# CHAPTER I

**INTRODUCTION**

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Speaking, the primary tool for English communication isone of thelanguage skills that Indonesian students find difficult for several reasons. Some of them are lack of motivation, grammar mastery, and vocabulary (Baihaqi, 2016). Some other reasons that came up were that the students experienced issues recognizing comparable sounds, pronunciations, and words that did not exist in the Indonesianlanguage (Subandowo, 2017). Difficulties can also arise due to a lack of knowledge about the discussed topic (Leong & Ahmadi, 2016). In addition, the students are not actively speaking and tend to be passive in class because of anxiety, lack of confidence, and fear of ridicule (Savaşçı, 2014). Because of the difficulties found, educators and students should try to use conventional methods and media to overcome those difficulties and improve their speaking skills.

Students need to improve their speaking skills because people who can communicate in English well will usually receive respect and admiration (Huynh, 2020). Erin (2020) commented that thinking about all perspectives, from culture, society, and economy to governmental issues in the time of transformation and joining, dominating English talking abilities is a pressing issue that requires mindful consideration regarding preparing individuals for their vocation advancement. From those assertions, tracking down a viable media and technique to further develop speaking skill is crucial.

In this modern era, students can find many applications that can help them improve speaking skills, even individually. One of the applications that be able to aid students in learning speaking is the Cake application. Cake is a free application developed by Cake Corp in South Korea. It is a tool for

learning English. It offers people the confidence and abilities they need to communicate in public or everyday situations (Octavianita, Fitri, Rafinazly, & Ihsan, 2022). It was released on 22nd March 2018. Cake has reached over 50 million downloaders or users, with a rating of 4.9/5. It has many features for learning English, such as learning through various videos, speaking practice, pronunciation checking, daily expression, and many more.

Previous researchers had conducted several studies using Cake App to improve speaking skills. Nuraeni and Yanti (2020) found that the students have good perceptions of using cake application in learning speaking skills. The finding is clear from the average score of each advantage as the indicator of the close-ended questions given. Thanh, Qui, and Hung (2021) claim that Cake App is one of the three applications students use to practice English Speaking after Elsa and Duolingo. Suryani, Nurinsani, Purnama, Hakim, and Nisa (2021) reveal that the students felt comfortable using Cake App for learning English. They also like it because it is easy and interesting to be used. Fitria, Dwimaulidiyanti, and Sapitri (2021) found that students' responses to learning speaking through the Cake App were positive.

Based on the researcher's analysis of several previous studies on the effect of the Cake App on speaking, it was found that most of the research that had been done used observation and interview instruments with students. Meanwhile, in this study, the design utilized to ascertain the influence of the Cake App on students' speaking skills was a one-group pre-test and post-test where the Cake App was used directly by a teacher and students in learning English in a class. The influence would be known by analyzing the improvement of five components, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, after students use Cake in their class.

## 1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Here were some reasons the researcher chose the topic:

1. Speaking is a crucial skill in students’ learning language which students’ find difficult.
2. Cake is an Android application that has been created to aid people to learn English easily.
3. Learning to speak English using Cake application has never been done in the school that will be studied.

## 1.3 Research Problem

Fromthe researcher's explanation displayed in the backgroundof the study section, the researcherformulates the following research problem:Does the use of Cake application influence students' speaking skills?

## 1.4 Purpose of Study

Thepurpose of the study is to measure the influence ofusing Cake Application onstudents' speaking skills.

## 1.5 Assumption of the Study

The researcher assumes that the use of Cake App in students’ learning activity will be able to improve their speaking skills.

## 1.6 Formulation of Hypothesis

Based on the research problem above, the researcher formulates a hypothesis as follows:

1. Null-Hypothesis (H0): No significant difference exists in students' speaking skills after using Cake Application and before being taught.
2. Alternative-Hypothesis (Ha): There is a significant difference in students' speaking skills after using Cake Application and before being taught.

## 1.7 Significance of Study

The researcher expects this study to be beneficial for:

1. English students

For the students, the researcher hopes that using Cake Application can help them improve their speaking skills.

1. English teachers

For theteachers, the writer expects this studywill make a contribution and can help them in teachingEnglish-speaking materials. They can use Cake application as an exciting teaching media for teaching their students.

1. Researchers

The researcher hopes that completing and publishing this research can help add references for other researchers and as material for conducting more research in the future with the same topic as this current research, but of course, from a different point of view.

## 1.8 Definition of Terms

The researcher presents the definitions of the terms used in this study as follows.

1. Speaking

Speaking is one of the four language abilities (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and an interactiveprocessof constructing meaning that involves receiving, producing, and processing information (Torky, 2006).

1. Cake Application

Cake App is an Android mobile application created and developed by Cake Corp in South Korea (Nuraeni & Yanti, 2020). It is an application for learning English on android mobile which can help users to learn English in a fun way. It has many features that make learning easier. Some are quizzes, classes, speaking practices, and materials on various topics and discussions.