Exploring Members' Experiences and Their Speaking Performance on A Discord English Server

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Abstract — In the era of rapid technological development, the ability to speak English is very important, not only to open up wider job opportunities, but also to build global relationships. In this context, communication skills become an important aspect, hence the need for efforts to improve these skills. This research aims to show that language learning, especially in communication skills, is not limited to formal and paid environments. Platforms such as Discord offer an alternative to learning that is private, flexible, free, and easily accessible anytime and anywhere. The subjects in this study were 15 members of a discord server called "English Server". This research uses a descriptive-qualitative approach with an interview method. The interviews focused on two main topics: their experiences as members as well as language learners, and their personal views and future plans regarding English speaking skills. The results show that Discord is an effective and easy-to-use platform for learning and practicing English, compared to other platforms. The conclusion is that in this era of rapid technological development, utilizing technology wisely and maximally can help and make it easier for us to get what we want to achieve.

Keywords — speaking performances, Discord, English Server

Abstrak — Di era perkembangan teknologi yang pesat, kemampuan dalam berbahasa Inggris menjadi sangat penting, tidak hanya untuk membuka peluang kerja yang lebih luas, tetapi juga bisa untuk membangun relasi global. Dalam konteks ini, kemampuan berkomunikai menjadi aspek yang penting, maka perlu adanya usaha untuk meningkatkan skill tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan bahwa pembelajaran bahasa, khususnya pada skill komunikasi, tidak terbatas hanya pada lingkungan formal dan berbayar. Platform seperti Discord menawarkan alternatif untuk belajar yang menjaga privasi, fleksibel, gratis, dan mudah diakses kapan saja dan Dimana saja. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah 15 anggota dari sebuah server di discord yang bernama "English Server". Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif-kualitatif dengan metode wawancara. Wawancara difokuskan pada dua topik utama: pengalaman mereka sebagai anggota sekaligus pembelajar bahasa, serta pandangan pribadi dan rencana masa depan terkait kemampuan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Discord merupakan platform yang efektif dan mudah digunakan untuk belajar serta mempraktikkan bahasa Inggris, dibandingkan dengan platform lain. Kesimpulannya adalah di era perkembangan teknologi yang pesat ini dengan memanfaatkan teknologi secara bijak dan maksimal dapat membantu dan mempermudah kita mendapatkan sesuatu yang ingin kita capai.

Kata kunci — performa berbicara, Discord, Server English

INTRODUCTION

In this era of rapid technological advancement, the ability to adapt to evolving technologies has become increasingly essential, particularly in the fields of education and communication. In order to achieve success in the modern era, communication skills serve as a crucial competency that must be mastered, as they significantly facilitate the attainment of personal and professional objectives. Among the various global skills in high demand, proficiency in English holds a crucial position—for academic, professional, and social purposes alike.

As an international language, English has driven the emergence of numerous innovations in learning methods, including the use of digital platforms as educational tools. One platform that has recently gained the attention of language learners is Discord. Initially known as a communication app for gaming communities, Discord has now evolved into an interactive learning space, including for English language learning.

Among the various platforms available, Discord now supports a wide range of communities by enabling users to build profiles and join servers that match their interests. (Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021). It has gained popularity as a communication tool due to its user-friendly, intuitive, and smooth features that allow users to easily engage in discussions and switch between text, audio, and video formats (Sufi et al., 2024). With features such as real-time voice channels, text chat rooms, and an active, dynamic community, Discord offers a more relaxed yet effective language learning experience. This environment allows users to practice their speaking skills in a supportive, informal, and community-based setting.

This article aims to explore the experiences of members within a Discord server dedicated to English language learning and examine how their participation influences their speaking performance. By observing interactions, identifying challenges, and reflecting on members' personal experiences, this article seeks to highlight the potential of Discord as an effective learning platform for improving English-speaking skills.

RESEARCH METHOD

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach with a descriptive research design. A qualitative approach aims to understand phenomena experienced by the research subjects and is conducted descriptively through the use of words and language, within a specific natural context, by utilizing various scientific methods (Moleong, 2017). The type of research employed in this study is descriptive research. Descriptive research aims to systematically describe a particular phenomenon, symptom, or social reality related to the issues and subjects being studied. Descriptive qualitative interviews are effective in obtaining data that remain close to the participants' own words, without extensive interpretation or theoretical abstraction. The goal is to provide a comprehensive summary of participants' experiences in everyday terms, staying grounded in their own perspectives.

Data was collected through in-depth interviews, which were done one by one in turns. Each participant was interviewed individually to get clear and focused answers. The interviews were documented using screenshots and audio recordings. These helped the researcher to review and analyze the data more accurately. This

research was conducted through voice chat sessions on a Discord English server, specifically in a private room designed for two participants. The subjects of this study were Discord members who are also English language learners and have been active members of the server for at least one year. This criterion was selected to ensure that participants had sufficient experience interacting in the server environment, which would allow the researcher to better observe the impact of long-term engagement on their speaking performance.

The private setting was chosen to create a more comfortable and focused environment, enabling participants to speak more freely without the pressure of a larger audience. During the sessions, participants were encouraged to engage in natural conversation, express their thoughts, and respond to questions designed to explore their language use, confidence, and communicative strategies. This setup allowed the researcher to assess not only the fluency and accuracy of their spoken English but also to understand their personal reflections on how the server contributed to their language learning journey.

In this research using few steps of analysis; domain analysis, his is the first step where researchers read the data carefully to identify broad categories or topics. The goal is to get a general understanding of the research subject or social situation. Taxonomy analysis, after identifying the main categories (domains), explore them in more detail by dividing them into smaller sub-categories. This helps organize the information and makes sure no important detail is missed. Data reduction, this step involves summarizing the data by selecting only the important and relevant information. It helps to focus on key points and find patterns or themes. Data presentation, in this step, the results are shown clearly, using written descriptions, tables, or diagrams to help others easily understand the findings and the research context. Drawing Conclusions. Interpret the analyzed data to make conclusions that answer the research questions. This provides deeper understanding and insights into the topic being studied.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to explore the experiences of respondents as language learners and active members of an English-speaking Discord server. The data were collected through in-depth interviews and a brief mock test involving server members who had been part of the community for at least one year.

The interview results reveal that most respondents are highly interested in learning English. One of the main motivations is the belief that English proficiency opens up better job opportunities, as English is often a key requirement in the professional world. In addition, they recognize that mastering English can boost their confidence and expand their social networks, both locally and internationally.

The majority of respondents reported significant improvement in their English skills, particularly among those who regularly joined voice chat sessions and actively practiced speaking. Compared to those who participated irregularly, the consistent members demonstrated more noticeable progress in fluency, pronunciation, and understanding of grammatical structures. They commonly used Discord during their free time, joining voice channels such as *Beginner 1* or *Room B1*. These sessions

typically began with introductions and were followed by discussions on various topics of mutual interest, such as hobbies, culture, or current events.

Over time, respondents who initially felt shy or lacked confidence in speaking English experienced substantial personal growth. Their confidence increased, and participating in voice chats became part of their daily routine. The supportive atmosphere within the community also played a significant role in their development, as members frequently helped one another by offering corrections related to grammar and pronunciation in a constructive and friendly manner.

However, respondents also faced certain challenges while being part of the server. One common issue was the difficulty of finding suitable speaking partners. As the server grew rapidly, some members became disruptive or created an uncomfortable environment for communication. Nevertheless, most respondents did not consider this a major obstacle. They tended to ignore such distractions and remained focused on their main goal of improving their English skills through meaningful social interaction.

Overall, the experiences of the respondents indicate that being part of an English-speaking Discord server can serve as an effective and engaging method of language learning. It provides authentic opportunities for speaking practice and fosters a sense of community that supports both linguistic and personal development.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study, several conclusions can be drawn:

1. The English server on Discord offers a meaningful and engaging environment that significantly contributes to the development of members' English language skills, especially in terms of speaking. Through features such as real-time voice chats and interactive discussions, the platform allows learners to engage in authentic communication. This regular exposure to spontaneous conversations in English helps members become more comfortable and confident in expressing their thoughts verbally. It also provides opportunities for informal learning, peer support, and real-time feedback, all of which are important for developing speaking fluency and accuracy.

2. The majority of members reported noticeable improvement in their English-speaking performance over time. This progress appears to be closely linked to the frequency and consistency of their participation in voice chats and speaking activities on the server. Members who joined voice chats regularly and made active efforts to practice their speaking skills demonstrated better fluency, improved pronunciation, and greater self-confidence. In contrast, those with irregular participation tended to show slower progress. These findings suggest that active and sustained engagement within such online communities plays a crucial role in enhancing speaking abilities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Chintya Heru W.P., M.Pd., and Mrs. Meiga Ratih T., M.Pd., as our primary supervisors, for their invaluable guidance, support, and feedback throughout the completion of this research. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the respondents who generously took the time to participate, enabling us to collect the necessary data effectively. Additionally, we deeply appreciate the valuable contributions of the editors and reviewers who have helped enhance the quality of this manuscript, making it ready for publication.

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