

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of Study**

English is one of the most important international languages for global communication in this modern era. As a widely used language, the ability to speak English is a very valuable skill, especially in academic, professional and social contexts. One important aspect in enriching English language skills is the mastery of a broad and diverse vocabulary. Vocabulary can be seen as the study of words-parts of words that provide clues to the meaning of the whole word. Richard (2002) argues that vocabulary is an important element of language proficiency and provides much of the foundation for how effectively language learners speak, listen, read and write. Saleh (2000) emphasizes that vocabulary is a word or collection of words that have a certain meaning, as well as all the words that a person uses when communicating in daily activities and life. According to Thornbury (2022), very little can be explained without grammar, but nothing can be explained without vocabulary. Therefore, vocabulary is an important component of language to communicate thoughts, ideas and emotions. By having or knowing a large amount of vocabulary, people will communicate effectively. It is impossible to learn a language without vocabulary, both when students first start learning and before they learn the other four skills: listening, speaking, writing and reading. The first consideration is vocabulary. As stated in surah Al- Ahzab verse 70:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ  
 ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

This verse emphasizes the importance for believers to fear Allah and speak the truth. The relationship between this verse and the concept that humans must speak good words is that in Islam, good speech is an important part of piety to Allah. This verse explains that Allah created and commanded humans to guard their tongues and always speak well.

Social media platforms are often seen as useful teaching tools because they are easy to use, interactive and social. Traditional ways of learning have been replaced by digital learning spaces on these platforms, which are perfect for encouraging the creation, sharing and acceptance of student-generated content through their interactive sections. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have been the subject of extensive research into their credibility as educational tools and other aspects of their usefulness, as a result of their growing popularity among users of all ages around the world, and particularly the younger generation. These platforms allow educators to engage students and the youth they serve in both traditional and non-traditional educational settings.

In today's digital age, social media has become an integral part of the daily lives of many individuals, especially the younger generation. Instagram, one of the most popular social media platforms, offers a variety of features that can be utilized for informal education, including English vocabulary development. Instagram, which has been around since 2010, was created as a

photo-sharing network before the addition of features such as videos, Direct Messages and stories significantly amplified its popularity. In recent years, the social media platform has grown at a rapid pace, attracting more and more users, especially among the younger generation or what we commonly call Gen Z. In this era of globalization, English is increasingly important as a means of international communication and global knowledge transmission. Instagram is a great resource for acquiring new knowledge and building global connections. The most in-demand Instagram videos, tutorials, posts and captions can help young people strengthen their English knowledge. This is in line with surah Al-Mujadalah verse 11 which states the importance of people with knowledge.

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ الَّذِينَ  
 انشُرُوا قَبْلَ انشُرُوا فَاَنْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ  
 بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ۝

The connection between this verse and the human need to know technology may seem indirect. However, in the context of modern life, knowledge of technology can help someone understand and apply these ethical principles. For example, in today's digital world, technology is often used as a tool to communicate and interact with other people. Humans need to understand digital ethics, such as how to communicate politely and respect other people in cyberspace.

As evidenced by a survey conducted by RSPH and Young Health Movement, Instagram has been linked to levels of anxiety, depression, bullying and fear of missing out. The use of social media always carries risks and under

no circumstances can it act as a substitute for human needs. However, the use of technology is not a foreign thing in the era of globalization, including in the world of education. So, education today must utilize technology to facilitate the implementation of learning, one of which is the use of social media.

Therefore, it is important that this research is conducted to find out the use of Instagram to strengthen Gen Z's vocabulary. Apart from that, this research is also conducted to find out what are the advantages and disadvantages of Instagram to strengthen their vocabulary. Gen Z in this study focuses on students of English Department of Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin.

## **B. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Instagram is a social media platform that primarily focuses on sharing visual content, including photos, videos, and stories. It allows users to edit and share images and short videos, apply various filters and effects, and engage with content through likes, comments, and direct messages. In this study, researchers want to find how the use of Instagram on the overall features on Instagram.
2. Gen Z are people born in 1996 to 2009. researchers focus on Gen Z at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, especially students from the English department batch 2020 as participants.
3. Speaking Vocabulary pertains to the lexicon or terms that an individual is capable of employing or articulating effortlessly in the course of verbal communication or discourse in a particular language. It comprises

vocabulary items that are frequently encountered in routine discourse and can be articulated with ease and precision. In this study, the researcher focuses on all vocabulary that has been used in the speaking class of Gen Z English Department at Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin.

### **C. Research Questions**

Based on the background of the study, the present research proposes to answer the following questions:

1. How are the use of Instagram features to Strengthen Gen Z speaking vocabulary?
2. What are the Advantages and Disadvantages of Instagram to Strengthen Gen Z speaking vocabulary?

### **D. Research Objectives**

According to the research questions, the research aims to investigate:

1. To find out how to use Instagram features to Strengthen Gen Z speaking vocabulary.
2. To find out the Advantages and Disadvantages of Instagram to Strengthen Gen Z speaking vocabulary.

### **E. Significance of Study**

In this study, the results can be used as a reference for lecturers to provide new insights into how social media such as Instagram can be integrated into learning to strengthen the speaking vocabulary of Gen Z. This provides an opportunity for teachers to develop learning strategies that are more relevant and interesting for students.

This research can also help Gen Z to know more about the use and advantages and disadvantages of Instagram to strengthen Gen Z's speaking vocabulary which can help identify ways that can strengthen their communication skills, both in social and academic contexts.

Also for researchers, this study can strengthen the quality of knowledge researchers about the use and advantages and disadvantages of Instagram to strengthen vocabulary and gain experience in conducting research.