

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, the formulation of the problems in this research, the focus of the research, the research objectives, the significance of the research, the scope of the research, and definitions of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

Technological advances have a significant impact on various aspects of human life and society. Current technological advances cannot be separated from people's lives. We can now know various information that occurs in various parts of the world directly thanks to technological advances (Wahyudi & Sukmasari, 2014). Technology has changed the way we communicate. Cell phones, the internet, social media and instant messaging applications have allowed us to connect with people all over the world in a matter of seconds. This enables fast and efficient exchange of information. Technological developments have allowed us to access entertainment more easily and in various forms, such as streaming video, interactive video games, and virtual reality. Overall, technology has improved the quality of human life through innovation in various fields. However, its influence also raises a number of social, ethical and policy issues that need to be addressed.

Technological progress is also widely felt in the field of education. The existence of computers and the internet allows access to a very wide range of educational resources. Distance learning, online courses and online learning platforms are growing in popularity. With the internet, information services for

target students are not limited by space, place, time and distance (Husaini, 2014). Through the internet, information services can be provided as learning resources, learning media that can be studied according to students' learning speed.

In English subjects, there is now also a lot of use of technology, usually in the form of learning applications, e-learning, translator applications, distance learning platforms, and learning videos. All of this was developed to support innovation in more effective learning. Teachers are required to master science and technology in transferring subject matter to students, so that students' learning in the learning process will be more meaningful or in other words the teaching paradigm will tend to be more towards the "student center" rather than the opposite towards the "teacher center". because the era influences the situation (Firmansyah, 2019).

In this case, the researcher tries to examine the use of technology in learning English with podcasts as an alternative media for speaking classes in discussion text at Al Kyai Sukosewu Vocational School, Bojonegoro. Podcasts are video content that we often encounter on social media. We often encounter podcasts, especially on video content-based platforms. Podcasts will really help students because they can practice sensitivity in listening skills and acquire lots of vocabularies which will certainly support fluency in speaking. The current use of podcasts has touched education, namely as a medium of learning. The existing learning media requires development to become more accessible, used, and understood by students (Tarmawan, Rusdiyana, Salim, & Ulpah, 2021).

There are several benefits to implementing podcasts as a learning medium. First, podcasts provide access to a wide variety of accents, dialects, and speaking styles. This allows students to become familiar with various language variants that exist in the real world. They can listen to narratives and conversations from a variety of sources, which enriches their understanding of language use in real situations. Second, podcasts motivate students. By hearing content that is interesting and relevant to their interests, students are more likely to participate and talk about the topic. This helps overcome motivation problems that are often faced in learning speaking. Third, podcasts can be easily integrated into online and face-to-face learning. Teachers can choose podcasts that suit students' ability levels and organize speaking activities based on the podcast content. This provides flexibility in lesson planning. Fourth, podcasts help students improve their listening comprehension skills. These skills are an important foundation for speaking, and podcasts provide good practice in understanding different accents and intonations.

Exploring podcasts as an alternative media has previously been implemented at Al Kyai Vocational School. However, it is only focused as a learning medium for a fun learning process. Researchers are trying to research other benefits that can be explored through exploring podcasts, such as making exploring podcasts as an alternative media for speaking classes. Usually in the second week the learning process will focus more on listening and speaking. Where students' listening and speaking skills will be evaluated in the form of an oral test. In this case, the test for listening and speaking skills is carried out

in the form of a discussion, according to the chapter they are studying, namely discussion text.

Researchers chose to focus more on improving students' speaking skills, because the average student's speaking skills were still lacking. (Mardhiyah, 2021) quoting from (Lie, 2007, p.7) said, even though the majority of high school students have studied English for at least 6 years, their ability and competency in speaking English is still low. Students' lack of speaking ability is caused by various reasons. Students tend to find English scary and difficult. Many students are ignorant before English itself is taught. (Mardhiyah, 2021) who quotes from (Oxford, 1990) believes that the possible reason is that students think that speaking English is something stressful. Stigma like this makes it difficult for students to focus on English lessons, especially in speaking classes.

The application of exploring podcasts as an alternative media for speaking classes in discussion texts is expected to improve students' speaking skills, especially in discussion chapters. By having group discussions, the teacher will easily identify the level of understanding as well as the level of speaking and fluency of each student. Group discussion was beneficial during the speaking class because of it promotes interaction and learning, motivates student to speak, and develops respect to another's' idea (Rahmat, 2023).

1.2 Problem of the Study

The description above can provide an overview of the problems encountered in schools in the teaching and learning process, for this reason these problems can be identified as follows:

1. How is the implementation of exploring podcasts for speaking class in discussion text?
2. What are the students' difficulties in speaking practice in discussion text in class XI SMK Al Kyai?
3. What are the benefits of exploring podcasts as an alternative media for speaking class in discussion text?

1.3 Research Objectives

The aims of the research are:

1. To know how the implementation of exploring podcasts for speaking class in discussion text chapter.
2. To find out the students' difficulties in speaking practice in discussion text in class XI SMK Al Kyai.
3. To know the benefits of exploring podcasts as an alternative media for speaking class in discussion text chapter.

1.4 Significant of The Research

1. The theoretically:

Theoretically, this study will describe the application of exploring podcasts as alternative media for speaking class in discussion text chapter.

2. Practically Significance:

From this research, it is expected to be able to provide the benefits for:

- a. English language teacher

The researcher hopes that this research can provide some results from the English teacher's perception of the difficulties faced by students

in the speaking class in discussion text chapter and find a suitable way to teach students who have difficulty understanding in discussion text chapter. Therefore, the application of exploring podcast is expected to provide more insight in developing learning and helps to train fluency in speech.

b. Student

The researcher hopes that this research can be used, as way to improve students' understanding of the discussion text and increase speaking skill of class XI SMK AL Kyai Sukosewu. And to generate innovation as a form of developing more interesting learning media in studying discussion text chapter.

c. Researcher

The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for other researchers and provide motivation and lessons that can be learned by everyone. In addition, the authors hope that this research can be used as a learning media to analyze students' difficulties and provide some new ideas for making better and more interesting media.

d. School

The application of podcast exploration aims to be a means of innovation that is beneficial to schools, such as helping writers contribute their energy and creativity to develop fun learning media for students.

Judging from the previous application which was only focused as a media for fun learning, the researchers found that podcasts could be used for

more than that, such as media to practice listening comprehension and speaking skills.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The researcher focuses her research on the use of exploring podcast as an alternative media for speaking class in discussion text. The authors limit this problem to students' difficulties in speaking practice for class XI SMK Al Kyai totaling 24 students.

1.6 Definition of the key terms

1. Podcast

Podcast is one of the content media that has a lot of public attention. It is because it seems more flexible and intense. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a podcast is a digital audio file available on the internet that can be downloaded to a mobile device or computer. Usually, podcasts are serialized and can be enjoyed by listeners who have subscribed. The use of podcast as a learning medium can also train student's motor skills because when the listening process is carried out, students will automatically select information and focus on one thing. Podcast also increase the level of understanding and enhance the imagination abilities of the listeners.

2. Alternative Media

Alternative Media are media that differ from common or dominant forms of media in terms of their visual content, production, and distribution. According to Antonio Gramsci, alternative media is synonymous with anti-hegemony, which means the opposite direction from the main media.

Meanwhile, according to Kevin Howley, alternative media is known as community media, grassroots media, and citizen's media. Judging from its type, according to the Oxford Reference, alternative media can be in the form of newspapers, online media, radio, flyers, pamphlets, and many more.

The creation of alternative media in the scope of education is motivated by the need for information and demands for innovation so that science can develop and increase the level of understanding of the teaching material according to the chapters discussed.

3. Speaking Class

Speaking class is a class that learns how to communicate orally which is done directly in public or in front of a group of people. Good public speaking skills will help you convey what you convey so that it can be well received by the audience.

4. Discussion Text

Since the early 1960s the role of class discussion has been emphasized as an effort to increase understanding in learning. Class discussions have proven to be effective in increasing literal and inferential understanding. With the class discussions, various text discussions arose in which the aim was to map and compile in detail the different points of view in it which contained the critical reasoning of each discussion participant with the average age range of participants being 17-19 years or XI graders of SMK Al Kyai Sukosewu.



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