CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Talking about English, how it spreads around the world, how it has a positive impact on the world, and how it has become a vital subject for students to learn in school is something very familiar to people. At this time, we know that English has become an international language. In this era, English is a powerful language used by people almost globally (Robbani & Khoirotunnisa, 2021). Because of that, people worldwide are forced to study English because it positively impacts people and can help people's lives. When people have good skills in English, it can help them interact with people from other countries and establish cooperation. By mastering English, people can easily communicate with foreigners, go abroad, and receive up-to-date information from other countries (Zarrabi, 2018). Selimovic S. (2022) said that nowadays, English is considered a global language and a means of communication throughout the world, and therefore, the ability to speak English fluently is considered the required skill for communication and adaptation to the world.

Hamdani & Puspitorini (2022) said that English can be considered an international language. As an international language, English is one of the languages that people worldwide must learn. English is the language most commonly used by people all over the world. English is also a unifying language when two or more people with different backgrounds meet in a conversation (Ratnasari, 2020). At this time, many people are learning English because it has an important role in their lives. English plays an essential role in the engineering field as it is an international language spoken widely all over the world (Kehing et al., 2021). In Indonesia, English has become the language that people, especially students, must learn. In the school, English is one of the subjects that the students learn.

Learning English at this time is very helpful for people because English is not just about the subject that students learn in school; it can help students communicate with other people, especially when they want to communicate with strangers. Language is important in communication (Fitrial, Dwimaulidiyanti, & Nur, 2021). They continue to say that with language, people can recognize and communicate what they feel and think. In learning English, the students must master four skills. Four skills that the students must master are speaking, listening, reading, and writing (Chotimah & Pratiw, 2022).

In this research, the researcher only focuses on speaking skills. Speaking skills is an essential part of learning a language. In spoken language, speaking is crucial in conveying messages that show different characteristics from written ones (Wahyuningsih & Afandi, 2020). Speaking is very important because speaking and human beings cannot be separated from each other (Sharma, 2018). When the students master this skill, they can communicate well with other people, especially people from other countries who need them to speak English. Speaking is an important skill in language learning, but it is challenging to learn or teach (Heini & Pakula, 2019). In terms of EFL learning, speaking English is the most important skill to master among the four language skills to communicate effectively in today's global world (Redjeki & Muhajir, 2020).

Guebba (2021) said that speaking is crucial to language learning and teaching. For the teacher and the students in the school, learning and teaching, speaking is a crucial component. But at this time, students still have difficulty in speaking. This is because the students must learn pronunciation, fluency, intonation, and accuracy. There are some difficulties faced by students when learning to speak, like pronunciation, fluency, intonation, filler words, accuracy, shyness, and no confidence (Fitrial, Dwimaulidiyanti, & Nur, 2021).

To address this issue, students must commit to daily speaking practice. Regular speaking practice is a reliable path to authentic communication, enhancing the students' proficiency (Syafryadin, 2020).

Learning using the appropriate application will make speaking practice easy for the students. Nowadays, there are many applications for students and teachers in learning languages. The use of the Cake application in the teaching-learning process can help the teacher explore more and learn new techniques (Fitrial Dwimaulidiyanti & Nur, 2021). One of the applications that help students learn a language is the Cake application. Cake application is an application for learning English. Paramita et al. (2022) said that this application is very practical and will be the right tool for those who want to learn English. This application has many features that can help us learn English, especially when we want to improve our speaking skills. Using the Cake Application in the Civil Engineering Department, especially in the English course, effectively improves speaking ability (Paramita et al., 2022).

Cake Learn English for Free app is suitable for improving speaking skills because its main feature is a speaking course; this app also provides you with videos from many channels that you can watch and practice speaking with its keyword (Fitria et al., 2021). Hence, the researcher is interested to do this study to find out if Cake App is effective to enhance EFL students' speaking skill.

1.2 Research Question

1. Is the Cake application able to help EFL students improving their speaking skill?
2. How is cake application used to improve speaking skill of the EFL students?

1.3 objectives of research

1. To find out if Cake Application able to help EFL students improving their speaking skill or not.

2. To find out how cake application is used to improve speaking skill of the EFL students.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The significance of the study will be useful for:

1. For English teachers, the result of this research is expected to provide them with an alternative to teaching English. It also helps the teacher to be more creative in classroom activities so that the learning process will be more fun.

2. For the researcher, the result of this study is expected to help him in her knowledge of English and develop his experience related to his knowledge in research on education and English teaching, especially in teaching speaking.

3. For the students, the result of this study is expected to be able help the students in learning English and make them be more motivated especially to improve their speaking skill.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Research

The researcher limits the study. It is intended to avoid a big problem and help him focus on the research. In this research, the researcher will focus on speaking, especially for daily conversation on daily activities.

There are five aspects to assess students' speaking ability: Content, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and fluency. For this research, the researcher was focused on these five aspects.

In this research, researcher also limit media in English language learning. Now days there are some online apps to learn English, that is: Cake Application, Elsa, Hello, and Duolingo. Regarding the background of the problem and identification of the problem, this study will focus on the using Cake application to improve the speaking skills of the students especially speaking for daily conversation on daily activities. The reason why the researcher chooses using English Applications in learning English will help the students in their learning especially to increase their motivation. So, to improve their speaking skill in learning English, the use of the Cake application is very interesting for them. The researcher believes that it would help them in improving their speaking skill in learning English. In light of this view, the study is conducted by focusing on the using the Cake application to improve the speaking skills of the students.