CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates background, research question, purposes of research, research significance, research scope, conceptual framework, previous study.

A. Background

This study intends to explore the Indonesian EFL students' experience and perception of an English Server in Discord Application regarding their English speaking fluency. This study is essential to be explored; remembering speaking skills is one of four crucial skills for effective communication in any language, mainly when speakers are not using their mother tongue.

English-speaking skill will be taught and developed alongside other skills in order to help EFL learners enhance their English language skills in order to build a proper communication. Speaking skill can be inferred as an essential tool for interaction, communication and social relations especially in the 21st century. In order to survive in the 21st century, we need to be constantly obtaining new information about the world around us. Being able to understand English will give you the power to succeed. Early exposure to English helps to polish up and cultivate a good command of the language. Living in a globalised 21st century, it is important and relevant to be able to communicate to people from various parts of the world.

However Mustafa (cited in Riadil, 2020) stated that the EFL students in some countries are still having difficulties in practicing their English speaking. For the case of Indonesian EFL students, most of the difficulties they are having are first, the time of their formal speaking class is not enough for them to practice their speaking skills. Second, they are scared of making mistakes in pronouncing English words, and they are worried that the person they are talking to is unable to understand what they mean. Last is hard to find

partners or groups of people that willing to practice their speaking skills together outside of the formal context (classroom).

In order to overcome those difficulties and improve their fluency in speaking English, the Indonesian EFL students need to find a platform that can provide them chances to be active in speaking activities. Indonesian EFL students have begun exploring various methods to enhance their fluency in spoken English. In addition to formal educational settings such as school and university classrooms, many students are now turning to online platforms that support the development of their speaking skills, particularly fluency. A range of digital applications contribute significantly to this process by offering opportunities for continuous speaking practice. Among these platforms, Discord has emerged as one of the tools frequently utilized for this purpose.

According to Discord website, Discord is a free voice, video, and text chat app that's used by tens of millions of people ages 13+ to talk and hang out with their communities and friends. People use Discord daily to talk about many things. It is a home for communities of any size, but it is most widely used by small and active groups of people who talk regularly. To practice speaking English skill outside of the class, students can join the many types of server in Discord that provide English learning experience and the "English" server is one of them who provide it for the students that seeks a place to practice their English speaking anywhere and anytime.

Based on the pre-observation in Discord, especially in the "English" server, the researcher found that many Indonesian EFL students have joined this server and they are able to utilize the server as their platform to practice their speaking skill. In this research, the researcher explores the Indonesian EFL students' experience and perception regarding the English server in Discord.

There are several previous research regarding to this topic that shows significant results. Barnad (2021) in his research stated that discord can be used as a learning platform to achieve effective and efficient learning process so that every student's learning outcomes can be achieved in distance learning.

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Cacho (2020) noted that Discord can support students in enhancing their engagement and communication skills. Similarly, Ramadhan (2021) demonstrated that Discord can be used effectively for teaching speaking skills to senior high school students, yielding positive results in their learning outcomes. In another study, Arifianto (2021) found that students perceived Discord as an appealing, simple, and user-friendly platform that supports the online learning process.

While previous studies have shown that Discord can significantly aid language learning, little research has specifically explored students' experiences and perceptions of using the "English" server on Discord to improve their English-speaking fluency. Therefore, this study aims to investigate how Indonesian EFL students experience using the "English" server on Discord and how they perceive its role in developing their speaking fluency. The research will be conducted online, specifically within the "English" server community on Discord.

B. Research Questions

There are two research questions in this research:

1. How is the Indonesian EFL student's experience in joining the "English server" in discord?
2. What do students perceive about "English server" contribution in enhancing their speaking fluency?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the problems above, this study is aimed for:

1. To find out how is the Indonesian EFL student's experience in joining the "English server" in discord.
2. To find out what do students perceive about "English server" contribution in enhancing their speaking fluency.

D. Research Significances

This research is intended to provide insights into students' experiences and perceptions of using the "English" server on Discord as a learning tool to enhance their fluency in speaking English.

From a theoretical standpoint, the study can benefit students by contributing to a more enjoyable and engaging learning process. In practical terms, this research holds significance in the following ways:

1. Theoretical Implication: The study supports the idea that Discord, particularly the "English" server, can serve as a valuable platform for practicing speaking skills and improving fluency. By regularly participating in conversations within the server, Indonesian EFL students may see progress in their speaking fluency. Additionally, this study may serve as a useful reference for future researchers interested in exploring similar topics.

2. Practical Implication: The findings are expected to offer meaningful contributions and act as a helpful resource for both students and future researchers. For Indonesian EFL students looking to improve or find a space to practice their speaking skills, joining the "English" server on the Discord platform could be a practical and effective solution.

E. Research Scope

This research focused on how Discord's "English" server can help Indonesian EFL students in enhancing their English fluency based on their experiences in utilizing it. Especially on how implementing the features in discord "English" server in helping to improve the fluency of speaking English among the students. This research aims to explore the Indonesian EFL students' experience with the "English" server in Discord and what are the students perceive about the "English server" contribution to their speaking fluency.

F. Conceptual Framework

According to Rahman (2018) Perception is a mode of apprehending reality and experience through the senses, thus enabling discernment of figure, form, language, behaviour, and action. Perception can be expressed because individual feelings, thinking ability, and individual experiences. Since those factors are not the same, perception results may differ from individual to individual. However, perception can be positive and negative. It depends on how an individual view something.

"Experience" is a nebulous concept that is often used during talk about classroom and broader educational research. It is used to describe what students do and how they make sense of interactions and the activities in which they engage. According to Clandinin & Connelly, 1998 it is also used as an explanatory factor of what students do based on their experience. Within educational research, learning experience might be thought of as having particular and general meanings. J.Abbis (2012) stated that in a particular sense, a learning experience may describe specific student engagements with learning materials in classroom activities or outside classroom. In general, it is a notion that focuses attention on the everyday lives of students and their activities and social interactions in real-life settings and contexts, in classrooms and beyond. In this research, the researcher will ask participants about their experiences of things that happen in their lives. It enables researchers to obtain insights into what it feels like to be another person and to understand something as another experiences it.

Speaking is a vital skill in the process of learning English. Among all language skills, it is the most commonly used in daily interactions. According to Brown and Yule (1983), speaking is often the primary way students are evaluated in real-life situations, as communication is central to nearly all aspects of human activity. The main goal of speaking is to deliver a message effectively to others, which requires mutual understanding between speaker and listener. In this interaction, the speaker must produce meaningful sounds, while the listener must interpret and respond appropriately. Thus, speaking

involves both expressing and interpreting messages, making it a dynamic two-way process.

To communicate effectively, several elements of speaking must be considered. Brown (2004) identifies key components such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, and comprehension. Similarly, Hughes (2003) highlights the same aspects when evaluating speaking performance.

However, this study places particular emphasis on fluency. Language fluency encompasses the ability to communicate smoothly, clearly, and accurately. It typically refers to speaking with ease and continuity, even if there are minor errors in grammar or pronunciation. A speaker may still be considered fluent as long as their message is clear and uninterrupted, which is often the case for non-native speakers who may speak fluently despite making occasional mistakes.

To help EFL learners develop fluency in English, they should be encouraged to express themselves freely without frequent corrections. Pollard (2008:16) suggests that constant correction can interrupt the conversation and hinder the natural flow of speech. Allowing students to speak without fear of being immediately corrected promotes confidence and improves fluency.

In summary, speaking fluently involves the spontaneous and effective use of language—being able to speak quickly, clearly, and understandably with minimal errors, enabling communication to flow naturally under time constraints. They must also practice frequently in order to improve their speaking fluency and accuracy as native speakers.

To improve their speaking skills through repeated practice, students need access to a platform that offers them frequent and flexible opportunities to practice whenever they choose. Although they can participate in speaking activities during formal classes, such opportunities are often limited in frequency and duration. Moreover, finding native English speakers to interact with in real life can be quite difficult. The main challenge, then, is for students to find an alternative platform that is accessible at any time and from any

location. One such option is the "English" server on the Discord application, which serves as an informal online learning environment.

The "English" server on Discord includes a diverse community of members from around the world who are eager to enhance their English skills, especially in speaking. This server offers various interactive features such as voice and video chats, and even scheduled community meetings. In these sessions, members can work together on tasks like solving assignments, and join virtual classes led by volunteer teachers within the server's "lecture hall."

By participating in this server, students gain the ability to practice their speaking skills without needing to be physically present in a classroom, language lab, or in direct contact with native speakers. As long as they have a stable internet connection, they can join voice chats—whether one-on-one or in groups—to speak with native speakers or access additional learning materials not available in their formal education. As a result, the server effectively supports language learners in enhancing their speaking abilities by providing a regular, informal space for meaningful English communication beyond the classroom

According to Disord.com/English, Using Discord and joining the "English" server, can give more opportunities for the students to learn English more practical, and it can facilitate the students to speak English, help them to be able to get the real situation to hone their speaking skill. Students are able to practice their speaking skills freely, regardless of their age, gender, or background. Additionally, they have the flexibility to choose their preferred proficiency level—ranging from beginner to advanced—when participating. For these reasons, the English server on Discord can be considered an effective informal online learning environment that supports students in developing their English-speaking fluency. It is also expected to foster a positive attitude among EFL learners toward using this platform as a tool for improving their spoken English skills.

G. Previous Study

There are some previous researches regarding to the use of Discord. First, research by Barnad (2021). In his research, he uses Discord as a platform to support synchronous communication in Distance learning. He stated that Discord Server is a suitable software to support synchronous communication, both privately (one-to-one) and public (one-to-many). By utilizing the features in Discord such as room chats, sharing screen, voice call, and video call facilities. All of these facilities can be used to conduct discussions between students to be actively involved in the learning process.

Second, research by Cacho (2020). In his research, he uses Discord to improve the students' engagement and performance in communication. He made an online class, and observed the activity of the students and the instructor. The study's finding revealed that the software features can help students in improving their communication skills and performance in the online class because it allows the tutors responds to the students' need quickly even outside of working hour.

The third research is by Ramadhan (2021). She used Discord as platform to improve the High School students' speaking English. She held an online speaking class in Discord. she picked the participant based on their level in speaking English. This study's result in Discord can be used in as a platform in speaking class among Senior High School Students and it showed some significant good results in their speaking skill learning. It is proven that some students are able to upgrade their speaking English level.

The last one is the research conducted by Arifianto (2021). In this study, he investigates the Arabic language major teachers' acceptance of Discord as an alternative online learning media. He found out that Discord is accepted by the teachers' as an interesting alternative, simple and easy to use platform to support their online learning process

Those previous research gave the contribution for this research by providing proves that Discord is indeed suitable for learning platform. However, the students' experiences and perception research towards Discord

in improving their English-speaking fluency has not been done. As a gap, the main focus of this research is to explore how are the Indonesian EFL students' experience on "English" server in Discord and how is the Indonesian EFL students' perception in "English" server contribute in improving their fluency in speaking English. This research will be conducted online, in the "English" server in Discord.