced differently. Words or morphemes are consistently pronounced in Indonesian. In English, this case must be distinct. It is not meant to imply that English words or morphemes do not have a consistent sound, such as the word "read," which has multiple pronunciations depending on the tense.

Practicing listening, speaking and pronunciation from an assigned textbook is not enough to develop students' proficiency level in English listening, speaking and pronunciation because EFL instructors do not have enough time to devote to pronunciation practice in the listening and speaking classes based on the textbooks. Therefore, listening and speaking courses should be supplemented by extensive pronunciation activities that students need to practice on their own outside the classroom (Al-Jarf, 2021b; Al-Jarf, 2021d). So, teacher must give their students media to support their practice activity. As a result, student can practice pronunciation everytime and everywhere.

Nowadays, the utilization of social networking applications such as TikTok has taken an essential role in language learning. It supports the previous studies done by Al Fadda (2020), and Nurani and Widiati (2021) who stated that popular social media applications such as Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok and Weblog make students are interested in learning English. They showed a positive attitude towards the utilization of these applications. In teaching and learning English, students can learn English through TikTok because many creators make English material content. By watching the video, people can learn and understand English because they can learn by playing. Therefore, TikTok Application can be called as m-learning (Zaitun et al., 2021). It can be implied that social media can helpful to learn English anytime and anywhere.

Students' pronunciation abilities can be enhanced by using the right learning resources. Students typically enjoy novel things that fit into their daily life, such as using social media tools. Social media use in education is not a novel concept in and of itself. Numerous researchers have used social media platforms as teaching tools, such as Herlisya & Alfiawati (2019), who used Instagram to teach English writing skills, Nurmy (2017), who used Facebook to teach English as a foreign language, Kumar Sah (2015), who used Twitter as a language tool in the ESL/EFL classroom, and Pratiwi, Ufairah, and Sopiah (2021), who used Tik Tok as a medium for learning English pronunciation. It can be implied that one of popular social media such as Tik Tok can be used as learning media to practice pronunciation.

However, pronunciation skill commonly is one of the most challenging skills to be taught for the teacher. It is also challenging for students. Most of the students' have mindset that they cannot pronunciation fluency, so they feel that they cannot develop their speaking skill. The students feel unable to develop their pronunciation fluency in Sun et al (2017). So, the consequently is they lack of communication abilities. Then the other problems are students will struggle with word choice when they start a conversation or respond to someone else (Chou, 2018).

Learning English through songs as media can be sufficient to assist pronunciation, since the students know how to pronounce the word from what they hear (Farmand & Pourgharib, 2013; Pourhosein Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2017). When students learn in a pleasant situation, they will understand the material quickly. And based on the reason above, students will try to make any efforts to know much about the songs in teaching pronunciation. The song is an authentic language resource. English song can help teachers make learning active, creative, and fun (Aziz, 2019). Even most of the students consider that sing English song is the most exciting activity, moreover about teenager song. The song lyrics become modal for students. The song lyrics are going to help them to acquire their language. The author of song lyrics composes song lyric for students especially. It means that song lyrics have individual intonation and forms which are easy to be

understood by the student. If the students have a willing to know the songs, they will try to learn anything related to the song.

To help students with their pronunciation, Tiktok should be used as a teaching tool. As this program includes modern features, everyone relies on it. Due to the fact that they study through the media they enjoy and frequently use, students will find it easier to assimilate English terminology more quickly. It is suggested that educators be able to change with the times. The usage of tik tok to sharpen pronunciation abilities makes learning more engaging while also assisting pupils in speaking more clearly. This program has a lot of benefits for both teachers and students when utilized appropriately. Tik tok makes studying more enjoyable and allows teachers and students to explore a wide range of topics, especially those that are known to our pupils. It can be concluded that Tik tok is our students' inseparable friend. This application is also very effective to increase students' confidence.

Based on the preliminary research for students at State Junior High School 8 of SMP plus Alhidayah at 25 february 2023, the researcher found that students got difficulties in speaking, thus they are not interested in learning it. They regarded speaking as a difficult lesson because they just did not know the words or grammar they needed to express. There are many problems in the field of the students' pronunciation in speaking. The first, mispronunciation is something happens frequently. The second, students tend to pronounce the words they use as what the spelling of the word. The last, students still have less problem pronunciation in differencing between spelling and pronunciation in Indonesian as their mother tongue.

From the background above, the reseachers initiative to conduct Viral Short Song from Tik Tok to improve students' pronunciation skills. Based on the description above, the title of research study conductes was "The efektivness of using viral short song from tik tok in teaching pronunciation at 8th grade of SMP PLUS ALHIDAYAH."

1.2 The identification of the Problems

According to the researcher's observations of pupils at State Junior High School 8 of SMP plus Alhidayah, speaking is tough for them, which makes them uninterested in studying it. They claim that it is tough to learn English because they can pronounce and spell words correctly.

1.3. The Limitation of the Research

It is necessary for the researcher to limit the research. It is intended to avoid a big problems area and helped her to focus on the research. In the reference to the background of the problems and identification of the problem this study would focus on the efectivenes of using Viral Short Song from Tik Tok in Teaching Pronunciation. The reason why the researcher choose it because, it is fun to do and allows the learners to contribute actively even the quiet ones. The researcher belive that, it would give them more oppotunities to practice pronunciation in the class. In light of view, this study is conducted by focusing to improve students' pronunciation skills of Eight grade students of SMP PLUS ALHIDAYAH by using Viral Short Song from Tik Tok.

1.4. The Formulation of the Problems

Based on the background of the problem, the following formulation of the question arises.

- 1.) How can the application of viral short songs from TikTok have a significant impact on students' pronunciation skills?
- 2.) What is an effective strategy for utilizing viral short songs from TikTok to improve students' pronunciation practice?

1.5. The Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, the objective of the study could find

- 1.) The significant impact of applying Viral Short Song from TikTok on Pronunciation Skill at 8th Grade of SMP Plus Alhidayah.

- 2.) The implement of viral short song from TikTok on students' pronunciation practice

1.6. The Significance of the Research

The significance of the study will be useful for:

- a) Theoretically

This research is useful for the academic community in contributing to enriching treasures and as an input for effort to improve English pronunciation, especially at SMP plus Alhidayah.

- b) Practically

- a. For the English teachers, for the result of this research is expected to provide them with an alternative technique to teach pronunciation. It is also expected to motivate the teachers to be more creative so the students will be more enthusiastic in learning English in class.
- b. For the researcher, the result of this research can develop her experience related to her knowledge in research on education and English teaching, especially for pronunciation.
- c. For the students, the result of this research is expected to give them new experience in English learning, especially in learning pronunciation so they can be more motivated to their abilities.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The research give some definition of key term to made it clear to avoid misunderstanding. The definition of key terms were presented as follows.

- a) Viral short song is a song that became viral because many people use it in social media.
- b) Tik Tok is a social media platform for share video about education, fashion, dayli activity and others.
- c) English pronunciation is one of the most difficult parts of speaking that must have a lot of time to study and practice it.