EXPLORING THE MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES AND SPEAKING PERFORMANCES OF A DISCORD ENGLISH SERVER

SKRIPSI

Present to
IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana
in English Education

By:
Febrika Dilla Saputri
21120014

ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
IKIP PGRI BOJONEGORO
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MOTTO

When a thing disturbs the peace of your heart, give it up.

-Prophet Muhammad

Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

Surah Ash-Sharh | verse 6

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First of all, the writer would like to sincerely thank Allah Subḥanahu wataʿala for His endless love, blessings, and guidance throughout this journey. It is only by His will that this thesis, titled *"EXPLORING THE MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES AND SPEAKING PERFORMANCES OF A DISCORD ENGLISH SERVER,"* could be brought to completion.

The writer also wishes to express heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals

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The writer welcomes and appreciates any constructive feedback or suggestions.

Bojonegoro, 10 July 2025

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

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In order to uphold academic integrity, sincerely and without coercion from any parties, I hereby declare that the thesis entitled:

"EXPLORING THE MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES AND SPEAKING PERFORMANCES OF A DISCORD ENGLISH SERVER"

Is the result of my own original work, and all sources of information used have been clearly cited in the reference list according to the scientific and academic code of ethics. I am aware that if any violations of scholarly ethics regarding to the authenticity of this work are found, **I personally** accept the consequences in accordance with the applicable regulations and am prepared to bear legal sanctions.

Bojonegoro, 14 July 2025

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ABSTRACT

Saputri, Febrika. D. 2025. Exploring the Members' Experiences and Speaking Performances of a Discord English Server. Skripsi, English Education Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts Education, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro, Advisor (I) Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., (II) Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd.

Keywords: Speaking performances, Discord, English Server

In the current era of rapid technological development, speaking ability is a crucial skill in mastering English, especially in global communication. Discord, originally designed for gamers, now functions as a flexible and free educational platform that facilitates real-time voice interaction. Using a descriptive qualitative method, the researcher conducted interviews and mock speaking tests with 15 participants who had been active members of the English server for approximately one year. The findings reveal that participants experienced increased speaking confidence, fluency, vocabulary development, and improved pronunciation. Discord's supportive, anonymous, and low-pressure environment helped reduce speaking anxiety and motivated learners to practice regularly. Compared to other platforms like Duolingo or Busuu, participants perceived Discord as more effective for improving speaking performance due to its interactive and real-time features. The study concludes that Discord can serve as a powerful tool for language learners, providing meaningful speaking practice and promoting learner autonomy outside formal classroom settings.

ABSTRAK

Saputri, Febrika. D. 2025. Exploring the Members' Experiences and Speaking Performances of a Discord English Server. Skripsi, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro. Pembimbing: (I) Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., (II) Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd.

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan berbicara, Discord, Server Bahasa Inggris.

Di era perkembangan teknologi yang pesat, kemampuan berbicara menjadi keterampilan penting dalam penguasaan bahasa Inggris, terutama untuk komunikasi global. Discord, yang awalnya dibuat untuk para gamer, kini berkembang menjadi platform pembelajaran yang fleksibel, gratis, dan mendukung interaksi suara secara langsung. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan melibatkan 15 partisipan yang telah menjadi anggota aktif server selama kurang lebih satu tahun. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara dan uji bicara tiruan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peserta mengalami peningkatan dalam hal kepercayaan diri, kefasihan, penguasaan kosakata, dan pelafalan. Lingkungan yang mendukung dan bebas tekanan di Discord membantu mengurangi kecemasan saat berbicara serta mendorong partisipasi aktif. Dibandingkan dengan platform lain seperti Duolingo atau Halo, Discord dianggap lebih efektif untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara karena fitur interaktif dan real-time-nya. Kesimpulannya, Discord dapat menjadi sarana yang efektif untuk pembelajaran bahasa, khususnya dalam pengembangan kemampuan berbicara di luar lingkungan kelas formal.

PREFACE

All praise is due to Allah, the Almighty, for His blessings and guidance in the completion of this thesis entitled *"EXPLORING THE MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES AND SPEAKING PERFORMANCE OF A DISCORD ENGLISH SERVER."* This thesis is submitted as a partial requirement for obtaining a Bachelor's degree in the English Education Department.

The writer would like to express sincere gratitude to everyone who has provided support and guidance throughout the process, especially the supervisor, lecturers, and the school involved in this research. It is the writer's hope that this thesis may offer valuable insights for English teachers, language learners, and future researchers alike.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, research questions, objective of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

In recent years, digital communication platforms have developed rapidly and have changed the way people learn and practice languages. Among these platforms, discord has emerged as a popular communication tool, providing easyto-use, understandable and seamless features for participating in discussions or chats that allow users to easily switch between text, audio or video formats (Sufi et al., 2024). Discord currently hosts servers in various scenarios by allowing users to create profiles and join communities based on their interests (Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021). This app was originally designed for gamers to communicate easily while they play games, but has now been widely used for various purposes, including education. The emergence of language learning communities, especially discord based English learning communities, reflects the growing interest in utilizing existing technology to foster collaborative and engaging language learning environments.

One of the basic skills in language acquisition is speaking. Since the focus of using Discord is to communicate, speaking is an important skill to use Discord to its full potential. According to Rao (2019), to get the success we want to achieve in this modern world, communication skills have an important role and must be mastered to facilitate what we want to achieve. Among the four language skills, speaking is the most important language skill to communicate well in this globalized world. However, often students find this skill challenging. Due to several factors and rules in traditional schools such as time constraints, large

class sizes, speaking partners, and limited access to native speakers, a lot of students do not have enough opportunities to practice speaking. Moreover, students often experience anxiety and a lack of confidence when speaking, which further hinders their ability to express themselves fluently and effectively. A study by Rahmadani & Etfita (2022), found that foreign language speaking anxiety is prevalent among students and can significantly impede their language learning progress.

Additionally, the rigid structure of classroom activities sometimes fails to cater to individual learning needs, making it difficult for students to improve their speaking skills at their own pace. This reinforces the need to create a quality learning environment, especially one that prioritizes interactive and meaningful communication to help learners overcome these barriers and develop their speaking proficiency. In this case, discord lends itself to being the desired solution. It provides a unique solution by offering communication tools or real-time features such as being able to create servers with voice channels, chat rooms, and interactive events that allow members or users to engage in speaking practice with people or other members from various language and cultural backgrounds.

Discord is a free communication platform that allows its users to interact through text, voice and video, making it flexible for a variety of purposes. Originally, it's a proprietary application and digital distribution platform designed for video gaming communities among gamers (Fonseca,2020). Discord is now used by various communities, including in language learning. Users can create or join servers tailored to specific interests, providing a space to learn and interact. Features such as voice channels and screen sharing allow users to practice speaking and listening, follow ongoing discussions or events, and get

immediate feedback. In addition, Discord supports both direct and indirect communication, allowing learners or users to practice at any time conveniently, connecting people from different cultures, and building a supportive learning community.

It also offers additional solutions that are very useful for language learning. The platform supports various interactive activities such as group discussions, providing interesting events, or language games, which are fun and can improve language skills, especially speaking. Users can join live conversation sessions through voice channels with friends or make new acquaintances, creating real and natural conversations. With notifications and schedule settings, users or learners can set up regular speaking practice times. Discord also provides flexibility for users who are awkward or afraid of speaking in front of people, allowing them to start conversations one-on-one or in small groups, which helps build confidence. Since it is accessible on various devices, learners can practice anytime and anywhere, making Discord an effective solution to overcome obstacles in learning to speak a language.

The researcher was interested in researching Discord because the platform has had a significant impact on the development of her English language skills. Research into these online language learning platforms has highlighted to them contribute to improve skill performance and confidence in learners. However, there is limited understanding of how members experience the English server within this community and how their participation may affect their speaking skills. Given the informal and self-contained nature of this platform, it is important to explore members' perceptions, challenges and achievements in this context.

This study aims to explores the experiences of members who have been on the English server for more or less than one year and analyse the impact of participation on their speaking performance. By focusing on their perspectives and performance, this study seeks to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about free language learning platforms and provide insights into how such platforms can be optimized to hone our language skills.

B. Research Questions

1. How are the experiences of discord English server members?
2. How are the speaking performances of Discord English server members?

C. Objective of the Research

1. To explore the members' experiences of the Discord English server.
2. To explore the members' speaking performance of the Discord English server.

D. Significant of the Research

This study holds significance in several aspects:

1. For Language Learners

   This research provides insights into how participation in English language servers on discord can improve speaking skills, confidence, and overcome common challenges in language learning. The findings may help learners or anyone reading this understand the potential of online platforms as a complementary tool to formal or traditional education.

2. For Discord Communities and Administrators

   By exploring members' experiences, this research offers valuable feedback for the future development of the server. Administrators and admins can use the findings to improve their community, making it more conducive to language learning.

3. For Future Research

This research contributes to the limited literature on the use of Discord in language learning. It lays the groundwork for further research into the role digital platforms can play in helping language learners and how they can be optimized to effectively meet learners' needs.

4. For Technology Integration in Education

This research emphasizes the role of technology in creating accessible and flexible learning environments, in line with the growing trend of digital transformation. This research shows how platforms like Discord can break down geographical and cultural barriers in learning English as a second or foreign language.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To ensure understanding of this research, it is important to provide explanations of the key terms that will be frequently mentioned in the discussion. Below are the definitions of the keywords that will be used in this research.

1. Speaking Performance

This is an individual ability that is essential for learning and mastering a language such as English. It includes aspects such as fluency, grammar pronunciation, vocabulary, and confidence. And if they want to master and learn a language, they must consider all the language skills, such as; writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Having a good speaking performance in learning a language is important, therefore we must at least master all skills especially in speaking skills.

2. Discord

A communication platform based on text, voice, and video, commonly used by communities for communication, discussion and collaboration between gamers. In this study, Discord serves as a medium for learning and practicing the English language.

3. English Server

A server or community on Discord that was created with a purpose focused on learning and practicing English. These servers do focus on that, but many are just free chats, which can also help practice your speaking skills. The server consists of members from different cultural and geographical backgrounds who share the same goal of improving their English. There are various events with different topics that have been differentiated in each sub voice chat that has been provided.