

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

As an introduction, this chapter contains six sub-sections which are the background of the study, the statement of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope, and limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

One of the most important discussions you will need to be able to speak fluently is speaking. Speaking is a language skill that enables learners to deliver ideas and senses in oral language (Lina, 2018). The purpose of teaching is threefold, the first is to allow students to understand and be understood the second is to build students' confidence in speaking and the last is to empower students to do so to monitor the way they speak inputs from the environment. Based on this statement, it is clear that pronunciation is very important when teaching English as a foreign language (Goodwin, 2001).

They cannot figure out how to pronounce one word with another. Some students can loudly and correctly pronounce English texts, while others always read in a whisper. They said that the pronunciation of English is difficult because they are a childhood raised speaking their mother tongue (Javanese) (Leonisa, 2021). Every student has a different ability to learn something, especially to speak or speak in English, because as we know we come from an area that does not use English as the main language, so many of us must have difficulty pronouncing words in English that are Correct. Student anxiety can be defined as feelings such as worry, panic, afraid, and frustration because they are afraid that what they are talking about is wrong and incorrect in pronouncing every word in English, they may even not understand how to pronounce some English words that they think are difficult to pronounce. To be a good English learner, you need to know some key features. Pronunciation is one of the most important things they have to pay attention to (Aprianoto and Haerazi, 2019). This skill is generally considered the most fundamental skill for English learners and even for teachers. This is not an easy task and they require a lot of effort to make pronouns in English for acceptable words and utterances (Arifin, 2017).

According to Fraser (2001:06), pronunciation contains essential elements of oral communication. It is also important to consider grammar, vocabulary, and cultural factors when writing. It is not just about getting learners to say the right things or produce the correct sounds; communication should be an essential part of classroom activities. Pronunciation is one of the aspects of speech that has an important function in communicating with others. The way the speaker pronounces words makes it easy for listeners to understand what they hear and creates a clear voice for the listener. Clear pronunciation gives the speaker confidence when expressing something that needs to be conveyed when communicating with others (Zaigham, 2011) while making mistakes in pronunciation will create misperceptions between speakers and listeners that make people unable to speak properly. can't tell what the speaker is saying.

Practicing pronunciation with a skilled native speaker is a good way to ensure that your pronunciation is accurate. However, pronunciation is taught in Indonesia since English is a foreign language, and as such, it is considered difficult and requires linguistic and cultural mastery from a teacher's standpoint. It will be a difficult task for English teachers to learn English (Yuhani'ah, R, 2011).

One of them is video-based learning based on TED Talks as a learning medium. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design, and is a non-profit media organization that uploads free and online presentations. TED Talks is a video-based conference where speakers present their big ideas. Till now, TED Talks have many topics such as science, business, global issues, and education as well. That is why TED Talks are now widely known and their videos are translated into many languages. Inevitably, teachers can apply TED Talks as a medium for teaching English in class Gheorghiu, Callan, & Skylark (2019).

Media TEDx Talks Program can be an alternative media for students to learn Voice and Accent in learning pronunciation. In this study, students were given several video TEDx Talks programs from various countries. Then students were asked to analyze the English accent used. The purpose of this study was to find out how the use of the TEDx Talks Program media can improve students' understanding of Voice and Accent in pronunciation learning and to find out students' opinions about the application of the TEDx Talks Program media in

pronunciation courses. To achieve this goal, the research method used in this study is qualitative. The data instruments used are the results of Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and interviews. Nd documentation.

From looking at this phenomenon, the author going to discuss whether TEDx Talks can be an alternative media for improving students' pronunciation skills and can reduce the factor which can prevent students from speaking English

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the description of the background above, the researcher has focused the research on several problems, and the research question of the research is: what are the EFL students' perceptions of TEDx Talks as creative media listening-speaking media for enhancing pronunciation skills?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the description of the problem above, the objective of the research is to describe the EFL students' perception of TEDx Talks as creative media listening-speaking media for enhancing pronunciation skills.

D. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide benefits to students and other researchers, as written below:

1. The benefits for a teacher is the teacher can use the material easier and she/he will have a new strategy to teach the elements of English by using TEDx Talks. The teacher can make this strategy to be interesting way and other students easy to understand in learning.
2. The benefits for students, it will improve the student's pronunciation, and students' can enjoy the learning process in the class.
3. The benefits for the researcher, the researcher wants to help students to find out easier ways and the new media to improve students' pronunciation.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher only focuses on TEDx Talks as media listening -speaking for students in enhancing pronunciation skills with a total of 3 students for interviews and 5 students for FGD (Focus Group Discussion) in the English Language Education Department at University Adi Buana of Surabaya.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The definition of key terms developed in this research function as a guide for the readers and make the readers understand some definitions of the key terms in this research, and the key terms are:

- a. **TEDx Talks:** technology, entertainment, and design channel that is a non-profit organization promoting the short-lived and impactful ideas of the world's most creative minds. Ted started in 1984 as a conference and now covers a wide range of subjects, including education, science, and culture. TED talks provide a variety of subjects that language learners may find interesting (Cong-Lem, 2018).
- b. **Speaking:** Speaking is one of the four language skills it means through which learners can communicate with others to achieve certain goals or to express their opinions, intentions, hopes, and viewpoints.
- c. **Pronunciation:** an ability that should be possessed by someone at this time, because nowadays there are so many who use and need someone who can speak, especially in the correct and appropriate pronunciation, such as when applying for a job, many and even almost all agencies will prioritize someone who has good speaking skills.
- d. **Listening:** the ability to accept and reject the accurate message in the communication process, and also the key to all effective communication, regardless of the ability to listen to messages effectively with ease of misunderstanding.
- e. **EFL (English as a Foreign Language):** This is particularly used to talk approximately students (whose first language is not English) learning and using English as an additional language in a non-English speaking country.