

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In this modern era, English has become something important to learn. English is an international language and is a lingua franca. Devrim and Bayyurt (2010, P.4) emphasize "Today, it is an undeniable fact that English has become a global lingua franca. It is the most commonly spoken foreign language, language of media, language of technology, and language of science." Based on this statement, English can be said to be one of the supports for someone to be able to master the world. English language is considered by many as the international language. Its acquisition can guarantee the availability of opportunities to employment, traveling, higher education, and even better life (Crystal, 1997) .

In the current era, there are many books, films, news, knowledge in any form, including quality research, most of which are in English. For example, the book "Filosofi Teras" by Henry Manampiring (2018) which is famous for its stoicism was famous in Indonesia in 2018, but actually if we can speak English and follow self-development abroad or foreign media, stoicism has been trending since 2014 or even earlier. So, if someone can't speak English, he will miss many opportunities and miss out on various information. However, if someone can use and master English well then he will get a lot of information from all over the world, will get lots of opportunities and will know world developments quickly.

The ability to speak English is one of the keys to making someone smart and successful. It is in line with Hashemi and Azizezhad (2011) explain that "English knowledge will help to open many opportunities for them (children) in the future and it will be invaluable in their future careers". English can make someone successful because it is an international language where the media, economics, science and world use English. If someone can master English well then it will provide good opportunities for

his career. Good English language skills are also one of the factors for expanding and facilitating international scale relationships which will make someone have good social capital. Someone can get connections, get investors from abroad or even establish good cooperative relationships with foreign companies.

Even though there are many benefits that we will get when we are able to speak English, apart from that, being able to speak English well and correctly is a challenge in itself because learning English is not easy and has been proven by many research studies. Akbari (2015) argued "Learning English as a foreign language is a challenging task". This is because structurally, pronunciation may be different from the first language or mother tongue and even people who have not spoken English since childhood will think English is strange because English is a non-phonetic language. Words ending in "ough". Even though they both end in "ough", the way to pronounce them is different.

Example: 1. / ʌ f / (uff) First, pronounce the ending 'ough' which is read with the sound / ʌ f / (uff). Examples of words for this pronunciation are Enough, Rough and Though. 2. / ɒ f / (off) Second, pronounce ough with the sound / ɒ f / (off). An example is the words Cough and Trough. 3. / u: / (u) Third, the pronunciation of ough in English is with the sound / u: / (u). An example of a word is Through. 4. / oʊ / (oe) Fourth, pronounce the ending ough with the sound / oʊ / (oe) as for example in the words Though, Dough and Thorough. 5. / ɔ: / (au) Fifth, pronounce ough in English words with the sound / ɔ: / (au). Examples include the words Thought, Bought and Fought. 6. / aʊ / (ow) Sixth, the pronunciation of ough in English is with the sound / aʊ / (ow). For example, the words Drought and Plow. 7. / ə p / , / ʌ p / (ap) Seventh, the pronunciation of ough with the sound / ə p / , / ʌ p / (ap) as in the word Hiccough which means to choke or hiccup.

According to Wiratsih (2019) “ When students practice speaking, the correct pronunciation of each vocabulary word needs to be paid attention to.” Pronunciation accuracy is essential, if a pronunciation error occurs it will change the meaning of the words spoken. . Examples of the words Right, Rite, Write and Wright. All these words are the same in pronunciation. Another example is To, Too and Two . Someone will be confused if the words are spoken generally and not in a certain context. In other contexts, there are also words that are written the same but have different meanings and pronunciations, for example the word "Tear". According to the John M. Echols Dictionary, there are two ways of pronunciation, the first is/tir/ which means 'tears' and the second is/ tær /which means 'to tear'. So, in this context pronunciation is very important so that, there are no misunderstandings in conveying the purpose of speaking.

Besides that the obstacle for people speaking English is language anxiety. MacIntyre, P.D & Gardner, R.C. (1994) in research Fergina (2019) said “Language anxiety is feeling of tension and apprehension specifically associated with second language context, including speaking, listening and learning.” Language anxiety is also called communication apprehension. The solution to overcoming language anxiety is mindfulness. Kabat-Zinn (1990:87) in research Maharani (2019) defines mindfulness as awareness that arises as a result of paying attention to a current experience intentionally and without judgment in order to be able to respond with acceptance, rather than reacting, to experiences experienced daily. So the first thing that have to do is be aware of own abilities. After realizing and accepting what own strengths and weaknesses are in learning a language, the next thing to do is be diligent in learning and start setting goals, then learners have to expose themselves to anything related to English and utilize various media to learn English.

In English there are four skills. According to Zaim (2016) in research Asholahudin (2020) said "In the concept of language learning, there are four language skills that must be mastered by a language learner, namely speaking skills, listening skills, reading skills, and writing skills." In this research the author focuses on speaking skills for students. Many students think that speaking is a skill that is difficult to do considering that Indonesian people do not use English as their daily language.

According to Ladouse (in Nunan, 1991: 23) in research Rohayani (2015) speaking is an activity to explain someone in a certain situation or an activity to report something. Meanwhile, Tarigan (1990: 8) said in his research "Speaking is a way of communicating that influences our daily lives." This means that speaking is a way of communicating that can influence a person's life. Based on this explanation, the author concludes that speaking is an activity or way to convey the intention or purpose of the speaker to other people who are spoken to through the process of spoken language.

Based on preliminary interviews conducted by researcher with an English Teacher and students of Kulliyatul Mu'allimin Wal Mu'allimat Al Islamiyah (KMI) ASSALAM Bangilan Tuban East Java, the researcher found several difficulties or problems experienced by students in learning speaking, including fear or anxiety in pronunciation, difficulty finding friends who use full English to chat with, lack of mastery of vocabulary. Among these factors, the one most frequently mentioned is the factor of fear or anxiety in pronunciation.

In the 20th century, to improve speaking skills, learners can use sophisticated media. For example, using media-based *Artificial Intelligence (AI)* so that the learning process can be more enjoyable and not monotonous. Abimanto (2023) found that the use of AI in English language learning has great potential to improve language learning and make a significant contribution to the development of innovative and adaptive learning methods.

One application that can be used to improve language skills is *English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA)*. According to Akhmad and Munawir (2022b) ELSA (English Learning Speech Assistant) Speak can be a very useful medium in English learning, especially pronunciation, which is one of the important factors in mastering speaking skills. Elsa speak can help us to practice and hone our speaking skills in English by correcting incorrect pronunciation and explaining how to pronounce correctly in English. We can practice English language skills anytime and anywhere. Practicing with ELSA Speak regularly can help improve our speaking ability in English.

In order for the delivery of knowledge can run well, there must be a method that must be used. According to Wardhana (2018) a technique is needed to master English. Various appropriate learning techniques are expected to improve student learning. One technique that can be used is to apply shadowing techniques. Shadowing is technique of language learning where the learner repeats the audio right after hearing it. The Shadowing technique is different from the Repetition technique. In the Repetition technique the learner listens to the native speaker first and there is a pause then the learner repeats the words spoken by the native speaker but in the Shadowing technique the learner immediately repeats what the native speaker said without a pause.

According to Hamada (2012) shadowing is defined as the activity of using headphones to hear and recite a sound as parrots do. The effectiveness of shadowing as a listening learning method was researched in 2012 by Yo Hamada, a professor at Akita University in Japan. At that time, Hamada applied shadowing to English language learning and found that shadowing was able to improve his listening skills. Shadowing can improve prosody, gain more concentration, and become used to natural speed as well.

Using the same method, the researcher is interested in conducting research but in a different aspect, namely in the speaking aspect. Researcher is interested in examining the application of shadowing in English language learning to find out and improve speaking skills, especially in pronunciation using ELSA Speak APP. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct research with the title **“The Effectiveness of Shadowing Technique in English Language learning Using English Language Speech Assistant to Improve Students’ Pronunciation”**

## **1.2. Research Question**

From the background described above, the problem of this research is formulated as follow

1. Is there any effect of students’ pronunciation ability before and after applying shadowing technique using ELSA Speak application ?
2. How does students of KMI ASSALAM Boarding School respond to the use of the ELSA Speak application with Shadowing Technique?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the problem mentioned above, the objective of this research is to know :

1. The effectiveness of Shadowing technique using Elsa Speak application to improve students’ pronunciation ability.
2. The respond of KMI ASSALAM Boarding School students to the use of the ELSA Speak application with Shadowing Technique.

## **1.4 Scope and Limits of the research**

This research focuses on improving speaking skill, especially in pronunciation by applying Shadowing technique using ELSA application. The subjects of this research were students of of Kulliyatul Mu’allimin Wal Mu’allimat Al Islamiyah (KMI) ASSALAM Bangilan Tuban East Java .

## 1.5 Significance of the Research

The researcher expects this research can give benefits to the English teaching and learning. The "Significance of the Research" in the context of the given research title, "The Effectiveness of Shadowing Technique in English Language Learning Using English Language Speech Assistant to Improve Students' Speaking Skill," refers to the importance and relevance of the study. Here are several points highlighting the significance of the research:

### 1. Innovative Approach to Language Learning:

The research explores the use of technology, specifically a speech assistant, in language learning. This innovative approach may offer a fresh perspective on teaching methods, incorporating modern tools to enhance the learning experience.

### 2. Practical Application for Speaking Skills:

Improving speaking skills is a fundamental aspect of language learning. The research aims to provide insights into how the shadowing technique, coupled with a speech assistant, can practically contribute to enhancing students' speaking abilities.

### 3. Technology Integration in Language Education:

With the increasing prevalence of technology in education, understanding how speech assistants can be integrated into language learning is essential. The findings of this research may contribute to the broader discussion on effective ways to use technology in language education.

### 4. Pedagogical Implications:

The study may uncover valuable pedagogical insights, helping educators tailor their teaching methods to better suit the needs of students

aiming to improve their speaking skills. This can have broader implications for curriculum development and teaching strategies.

#### 5. Potential Impact on Language Teaching Practices:

If the research demonstrates positive outcomes, it could influence language teaching practices, encouraging the incorporation of speech assistants and the shadowing technique into mainstream language education methodologies.

#### 6. Addressing Current Educational Challenges:

The research may address current challenges faced in language learning, such as limited opportunities for speaking practice. By offering a potential solution, the study becomes relevant in the context of the evolving landscape of education.

#### 7. Contribution to Academic Discourse:

The research contributes to the academic discourse on language learning methodologies, providing data that can be referenced and built upon by other researchers, educators, and professionals in the field.

In summary, the significance of the research lies in its potential to advance our understanding of effective language learning techniques, especially in the realm of speaking skills, and to contribute practical insights for educators and learners alike.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Term

The definition of the key term :

### 1.6.1 English Language Speaking

According to Ladouse (in Nunan, 1991: 23) in research Rokhayani and Cahyo (2015) speaking is an activity to explain someone in a certain situation or an activity to report something. Meanwhile, according to



Tarigan (1990: 8) "Speaking is a way of communicating that influences our daily lives." This means that speaking is a way of communicating that can influence a person's life.

### **1.6.2 Pronunciation**

According to Lado (1964: 70) in (Gumelar & Riandi, 2021), Pronunciation is the use of a sound system in speaking and listening. In this case, pronunciation is only treated as an action that occurs in speaking and listening, Lado does not mention how the sound is produced. From this definition it can be concluded that pronunciation is a way of saying a particular word or phrase that is generally accepted or understood (intelligible).

### **1.6.3 Shadowing Technique**

According to Hamada (2012: 2) in research (Wardhana, 2018), shadowing is defined as the activity of using headphones to hear and recite a sound as parrots do. The effectiveness of shadowing as a listening learning method was researched in 2012 by Yo Hamada, a professor at Akita University in Japan. At that time, Hamada applied shadowing to English language learning and found that shadowing was able to improve his listening skills.

### **1.6.4 English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) Application**

ELSA (English Language Speech Assistant) is an English learning application that helps users improve their English language skills by assessing their speaking ability based on standard native sounds. The app uses AI technology developed using voice data from English speakers of various dialects, identifying the speech patterns of non-native speakers, and providing feedback to show them how to correct mistakes.