

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Humans must be able to develop independently of others in order to keep up with the rapid advancement of science and technology. Furthermore, it affects how students learn up English. Being able to speak English is very important and useful for us in this day and age because it is an international language, which increases and expands job opportunities and the ability to communicate with people in other countries (Alaon et al., 2023).

The modern student needs to learn outside of the classroom in order to achieve more knowledge of the material, as opposed to only responding to the teacher's explanation in class. Students will therefore be more knowledgeable about the subject. Some students reported having trouble communicating in English due to a variety of reasons. For instance, some students felt embarrassed to speak in English for fear of being made fun of by others or themselves when they were having a conversation. Another reason could be a lack of vocabulary (Anshu et al., 2022).

There are various approaches to learning, particularly when it comes to speaking English.. For this reason, self-directed learning (SDL) is essential to students' growth. In terms of education, self-learning was initially acknowledged in 1989 when an expert by the name Zimmerman presented this idea. Students need to be proficient in four areas: pronunciation; fluency; automatic and rapid speech;

native and notative ways of producing sound; vocabulary; accuracy; and suitability of the language produced in relation to target language norms (Hawkins, 2018).

Any knowledge, abilities, successes, or personal growth that is chosen and produced by an individual using their own efforts at any time and in any situation is referred to as self-directed learning (SDL). For instance, the student will become more confident when speaking and more eager to learn. To achieve their goals, English language learners consult their teachers and friends, use the internet, and ask questions about their coursework (Pratibha, 2017). Self-directed learning is described as a mental process that is frequently reinforced and aided by behavioral actions like information retrieval and identification. Through self-learning, students voluntarily assume accountability for choosing their objectives and priorities, thereby transforming into agents of change in the learning process. Advanced understanding of self-learning an interviewing method by which he obtained accounts of the quantity, length, and nature of learning initiatives of different self-learners.

A highly self-learner is someone who exhibits initiative, independence, and persistence in their learning; someone who takes ownership of their education and sees obstacles as challenges rather than as barriers; someone who can exercise self-discipline and has a high degree of curiosity; someone who is self-assured and has a strong desire to learn or change; someone who can use fundamental study skills; someone who can manage their time; and someone who enjoys learning (Ebadi & Asakereh, 2017). The need for independent study in order to learn speech is explored both inside and outside of the classroom. Due to limited time and a high

student population, group learning is not only more effective for some students but also less effective for others. In groups, only one or two people can converse at a time. This is not the best time for students to learn to speak because they are not receiving any extra help. Therefore, everyone should study English on their own so they can get along with friends who can communicate in the language.

Speaking is basically the ability to communicate ideas or concepts to others through spoken language. A child's ability to speak is still developing; speaking was only tested after mastery of listening comprehension (Rumkoda, 2022). The division of the four English language skills into two main categories is called active language and passive language. Active language use is a requirement for speaking, and many people assert that speaking may occasionally require difficult speech in between the other skills. One of the most crucial and necessary abilities to master in order to effectively communicate is speaking. Speaking enables people to comprehend the different kinds of situations that can arise in the real world. Speaking well will make a person more adept at interacting with others and sharing information. Speaking is the process of creating context.). Speaking ability is the ability to speak clearly and effectively in a range of situations, to accurately report events or circumstances, to converse, or to effortlessly articulate a number of ideas.

Allah says in QS Al Hujurat verse 13:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

From this we know that learning a foreign language is God's law, considering that humans are created different and diverse nations, tribes and languages.

Seeing how important English is, learning it as soon as possible has been implemented in schools as one of the efforts to increase student proficiency in the language. English is the language of instruction used worldwide, so graduates of a school must be proficient in the language in addition to being productive given the competition they will face from other countries in the future. It's a fact that in the business and industrial worlds of work, English is used for oral communication rather than just comprehension of written instructions, reading manuals, or understanding instructions on how to operate other equipment.

This research was conducted at Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin, with participants as many as 4 students who apply Self-Directed Learning through campus programs such as English courses, learning with applications, and others. And as we know, many students have problems speaking in English and not all students can fully understand the lessons while in class. Of course, some of them prefer self-study to deepen their learning.

The researcher is motivated to conduct detailed research on the issue of students' speaking based on the discussion that was had above. **“UNIVERSITY STUDENTS’ VIEWPOINTS ON THE USE OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING TO DEVELOP SPEAKING SKILL”.**

B. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation in this thesis, the researcher will explain some of the terms in regard the title as follows:

1. University Students' Viewpoints

This term refers to the opinions, perceptions, and personal interpretations of university students regarding a particular phenomenon—in this case, the use of self-directed learning in improving English speaking skills. Viewpoints are shaped by students' lived experiences, beliefs, and reflections during their learning journey.

2. Self-Directed Learning (SDL)

Self-directed learning is a learning approach in which learners take the initiative to plan, implement, and evaluate their own learning activities. It includes identifying learning needs, setting goals, choosing resources and strategies, and assessing progress, either with or without guidance from others (Knowles, 1975). In this study, SDL refers to students' independent efforts to improve their speaking ability through tools such as apps, videos, journals, or peer collaboration.

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking skill refers to the ability to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings orally in a clear, fluent, and accurate manner using the target language (English). It includes components such as fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. In this study, speaking skill emphasizes the students' ability to communicate effectively in spoken English through self-directed learning activities.

C. Research Questions

1. What are the student's viewpoints and experiences on the use of self-directed learning to develop speaking skills?

2. What are the challenges faced in the self-directed learning process?

D. Objectives of Study

1. To find the student's viewpoints and experiences on the use of self-directed learning do develop speaking skill.
2. To find the challenges faced in the self-directed learning process.

E. Significance of Study

The benefits of the results of this study are expected to be useful for:

1. Students

For students, the results of this study are expected to become individuals who are aware of the importance of learning English in the current era, and this research has lessons for English learners and can suggest how learning English with self-learning is very usefull for developing us in learning English.

2. Researcher

For researcher, as a reference for other researchers who want to examine the experience of someone who has mastered English by self-study with different levels or develop this research more deeply.