

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This section provides a brief description of the introduction to the area of the research which comprises rationale, research questions, research objectives, research significances, and clarification of the key terms.

#### **1.1 Rationale**

English is very important for communication in the international community. Almost all aspects of communication are dominated by English. (Dyvik, 2023) state that Approximately 1.5 billion individuals spoke English as their first language or as a second language globally in 2023, which is marginally greater than the 1.1 billion Mandarin Chinese speakers at the time of the study. That year, the third and fourth most common languages were Spanish and Hindi.

Iqlima (2022) declares that because English is a universal language that is spoken both as a second or foreign language in many countries, it is one of the most significant languages in the world that people are seen to have mastered. There is no denying that English is the language that is spoken the most everywhere in the world right now. For a considerable amount of time, English has served as the common tongue for global trade, research, technology, education, and tourism. One of the main reasons English is the preferred international language today is that it was the global powerhouse in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for Britain and the United States respectively.

Moreover, most of them are using English to communicate, and in everyday life, we must also pay attention to how we speak. That is the reason why researcher found speaking skills are important and someone must have the ability and skills to deliver information to others to make a conversation reaches the goals especially Indonesian workers who work abroad. It is mostly a challenge to communicate in another language that is not our mother tongue.

Li (2021) As a global city, English proficiency in Hong Kong is seen as a form of cultural capital in everyday life, particularly in the labor market. Research has confirmed that white privilege is blatant in Hong Kong, as evidenced by the fact that white people are more likely than members of other ethnic groups to hold

managerial positions and earn higher salaries. After returning to China's authority in 1997, however, with an increased flow of migrants from mainland China and greater linkages to the Chinese market. Then Zulfitri (2022) English at this time has become very important to learn, because English is an international language that is generally used to communicate with people who come from abroad. Furthermore, English has evolved into a social and intellectual self-image medium in Indonesia. Furthermore, empirical data demonstrates that the majority of reference books utilized in Indonesian colleges are still produced or published in English. For this reason, pupils must become proficient in speaking English.

Nordquist (2020) EFL is the study of English by non-native speakers in nations where English is not the official language known as English as a Foreign Language (EFL). This should not be confused with the process of studying English in a nation where the majority language is English, known as English as a Second Language or English as an Additional Language. The study of English by non-native speakers in nations where English is not the official language is known as English as a Foreign Language (EFL). This should not be confused with the process of studying English in a nation where the majority language is English, known as English as a Second Language or English as an Additional Language.

The researcher found the problem of Indonesian workers in Hong Kong who adapting when they first started working abroad in the context of communicating in English with foreigners such as lack of vocabulary, not yet fluent in speaking English, and nervousness so there was a miscommunication in the conversation, therefore the researcher wanted to know worker's strategies that are suitable until worker confident and fluent in speaking English.

The research aimed to know what the difficulties of speaking English by Indonesian workers in Hong Kong are and how they overcome those difficulties. This research is different from previous research Afandi (2020); Jaya (2021); Utami (2019)) because in this research the researchers examined Indonesian workers who work in Hong Kong and no one has researched this, many of study research about the perception of students and different of this research, so that is fresh research. In collecting the data, interviews were conducted to identify what

are the difficulties of speaking English by Indonesian workers in Hong Kong and what the ways to overcome these difficulties.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Concerning the aims of the study, this researcher is limited to portraying the difficulties of speaking English by Indonesian workers in Hong Kong and how they overcome the difficulties. Hence, the problems of the research are formulated as follows.

1. What are the difficulties of speaking English by Indonesian worker in Hong Kong?
2. How do they overcome the difficulties?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Deriving from the title of the research, difficulties of Speaking English: A Case Study Encountered by Indonesian workers in Hong Kong, the aims of the study are listed as follows:

1. To find what are the difficulties of speaking English by Indonesian workers in Hong Kong
2. To portray how they overcome the difficulties

## **1.4 Scope of the Research**

This research focuses on the difficulties of speaking English faced by two female Indonesian workers in Hong Kong, it's Mrs. A and Mrs. L, apart from that this research is to know, to portray how they overcome the difficulties.

## **1.5 Weight and Relevance**

Theoretically, the benefits that can be obtained are: first, knowing what difficulties are faced by Indonesian workers working in Hong Kong. Second, describe the strategies used by workers to reduce these problems. Third, forming a quality character of the Indonesian people in facing challenges in working internationally. The practical benefit is that people can equip themselves with knowledge, especially in terms of good English language skills, to face the world of work.