

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an extensive overview of the study. It encompasses the background, formulation of the problem, operational definitions, aim of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

One aspect involved in the process of improving speaking skills is the language learning strategies used by students. Supported by Oxford (1990) Learning strategies are steps students take to improve their learning. Looking for someone to talk to, asking for correction, and practicing aloud are examples of learning strategies students use to improve speaking skills. In addition, Oxford (1990) Also, the use of appropriate language learning strategies makes a major contribution to developing communicative competence. It can be concluded that if an inappropriate strategy is implemented, it will not result in much improvement in skills to become competent. Therefore, learning strategies are one of the main factors that help determine how well students learn to improve their foreign language speaking skills. Munfandila's research (2022) Successful students who improve their speaking skills apply six kinds of learning strategies in speaking performance: social strategies, metacognitive strategies, affective strategies, memory strategies, cognitive strategies, and compensation strategies.

The researcher took a course in *Kampung Inggris* Pare and discovered a phenomenon where students utilize learning strategies to study English as a foreign language (EFL) to improve their speaking skills because they still found several problems that affected their skills. Practically, three people took the courses at *Kampung English* Pare to learn more about strategies to improve their speaking skills with different learning strategies in each course. Many English courses that successfully improve students' speaking skills have different programs and learning strategies, especially *Kampung Inggris*, located in Pare, East Java. Three courses are related to how the courses create learning strategies to improve students' speaking skills. The first course is the F English course, the strategies used for audio listening. The students listen to the audio containing a conversation discussing a

topic between two or more people. After that, students are given the challenge to have a conversation with their friends. They can talk about their daily activities, hobbies, or topics that are around, which focus on students' self-confidence to become speakers. The second course is the E-course, which focuses on pronunciation using loudspeakers that students can learn to listen to distinguish which words contain a British accent and which words contain an American accent; students used the Oxford dictionary in learning phonetic symbol material. The last is the K course, which focuses on grammar for speaking, using maps as technology, the internet as supporting materials, audio-visual as the media, and peer assessment as the assessment to avoid boring classes. Based on this phenomenon the researcher would like to investigate what are the learning strategies used by students in improving speaking skills at English courses in *Kampung Inggris Pare*

The studies that have examined students' strategies for learning speaking skills vary. Wael et al., (2018) Investigating the strategies used by students to improve their speaking skills, the researcher concluded that the third semester of the English department frequently used memory strategies in learning to speak. Students use imagery and visual connections in their learning. Munfandila (2022) concluded that the factors that influence improving their speaking skills are psychological factors (the students themselves). Saputra and Subekti (2020) It also stated that the contribution of strategies in learning speaking for students' level in the fourth-semester speaking class influenced students' speaking quality assessment scores. If students have many speaking learning strategies to improve their speaking skills, they tend to have high speaking skill scores. Meanwhile, students with limited strategies to improve their speaking skills tend to have low speaking skill scores.

Based on the research above, it can be concluded that at the student level in the third and fourth semesters, implemented learning strategies to improve speaking skills only focused on factors that influence student psychology, such as the way students think about themselves and students have high grades, meaning students have many strategies to improve speaking skills. To fill this gap in this study, this research focuses on learning strategies found in several courses in *Kampung Inggris Pare* to improve speaking skills. This research aims to find out more about strategies

to improve students' speaking skills that have enabled students to find better solutions to the problems they face in improving their speaking skills where students tend to use strategies that have helped them improve their speaking skills through practice, reasoning, and analysis, as well as strategies that allow students to control their learning strategies and evaluated results.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background mentioned above, the goals were to find the answers to the following question: “What are the learning strategies used by students in improving speaking skills at English courses in *Kampung Inggris Pare*?”

1.3 Operational Definitions

1.3.1 Speaking Skill

Speaking is a communicative activity that allows someone to talk or discuss anything, converse with someone, address someone in words, and express oneself in a particular language. The essential components of speaking skills are grammar, pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. People can improve their speech by mastering those components.

1.3.2 Learning Strategies

One of the critical dimensions of learning productive lessons is learning strategy. In conveying learning, a strategy is needed in conveying knowledge. English courses in *Kampung Inggris Pare* employ diverse learning strategies. Some commonly used strategies, such as Audio Listening to enhance listening comprehension and speaking skills by exposing participants to English conversations, loudspeakers aid in distinguishing between different English accents, such as British and American, and map method as a teaching aid with Internet resources as support. By implementing these strategies, courses at *Kampung Inggris Pare* can achieve their learning objectives more effectively.

1.3.3 English Course

English courses are a place for students to increase their knowledge, especially in the English language. There are many English courses in *Kampung Inggris Pare* that implement several learning activities such as speeches, debates, games, and outing classes as one of their learning programs. Apart from learning

activities, there are also camps for students to live in who are required to use English when communicating while at the camp.

1.4 Aims of the Research

The main aims of the research are to find out the learning strategies used by the students to improve their speaking skills in taking English courses in *Kampung Inggris* Pare and the positive influence that can be used either in academics or in work.

1.5 Significances of the Study

1.5.1 Theoretical Contribution

The findings of this research are intended to provide valuable information and can be used as reference material for learning strategies for students to improve their speaking skills in English in several courses in *Kampung Inggris* Pare. Then, students can be able to find better solutions for the problem by improving their speaking skills.

1.5.2 Practical Contribution

The results of this research are expected to provide helpful information for many students involved in the learning process, which can help students to encourage them to improve their speaking skills and contribute theoretically and practically to learning strategies for English speaking skills. Knowing more about strategies to improve students' speaking skills has enabled students to find better solutions for the problems they have to improve their speaking skills.

1.5.3 Empirical Contribution

This study reviewed is based on previous research focused on student college and university with a focus on factors that influence student psychology and student levels. Therefore, this research aims to determine the learning strategies of students taking English courses in *Kampung English* Pare regarding their speaking skills. This research can be a reference for other researchers who are interested in researching the same problem.