CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is very important to be taught in Indonesia, especially to increase employment opportunities and improve the education system in Indonesia. The purpose of teaching English for students can communicate well using English. One way for students to quickly learn English is by speaking.

Try to speak is a very important thing when learning languages, which is not their first language. By speaking, it would be beneficial for students to improve their language competence, especially English, as a foreign language. In the language teaching and learning process, speaking is considered as an important skill to be improved because this skill can help students to communicate in the target language.

Speaking seemed to be the most important skill of all the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) because people who know a language are usually referred to as speakers of that language (Ur, 1996). The primary goal of all English language teaching should give learners the ability to effectively use English in communication (Davies & Pearse, 1998).

The researcher took this topic because three years ago, the researcher learned speaking in a class by practising speaking directly in front of the class one by one and telling the topic given by the lecturer. Because of the impact of coronavirus at this time, all students study with online learning from their houses. Because of the change in learning methods, students naturally have their perceptions about this.

The success of online learning rests in the experiences of both students and instructors. Student motivational dispositions and perceived value of distance education and uses of educational technology are areas in need of further investigation (Bernard et al., 2004). Modifying existing face-to-face courses to meet the specific characteristics of online learning environments requires a great deal of effort and resources, such as using various kinds of media.

In response to this problem and dealing with the statement above, the researcher is interested in finding out *"English Students' Perceptions of Online Learning in Speaking Class at Universitas Jambi."*

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background mentioned above, the research question is

How were the English students' perceptions of online learning in speaking class at Universitas Jambi?

1.3 Purpose of the study

This research investigated how English students' perception of online learning in speaking class at Universitas Jambi.

1.4 Significant of the study

The findings of this research used for the other researcher to help them uncover critical areas in the educational process such as online learning in speaking class, and to add new knowledge about the students' perceptions of online learning. This research was accepted to give further information for lecturers about students' perceptions of their online learning in speaking class.

1.5 Limitation of the study

This research focused on finding out how English students perceived online learning in speaking class at Universitas Jambi. This research participants were two classes of the second-semester students who took the speaking subject in the English Department of the teacher training faculty of Universitas Jambi.

1.6 Definition of key terms

The researcher provided several critical terms related to the research.

Speaking: the result of someone thinking about her/his feeling, opinion, and the information, and then they deliver it into sound and an act (Harmer, 2001). Speaking in this research is one of the subjects for students' English study programs at Universitas Jambi.

Perception: an intellectual organization of sensory stimuli, both internal and external, connected with a particular person (Stone and Neilson, 1985). According to Morgan et al. (1979: 312), perception is how the world is seen, heard, felt, tasted, or smelled. In other words, one of the definitions of perception says that it is what a person experiences directly. Another point of view, perception can be defined in terms of processes that give rise to our direct experience in the world.

Online learning: online learning is without face to face with other people or lecturers, a course where most of the materials are delivered online, and students can participate in classes from anywhere. There are real-time online meetings, and students log in from anywhere but simultaneously participate in the course. As many theorists have said (Herrington & Oliver, 1999) and practitioners have experienced, online learning is a subset of learning in general.