

Investigating the Practice of Speaking in an Informal Setting on *Discord*

A THESIS

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master's Degree in
English Language Education**



by

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS PENDIDIKAN INDONESIA**

2022

INVESTIGATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IN AN INFORMAL SETTING ON *DISCORD*

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Sebuah Tesis yang diajukan untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar
Magister Pendidikan (M.Pd.) pada Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

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Agustus 2022

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APPROVAL PAGE

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PREFACE

All praise to Allah SWT, because of His grace this thesis, which is entitled “Investigating the Practice of Speaking in an Informal Setting on Discord” could be completed. This thesis is submitted to the English Education Study Program, School of Postgraduate Studies of Indonesia University of Education, as a partial requirement for a Master’s Degree in English Education

This study focused on the investigation of speaking practice by EFL students in informal settings with Discord Application as the media.

I do realize that this thesis is still not perfect. Therefore, any comments, suggestions, and criticisms are welcome for the better improvement of this paper.

Bandung, August 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, all praise and gratitude to Allah SWT, who has given His mercy and His grace to the author to finish this thesis. The title of the thesis is “Investigating the Practice of Speaking in an Informal Setting on *Discord*.” My gratitude is also dedicated to my supervisors, Dadang Sudana, M.A., Ph.D., and Gin Gin Gustine, Ph.D., who deserve a lot of credit for always encouraging, motivating, guiding, and supporting me to finish this thesis. Through this cooperation, I was able to complete this thesis.

I also want to show my gratitude to the staff in the English learning community for allowing me to do my research there and supporting me until the end of my research. The two participants who were willing to share their stories also deserve much of the credit, as without them, I would not be able to complete my research. Finally, I want to thank my beloved parents, Susbakti and Elis Rubiana, my siblings, Nurbani and Syarbaini, and my friends in Pontianak, Dessy, Iga, Linda, Yuni, Dwi, Veny, the friends I have made during my study in Bandung, Beta, Merina, Intan, Bestari, Mbak Anny, Teh Wini, Melvy, Dhia, Suci, Irma, Teh Setyo, Liha and many more that I could not possibly mention one by one, the friends I made online, especially Ben and the members of The Box, Hanna and Frisbee for without their never-ending support and prayers, I would not be able to go this far and complete my study. Thank you so much, everyone.

Lastly, the author is very much aware that this thesis is still far from perfect. With that being said, I would like to apologize for any shortcomings. Any suggestions and constructive criticism towards this thesis would be expected to make it better and more valuable.

INVESTIGATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IN AN INFORMAL SETTING ON *DISCORD*

ABSTRACT

Finding the right place to practice written or spoken English without feeling pressured can be a little difficult for some EFL students. Most of them also struggle to find the courage to practice their speaking skill during class or outside the class due to various factors. However, the advancement of technology has affected human life in many aspects, including English language learning. Computers, internet, and social media have been part of society today. This study investigated the experience of EFL students who practice English outside the classroom through technology, specifically on a social media application called Discord. This was a qualitative study with a narrative inquiry as the research method. This study involved two EFL students who have used Discord for practicing their speaking skills for about a year. The data were collected from interviews to get stories of the experience from the students and field notes from observing their experience for a month. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted narratively. The results of the study showed that self-directed and tacit learning happened during the experience of speaking practice. These two types of informal learning promoted more freedom to the EFL students in how they wanted to practice their spoken English. They experienced a natural way of speaking practice as they got many topics to talk about and more speaking partners who also wanted to practice their speaking. The experience also helped them practice their pronunciation and fluency, and the informal settings made them feel more comfortable using English when communicating with others on the application.

Keywords: Informal Language Learning, English as Foreign Language (EFL), Social Media, Discord Application, Speaking Skill

MENGINVESTIGASI LATIHAN BERBICARA DALAM SITUASI *INFORMAL DI DISCORD*

ABSTRAK

Mencari tempat yang tepat untuk berlatih menulis dan berbicara dalam Bahasa Inggris tanpa merasa tertekan bisa sedikit sulit untuk beberapa murid *EFL*. Kebanyakan dari mereka juga kesusahan untuk mendapatkan dorongan untuk melatih kemampuan berbicara mereka selama di kelas dan juga di luar kelas dikarenakan berbagai faktor. Akan tetapi, perkembangan teknologi telah mempengaruhi kehidupan manusia dalam berbagai aspek, termasuk dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Komputer, internet dan media social telah menjadi bagian dari masyarakat sekarang. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi pengalaman murid *EFL* yang berlatih Bahasa Inggris di luar kelas dengan melalui penggunaan teknologi yaitu aplikasi social media yang disebut *Discord*. Ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan *narrative inquiry* sebagai metode penelitian. Penelitian ini melibatkan dua murid *EFL* yang telah menggunakan aplikasi *Discord* untuk melatih kemampuan berbicara mereka selama sekitar 1 tahun. Data diambil dari wawancara untuk mendapatkan cerita dari pengalaman kedua murid tersebut dan juga catatan lapangan dari pengamatan pengalaman mereka selama sebulan. Data yang telah dikumpulkan kemudian dianalisa dan diinterpretasikan secara naratif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pembelajaran *self-directed* dan pembelajaran *tacit* terjadi selama pengalaman berlatih berbicara berlangsung. Kedua tipe pembelajaran informal ini mempromosikan kebebasan kepada siswa *EFL* dalam hal melatih kemampuan berbicara mereka. Mereka mengalami pelatihan berbicara yang natural karna mereka punya banyak topik untuk dibicarakan. Pengalaman ini juga membantu pengucapan dan kelancaran mereka dan situasi informal membuat mereka lebih nyaman untuk menggunakan Bahasa Inggris ketika berkomunikasi dengan orang lain di aplikasi tersebut.

Kata kunci: Pembelajaran Bahasa Tidak Formal, Bahasa Inggris sebagai Bahasa Asing (*EFL*), Media Sosial, Aplikasi *Discord*, Kemampuan Berbicara

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