

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the Research, Statement of Research Problem, Objectives of the Research, Significance of the Research, Scope and Limitation of the Research, and Definition of key terms. These are elaborated clearly as follows:

A. Background of the Research

Language is one of the important aspects for communication. Communication is happened because people understand each other with language. In this modern era, language and technology becomes a good combination for language learning. There are some application exist to support language learning, especially in English. As time goes by, English becomes more popular language used everywhere even in the Non English speaking countries. People use English frequently even though it contains only some words. The social media has approved it because in this modern era those technologies become a life style. One of the most popular social media commonly used by native is Twitter.

Twitter is the social media that connect people around the world, exchange communication, makes friend, or even learning together. The communication indirectly brings people to understand the language, especially English because most of the twitter user writes in English. More people interested at Twitter because it is connect them with some public figure. Not like other social media, Twitter limits the number of characters in every status. Also, Twitter is

exclusively used to write not to get attention but sometimes the tweets become popular. The limited character makes it more joyful because people more aware about what they write. Even though not all people, or native English, write in correct grammar, this media helps English learner to understand the language.

The use of social media in 21th century becomes habit. The social media is not only connecting people around the world, it also spread information and becomes a learning tool. Language learning is one of the examples things that impacted by social media evolution. From twitter user perspective Twitter becomes a social media that spread a lot of text written in English. From twitter, it is found that people learning English. Even though twitter is not the main tools to learn English, Twitter becomes supporting system for people who want to learn independently. Some research found that Twitter is effective for learning English skill such as writing and reading (Harmandaoglu, 2012; Borau et al., 2009; Cheng, 2012). This media is light and suitable for modern people.

The popularity of twitter has brought a big impact for its user, especially in language learning. It is because English dominates about 98 percent from other language. There are lot of twitter status called tweet exists in every minutes. Scrolling through social media becomes habit. People read and understanding then collect some vocabularies. Twitter makes the user read the texts. Meltszer (2001) stated that most vocabularies are gotten from reading, not the instruction. Twitter increases vocabularies naturally and those vocabularies can be a modal to write sentences. People absorb information then get inspiration. Nunan (1991) explains that the ability of collecting vocabularies is an important rule to the success of

using the second language because without vocabularies people cannot use the exact structure for communicating.

The information spreads on Twitter is not only about entertainment, politics, or life style, it also gives the link or thread about language learning. It can be viewed from the number of like and retweet. Some users even give summary or review from the link they have shared. The explanation given by users is simple and more communicative so it does not feel like reading text book. Mostly people do not like formal explanation or the complicated one so twitter can be solution to help them learning how to write without joining class.

Writing is one of the important aspects of language skill. It is concluded some aspect such as spelling, vocabulary, and structures. Writing is more than putting words into blank paper. It also involves topics or ideas that must be arranged into good structure. Abu-Rass (2001) added that writing is a difficult skill for native and nonnative speakers alike as students should make balance between multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling and mechanics. Related to this topic Twitter can be viewed as an appropriate writing, editing and revising tool for young students (Kurtz, 2009). After employing Twitter into his writing classes for first and second grade students of elementary school, he concludes that the character limit feature provides a powerful way to teach word choice, ideas and punctuation. Antenos-Conforti (2009) also reports that Twitter enhances university students' writing accuracy in terms of grammar and vocabulary. Those studies proved that Twitter can be an alternative way to learn writing in English.

There are another studies related to twitter and its contribution for English writing. The research done by Said Ahmed (2015) found that twitter can have a positive effect on improving students' writing skills. *Another research found that* twitter can stimulate students' ideas in the form of tweets. Through Twitter concise style, students can write summaries and essays and the teacher can track each student's writing progress (Borau et al., 2009). Cheng (2012) applied Twitter as a tool for English as a foreign language reading and writing in a college in Taiwan. The participants of the study consisted of 58 college in Taiwan. The study instruments are EFL writing test and a questionnaire to measure the students' attitude after using Twitter. The results of the study showed that Twitter had a positive influence on the experimental group's learning attitude.

Then, as from Juniardi (2018) in his studies about Improving Students' Writing Skill through Twitter reveals that the students who use twitter develop the content of their writing to be more vary, and show their understanding toward the grammar use by writing on Twitter. Also, Twitter make the situation in learning writing to be more relax and joyful, because they basically like to use Twitter as their daily communication media and the students fell that using Twitter for learning media is the new and fresh way to decrease their boredom. As the result, Twitter helped the students to have better English writing skill. J. Hernik and E. Jaworska (2019) stated that Joyful learning is important for both teacher and student. It is not only makes students happier, but they also remember information. This joyful environment can make student interested at the class because students needs teacher who can match what they need or interest and who

can make challenge that relates to their lives (John Wang, 2017). However, the research done by Junjie He (2017) from Beijing university found that joyful learning is good to improve students' interest and confidence or learning but has no significant effect on vocabulary. Thus, the researcher will investigate about various contributions gotten from twitter and the way to maximize it for writing.

Therefore, the studies done by some researchers prove that Twitter has good impact for students writing ability. The previous studies involved students from certain community or small group of students while in this research the researcher investigated the twitter users who match the criteria as long as the user is student. However, the previous studies have not discussed the user's opinion about how the popularity of Twitter as writing-based social media affects in students' writing ability. It is significant to investigate Twitter contribution on students' free writing ability from the users' perspective because it may help the students to improve communicative skill especially in writing. Besides, the view can give insight about the positive impact of Twitter and ensure people that Twitter can be used to practice writing. Thus, in this study the researcher focus on students' personal writing ability that includes status, fiction, and poem. Based on the interest, the researcher decided to describe the phenomenon entitled "Students' View on The Twitter Contribution towards Their Writing Ability: A Survey"

B. Statement of Research Problem

According to the background of study above, this research is purposed to answer the question “How is the Twitter contribution towards students’ writing ability?”

C. Objectives of The Research

Based on the statement of research problem, the purposes of this research is to describe about the Twitter contribution towards students’ writing ability.

D. Significance of the Research

Based on the description, hopefully this research can give contribution for:

1. The Students

The students can install twitter application for communicating with native speaker, learning page, or following educational program. Students are able to challenge themselves to write anything they want without feeling insecure because people out there are stranger who does not meet with them every day. Student should know that twitter is the place where they can write anything without judgment or be known by their friends. It is beneficial to improve student’s writing skill.

2. The Teacher

Teacher will consider twitter as learning tool especially in English learning, following student’s activity in twitter to get alternative assessment. Besides, twitter can be used in the classroom to create joyful

atmosphere. Teacher can follow the trend of certain topics to make a good communication with their students. Teacher also challenge student to be more active in communication with native or asking to tweet the exercise in the twitter. Creating forum or operating educational page will be good.

3. The Researcher

The researcher finds another positive effect of twitter other than communicating or updating. It can be inspiration to conduct another research to develop innovative strategies in teaching writing because the research dealing with language skill with social media twitter is rarely found. The future researcher will gain more potential caused by social media Twitter and it can be a media to share the result of the studies to get more attention. Besides the popularity of the twitter can be a media to get data dealing with English writing.

4. The Reader

Hopefully, there will be more twitter user around the world who create and share educational information related to English learning. The reader will be realized that Twitter is not only social media to communicate or talking nonsense but it also give the chance to test writing ability. Twitter will be more useful for daily activity and English learning. Reader will also try to apply some tips or finding by the end of this research. The inspiration and initiative can be gotten here.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Research

This study was focused on analyzing the opinions of the Twitter user about the contribution of twitter on students' writing ability. The subject of the research was Twitter users who think that Twitter has contribution for their writing ability. This research was limited only for students since it examined students' writing skill. The students were high school students and college students. The concept of twitter as social media makes the writing practice more flexible. Some resource with similar topic discussing about the use of twitter and the impact for its user related to students' writing skill are used to get references.

F. Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the key terms used in this study, the researcher defined some terms as follows:

1. Twitter

Twitter is a social media that possibility share status, picture, or live video but more exclusive for writing status. It is possible to create interaction among people around the world even though they are stranger.

2. Writing

Writing is a creative process to create sentences or text for human communication. It is the product of human thinking, full of ideas, and readable form.