# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on presenting the research background, the research questions, research purposes, research significances, research scope, conceptual framework, and previous study.

## A. Research Background

In the context of English education, English is divided into four skills: listening, writing, reading, and most importantly speaking. Speaking is a person's knowledge in knowing a language, usually, we tend to mean someone can speak by producing meaningful sentences in a language. English is a foreign language that contains about how to include teaching speaking skill.

Speaking skill have a close relationship with listening skill. So, to master speaking, students must listen and then try to speak, because speaking is not only about remembering or memorizing sentences, but speaking is spontaneous for students to express their ideas and feelings verbally (Arief, 2014). Without applying language in real life, it is difficult for students to master speaking skill. Speaking competence can be achieved by practicing orally. Students currently experience difficulties in speaking English, this is to the phenomenon that researchers found that there are difficulties in improving English speaking skill even though they are already in an environment where interactions use English, this is due tothe doubts for students to show their language skill, This is due to the lack of confidence in students when speaking English.

With the development of today's era, many applications in the digital world have emerged. They can be used as a medium for improving English speaking skill, one of which is Clubhouse. The Clubhouse is a voice-based social networking application that allows users to communicate with each other in discussion groups. One discussion group can simultaneously accommodate more than 5,000 users through various rooms filled with people talking in the Clubhouse. All the available spaces on the page's homepage are open, so users can enter and exit to explore different conversations. Users generally enter the

discussion room as listeners, then can join in the conversation by pressing the raise hand feature, and the moderator grants them access to speak. The Clubhouse concept combines text messaging (chat) applications with podcasts or radio. So, the main focus is on enabling users to chat and communicate via voice, not text, images, photos, or videos.

Another exciting thing is that all conversations in this application cannot and are even prohibited from being recorded or transcribed without written permission from the source and application manager. Clubhouse creators argue that oral communication by emphasizing the medium of sound has advantages. Voice can contain intonation, emotion, mood, and other elements of communication dynamics that cannot be included in non-verbal communication through text messages or pictures. In addition, because there are no camera or picture features, people can be facilitated to express themselves anytime, anywhere, and under any circumstances, without needing to be burdened with other people's responses. This is the Clubhouse's main effort: to provide a space that makes its users comfortable expressing, communicating, and relating according to their respective conditions (Margaret & Alinurdin, 2021).

Previous research, according to Afrianto, Irfan, & Atin (2019), related to the use of an application in the form of a chat box capable of being a solution in the ability to speak English, namely as a medium for practicing English conversation, besides that users are also helped by features such as voice chat, correction errors, daily logs for practice and self-evaluation. Then the research, according to Utari (2019), related to the use of the 'intelligent technical English application to improve the English skill of vocational students, then the results of previous research on Improving Students' Speaking Skills through Mobile-Assisted Language Learning using the Cleverbot Application were according to Budiawan, Harunasari, & Kusumajati (2019) that the results show students feel that using mobile devices and the Cleverbot application in the learning process is easy and painless, and from observations, it shows that students seem very enthusiastic about taking lessons through mobile devices and using Cleverbot so it can be said that language learning with the help of Cellular and Cleverbot can

provide an increase in students' speaking skill.

From the explanation above, the study tries to know the use of clubhouse as an application media that can improve students' speaking skill in English. However, this research has a gap from the previous research. The previous study was conducted on group discussion in school without using the media as a tool to communication, in while, my research is focused on using the Clubhouse Application as a medium to improve students' speaking skill.

## B. Research Questions

This study was conducted to determine whether the clubhouse application can be a new medium for studying speaking skill and also the effectiveness of its performance. As a result, the researcher has developed two research questions based on students' perceptions of clubhouse applications as a medium for improving speaking skill. These two questions are as follows:

1. How do the students' experience in using the clubhouse application?
2. How do students' perceptions using the clubhouse application to improve their English speaking skill?

## C. Research Purposes

This study explores students' perceptions of speaking skill through the clubhouse application. Therefore, there are two purposes of this research. First, to find out how the student experiences using the clubhouse. Second, to find out How do students respond to the development of their speaking skill by using the clubhouse application.

## D. Research Significances

This study is expected to become information about Students' Perceptions and Experiences in Using Clubhouse Applications in Improving English Speaking skill. This study also investigates whether the clubhouse application can be used as a new medium for improving students' speaking skill. This study will be beneficial both theoretically and practically. To begin, this study will demonstrate theoretically that the clubhouse application can improve students' speaking

abilities. The second point is that this research will be extremely useful in identifying effective media for improving students' speaking skill and increasing the overall quality of students' abilities.

## E. Conceptual Framework

According to Rebecca (2006:144), speaking is the first mode in which children acquire language, it is part of most people's daily involvement with language activities, and it is the primary motor of language change. It also serves as our primary source of information for comprehending bilingualism and language contact. Moreover, "speaking is depending on the complexity of the information to be communicated; however, thespeaker sometimes finds it difficult to clarify what they want to say (Brown and Yule, 1994, p. 14)". In English language learners' teaching, speaking ability is an aspect that needs special attention and instruction. Furthermore, speaking skill is also one of the central elements of communication.

In mastering speaking, it can be done in many ways, and one of them is by practicing speaking using media online. In this era, media online can be done through voice, video calls, or video chat. So, it will make the learners easier in learning English, because many applicationscan be used by the learners to practice speaking English, so the learners will speak English fluently and be confident. According to Hadar (2021), a clubhouse is a new type of social product based on voice. It allows people everywhere to talk, develop ideas, deepen friendships, and meet interesting new people around the world. It means that the clubhouse will be the medium to improve speaking skill.

The Clubhouse concept is basically like combining text messaging (chat) applications with podcasts or radio. So, the main focus is on enabling users to chat and communicate via voice and not text, images, photos, or videos. Another interesting thing is that all conversations thatoccur in this application cannot and are even prohibited to be recordedor transcribed without written permission from the source and application manager. Clubhouse creators argue that oral communication by emphasizing the medium of sound has its advantages. Voice

can contain intonation, emotion, mood, and other elements of communication dynamics that cannot be contained in non-verbal communication through text messages or pictures. In addition, because there are no camera or picture features, people can be facilitated to express themselves anytime, anywhere, and under any circumstances, without needing to be burdened with other people's responses. This seems to be the Clubhouse's main effort: to provide a space that makes its users comfortable in expressing, communicating, and relating according to their respective conditions.

## F. Previous Study

Previous research according to Afrianto, Irfan, & Atin (2019), related to the use of an application in the form of a chatbox capable of being a solution for the ability to speak English, namely as a medium for practicing English conversation, besides that user also helped by features such as voice chat, correction errors, daily logs for practice and self-evaluation. Then the research according by Utari (2019) related to the use of the 'intelligent technical English application to improve the English skill of vocational students, then the results of previous research on Improving Students' Speaking Skills through Mobile-Assisted Language Learning using the Cleverbot Application were carried according by Budiawan, Harunasari, & Kusumajati (2019) that the results show students feel that using mobile devices and the Cleverbot application in the learning process is easy and painless, and from observations, it shows that students seem very enthusiastic about taking lessons through mobile devices and using Cleverbot so it can be said that language learning with the help of Cellular and Cleverbot can provide an increase in students' speaking skill.

According to the explanation above, the researcher is interested in the use of clubhouse as an application media that can improve students' English speaking skills. However, there is a gap between this research and previous research. The previous study focused on group discussions in school without the use of media as a communication tool. In comparison, my research focuses on using the Clubhouse Application to help students improve their speaking skills.