

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Speaking is one of four key language skills. It tends to be the most important skill in learning a second language or foreign language (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2014). As stated by Brown and Yule (1983), speaking is a real-life situation skill that can judge students. It is an important skill for every interaction in real life and often to be the first impression to see a person's ability. That is why when it comes to learning a second language or foreign language, speaking is important and a must.

In learning a foreign language especially in speaking, students often face anxiety. It is found as the emotional reaction that weakens the performance of using a foreign language (Horwitz, 2010; Horwitz, Horwitz & Cope 1986; MacIntyre & Gardner, 1991). Anxiety defined as “the feeling of tension and apprehension specifically associated with second language contexts, including speaking, listening, and learning” (MacIntyre & Gardner, 1994, p. 284, as cited in Kelsen, 2019) and has been identified as an influential variable in FL achievement (Dewaele, 2017; Dörnyei & Ryan, 2015; MacIntyre, 2017, as cited in Kelsen, 2019). Therefore mobile technologies exist as the media to facilitate students with their learning process.

In this era, mobile technologies develop very rapidly, it is important to look at their developments, especially the development of apps that can be integrated into the ELT area (Jati, 2018). As stated by Bahadorfar & Omidvar (2014, p.4) “Technology can stimulate the playfulness of learners and immerse them in a

variety of scenarios". Technology also gives learners a chance to engage with their self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interaction, privacy, and a safe environment in which learners can get errors corrected and given feedback (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2014).

Orai application is one of the useful applications used in learning speaking. It has lots of features to help the users determine what they want to improve for their speaking, such as: overcoming nerves, control speaking pace, removing fillers, facial expression, vocal clarity, using concise language, speaking with energy, and intentional pausing (Bodana, 2017 as cited in Halimah, Lustyantie, & Ibrahim, 2018). It plays a role as the media to facilitate students in overcoming their problems in speaking.

In the previous study, Halimah, Lustyantie, & Ibrahim (2018) used the Orai application combined with the CLL method to examine students' perceptions in speaking class with a qualitative descriptive method. The results illustrated that the Orai application helps students alleviate the fear of speaking and increasing speaking ability on the aspects of pronunciation, intonation, and speaking speed. Similar to the previous study, this current study focuses on the use of Orai application, however the method, data collection, participants, and data analysis are different as the gap of the research.

B. Formulation of the Problem

This research is examined in one question: How does Orai application reduce students' speaking anxiety?

C. Operational Definitions

To avoid misunderstanding of this research, some definitions are provided below:

1. Orai application: The online application with goals to improve public speaking through online feedback, voice recording, and exercise with levels in it.
2. Speaking Anxiety: As the feeling of nervousness and worry associated with the arousal of the nervous system and has been identified as one of many problems that occurred in doing a speaking activity.

D. Aims of the Research

This research aims to explore the EFL students' perspective of using features in Orai application as the media to reduce their speaking anxiety and the effectiveness of Orai application to ELT area.

E. The Significances of the Research

1. Theoretical Use

This study will encourage students' speaking anxiety using Orai application as the media.

2. Empirical Use

The result of this study will provide an empirical insight into the effectiveness of Orai application to the ELT area.

3. Practical Use

The result of this study will provide the reader with the new method of learning speaking through Orai as the media.