

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of The Study

When I first started primary school, I hated all the subjects that I was going to learn. Well, I still am. However, there was one subject that I found the most interesting out of all subjects. It was English and I found it not very challenging as math. My grandpa used to talk to me in English, although very little, in hope I would be interested in learning English and becoming fluent. Thus, it may explain why English caught my attention. Move on to middle school, I had a classmate whose English I think was better than anyone in the classroom. She introduced me to an app where I can talk to English native speakers. The app called MeowChat. I am not sure if you still can find the app on PlayStore as it is no longer as popular as it used to be. Haunted by curiosity, I installed the app. There were a lot of people from the United States and that was the first time I talked to native speakers with my notat-all fluent English. I remember my grammar was close to terrible as there was a rather offensive remark I got from somebody from the US in a groupchat. I said something like “yeah you are no longer cute”. He replied to it like “fix your grammar first”. Trust me, I spent a year trying to figure out what was so wrong with my statement. I remember he was being playful that I meant to say that I changed my mind about him looking cute because he was annoying. I keep talking to native speakers until now that I find myself getting better as shown in my school grade particularly in speaking class where I had to make a dialogue conversation. I get used in speaking English and get comfortable with it that it eventually improves my English. So, I am here to prove if the reason my English gets better is because of the encountering with native speakers.

I feel like to be able to speak English fluently, students cannot just rely on what they learn in school. Based on my experience of encountering with native speakers, extending English speaking skill outside the classroom can be beneficial. Having the ability to speak in English can be very beneficial for it allows me as an English learner to communicate with foreigners and allows me to express my thoughts and feelings in English. In order to be able to communicate with those people from different country, I

needed to know how to speak English as it has been considered as International language. Fortunately, in this globalization era, learning English is now made easy. I can learn English anywhere at any time by just having an internet connection.

In this study, I would like to find out the process of learning English with native speakers. I would like to traceback my experiences when encountering with native speakers both in real life and in social media. I would like to find out whether the meeting events with native speakers can actually be beneficial in improving my English speaking skills or not. I would also like to use the concept of Third Space by Homi Bhabha, as well as Imagined Community by Benedict Anderson, as my theoretical lens to understand my experiences as an English learner. In this way, this study is an autoethnography using Narrative Inquiry.

## **B. Research Problems**

1. What events, both online and offline, contribute to my English learning?
2. Based on my experiences, what are the roles of native speakers in learning English in informal settings and social media setting?
3. What did I learn most from native speakers?

## **C. Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Imagined Communities and the Construction of National Identity (Putri et al., 2018) page 566**

Imagined communities are formed in nation as there is a sense of belonging and that the community is imagined by the individual. Those in a nation may see themselves as part of the nation or the community where it is imagined by people through the same experience. This experience can occur not only through direct interaction in real life, but also in social media where people from different background, ethnicity, and or different part of the world can interact(Putri et al., 2018). Imagined community is relevant to this study as there is an interaction between the researcher and the native

speakers which can tell which community that the researcher wants to be in and how the researcher perceives it through her experience.

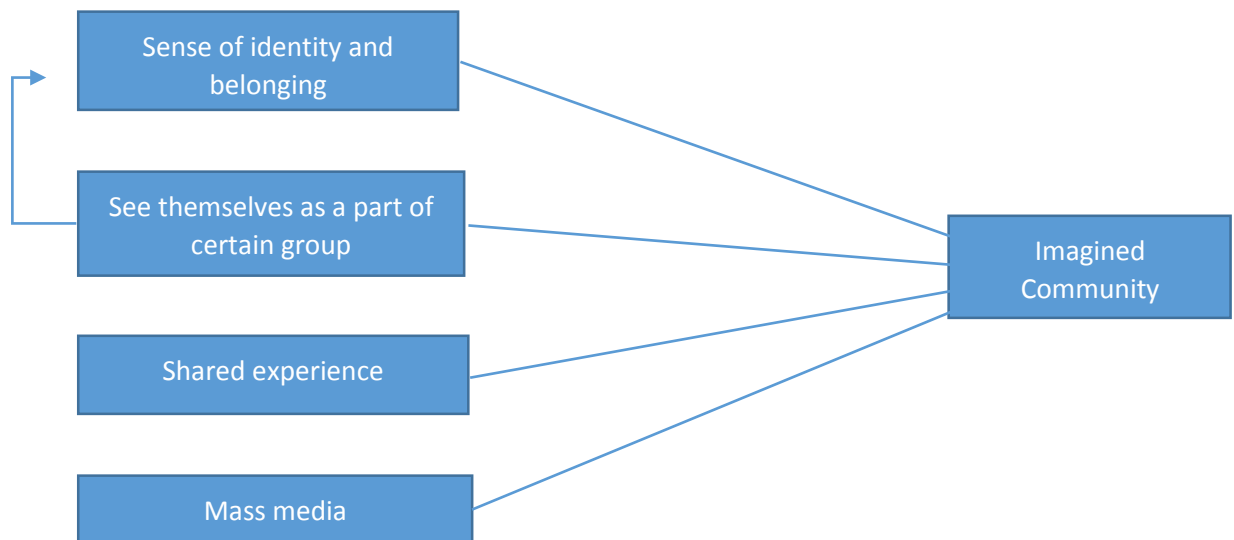


Figure 1.1 The Concept of Imagined Community

## 2. Third space in language and intercultural studies (Xiaowei Zhou & Pilcher, 2019a) page 1-2

Third space occurs when there is an interaction between two individuals from different cultures. The space occurs in between the communication or interaction

between two different individuals from different background and or cultures that it creates new space called the third space. When it comes to language and intercultural studies, individuals from different cultures interact and learn about each other through the third space that occurs during the interaction (Xiaowei Zhou & Pilcher, 2019a). Third space is relevant to this study as there is an interaction between the researcher and the native speakers which create new space called third space.



Figure 2.1 The Concept of Third Space

#### **D. The Significance of The Study**

The expected benefits of this study :

1. This study aims to help students improving their English speaking skills by talking to the native speakers
2. This study aims to give understanding about how talking to native speakers can help improving English speaking skill
3. This study can be references for future studies

#### **E. The Objective of The Study**

The main objective of this study is to identify the third place where Indonesian learners learn English when they encounter with native speakers. In this study, the researcher will identify her experiences with native speakers, then she will reflect with the differences. On top of that, the researcher will identify the opportunities of learning English from the process of reflection.

#### **F. The Definition of Key Terms**

1. Autoethnography  
Autoethnography is a research and writing method that is used to describe and analyze personal experience so as to conceive cultural experience. (Ellis, 2009).
2. Auto-netnography  
Netnography is a study of cultural experiences in online settings. (Donkin, 2017).
3. Communicative Events

Communicative Events are events where the communication takes place. (Tonioli, 2018).

4. Encounter with Native Speakers

Encountering with people from different culture and language is defined as outside the class learning that is done independently by an individual by having a contact with native speakers. (Arnold & Fonseca-Mora, 2015).

5. Imagined Community

The term “imagined” in imagined community does not mean that something is made up, but rather evisioning thing that is invisible. (Breuilly, 2016).

6. Language Learning

Language learning is an on going opportunity that is required for the learners to use the target language in many forms. (Minor & Marckwardt, 1969).

7. Learning English as a Foreign Language in Indonesia

As English in Indonesia is learnt and taught as a foreign language, the learning and teaching most of the time only occur in the classrooms. (Sulistiyo, 2016).

8. Multilingualism

Multilingualism is an individual’s ability to speak and communicate in three or more languages. (Cenoz, 2013).

9. Narrative Inquiry

Narrative inquiry is related to analysing the story that we tell, hear, and read as well as criticizing it. (Mertova & Webster, 2019).

10. Native Speakers

The first language individuals learn to speak is their native language, therefore they are the native speakers of the language. (Lee, 2005).

11. Oral English Learning Strategies

Learning strategies are the processes that are applied consciously and or unconsciously by the learners to learn the target language. (Fajrina, 2015).

12. Real Life Encounter

When encountering with native speakers, the learners of the target language are forced to speak in the language. (Mauludin, 2015).

13. Social Media

Social media refers to media that involves two-way interactions and is divided into two different ages, the broadcast age and the interactive age. (Harvey, 2014).

14. Social Media Encounter

Social media can allow people interact with each other in almost natural setting which can also benefit language learners to learn the target language if they jump into an environment where the target language is being used. (Ahmed, 2020).

15. Self-study

Self study is a research qualitative method that is centered in understanding the relationship between the knower and the known for better understanding of the form and nature of reality. (Russell & Berry, 2014).

16. Third Space

Third space is a space in between the first and second first, where the first space has to do with material spaces, and second space involves the mental spaces. (Jordan & Elsdenclyfton, 2014).