# **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter presents the background of the study, research question, research objective, research significant, research hypothesis, and definition of terminologies.

## Background of the Study

Teaching English to young learners is familiar now in the world of education. English is considered more likely to be easily understood by children than adults. According to Bakhsh (2016), young learners learn languages better than adults because they have more spare time and do not have any worries or responsibilities. One of the reasons we should teach English to young learners, according to Pinter (2006, p. 03), is “Teaching English to children has become a worldwide phenomenon due to the international expansion of English teaching combined with the general commitment of governments worldwide to reduce the starting age of learning English and include it in the curriculum in the primary school.”. Therefore, it is better to teach English to Young Learners from an early age so that they can gain a broad knowledge of English.

In teaching English to young learners, a teacher can teach several skills including speaking. Teaching speaking skills to young learners is essential because it can help them communicate with people from an early age. Nunan (2003) as cited in Sinaga and Oktaviani (2020) stated that one of the important skills is speaking. Second and foreign learners should make speaking as a priority skill and practice to communicate orally. After examining the statement above, it is true that teaching speaking must be paid much attention to by the teacher, especially by the English teacher so that young learners can speak English better in the future.

However, despite the importance of teaching speaking skill, some students remain struggling to speak well. A research conducted by Al Hosni (2014) revealed that there are three majors difficulties in speaking English felt by Young learners. They are linguistic difficulties, mother tongue use, and inhibition. The student often said “We dont’ know how to say it.”. Apart from students difficulties, there is a factor that influence young learners in learning speaking, it is a factor from teacher. Some issues are concluded in Ramadhani and Ys (2017) research. The issues were that teachers did not connect the material with the daily activity, young leaners were treated almost same like older learners, lack of creativity in class. Teachers also did not manage class well and not predict the time in teaching speaking to their students which limit the time and reduce the chance of more students to speak.

Young learners' difficulty in speaking English can be overcome in several ways. One of which is by using technology as a tool for supporting learning activities, the name is social media platforms. It is in line with Dhanya (2016), who stated that social media allow learners to participate in real-time, actual, and relevant online conversations. Social media also allows learners to practice the target language without an experienced teacher by the learners' side. Social media is often found as a medium for learning, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic—for instance, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Youtube, etc. One of the social media often used as a learning medium is Youtube. According to Benson (2015), YouTube is an online service that launched officially in late 2005, allowing registered users to upload video clips for viewing by the general population of Internet users. On Youtube, we can upload, view, comment on the video available on that platform.

Several studies found that using video as a medium for improving speaking skills in EFL is quite effective. Syafiq et al. (2021) stated that Youtube is beneficial in teaching English, especially for enhancing students’ speaking skills and motivation in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jati, Saukah, and Suryati (2019) stated in their research that tutorial videos on youtube can successfully improve students’ speaking ability. Besides that, tutorial videos on youtube help students gain better speaking performance scores. Accuracy, fluency, and performance are the improvement of their speaking ability. In Lestari (2019) research, it is said that video blogs as a medium for learning improve students’ speaking skills effectively. Moreover, a video blog provides knowledge about pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, accent, and culture.

As mentioned before, Youtube is one medium that is frequently used in education. There are many channels for learning that are accessible on Youtube. English SingSing is one of the education channels on youtube aimed at young learners in learning English. English SingSing, as defined by Khoerunnisa (2021), is a platform where children from every country can learn English while watching in a fun way. The researcher hopes that English SingSing can be a solution for young learners that feel difficulty when learning English, especially in speaking skills.

In regard to the effect of English SingSing on the students English skills, several studies have been conducted. For instance Sayidin, Rohmah, and Fitrianingsih (2021) investigated about the development of TK Kartika students in learning English vocabulary through English Singsing videos. They concluded that English SingSing is easy to access, a new thing to be learned by the student, and helps students know the material. Khoerunnisa (2021) stated a significant effect when using “English Singsing” YouTube video to assist students in vocabulary mastery. The use of “English Singsing” YouTube video should be maintained frequently and recommended to English teachers, especially to teach Junior High School students to attract their motivation in learning English to be more fun.

Despite the avaliability of the relevant research, the investigation on the effect of English SingSing on the students’ speaking skills, to the researcher best knowledge, are quite rare. Therefore, an investigation that can account for the effect of the English SingSing on the students' speaking skill is highly needed. This present study is designed to fill the gap by investigating the effect of English SingSing as a medium for young learners in improving speaking. The results of this study is expected to shed light on the practice of the teaching speaking to young learners.

* 1. **Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The researcher conducted this research is due to some students, especially young learners, struggled to speak well. Some issues also experienced by teachers while teaching speaking to young learners, so that it affected young learners in speaking English. Therefore, the further research to overcome the problems should be conducted. Hence, the researcher try to investigate English Sing Sing as a learning medium for young learners. The purpose is to find out whether there is an effect in improving young learners’ speaking skill or not.

## Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the present study intends to investigate the following research question: Are English Sing Sing videos able to improve young learners' speaking skills?

## Research Objective

Based on the research question, the objective can be stated as follows: To examine whether English Sing Sing videos able to improve young learners’ speaking skills.

## Research Significances

1. Theoritical Significance

This research expected to add a new insight to the literature of teaching english to young learners, especially in teaching speaking.

1. Practical Significances

1. Students

The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for students, especially for Young Learners. Researcher expects to provide an overview about the use of ‘English SingSing’ videos in improving speaking skills.

2. Teachers

The result of this research can provides information to teachers and consider English SingSing videos as a media for learning English in order to improve young learners speaking skill.

3. Readers

The result of this research expected to be useful for the readers and to improve knowledge and understanding about the use of English SingSing videos in improving speaking skill of young learners.

4. Other Researchers

The researcher hopes the result can have a positive impact and also can be a reference for future research.

## Research Hypothesis

1. Null Hypothesis (H0)

English Sing Sing videos do not improve young learners' speaking skills.

1. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

English Sing Sing videos improve young learners' speaking skills.

## Definition of Terminologies

In order to interpret the key terms that will be used in this study, some definitions are stated as follows:

1. Speaking, according to Bailey (2004) , is a productive of oral skill. It is consist of producing utterances of systematic verbal to deliver a meaning.
2. According to Benson (2015), Youtube is an online service that launched officially in late 2005, which allows registered users to upload video clips for viewing by the general population of Internet users.
3. English SingSing is a channel that provides video animation. English SingSing is a platform where children from every countries in the world can learn English while watching in a fun way. (Khoerunnisa, 2021)
4. Young learners are children from five or six years old who are in the first year of elementary schooling until twelve years old of age (Bakhsh, 2016).