

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter of this research, the researcher presents six subchapters related to the study. This introduction consists of background of the study, formulation of research problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Research

This modern era has affected various sectors worldwide, including the interaction between people and social life between humans. Relations between people affect the spread of the English language. In Indonesia, English is considered an important international language without having a specific official status and is generally taught as a foreign subject in schools (Lauder, 2008). The progress of discovery and science cannot have made people groups more advanced in receiving data and making connections with other people. However, the increase in findings and knowledge has not exclusively had negative and positive people (Chauhan, 2017).

English is taught as a foreign language in Indonesia. Teaching English in Indonesia has many challenges because it is the native language. It is not commonly used in our everyday life. Furthermore, English is difficult because we do not recognize it since birth. Four language skills must be taught: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of the skills are important. However, one of the language skills that encourage students to be more productive and creative is English skills. Writing is a combination of process and product. We need quite a long process starting from planning, drafting, editing, and final drafting to produce a piece of writing (Harmer, 2004, p.4).

Moreover, in writing, a writer will need to express their ideas, experiences, thoughts, and feelings so that they have to be supported by sufficient language components such as grammar, vocabulary, and spelling (Harmer, 2001:255). The student's problem in writing is also caused by the

difficulty in expressing ideas in writing. Therefore teachers should prepare creative media and strategies in teaching writing to help students face their problems in writing.

There are several ways that people in Indonesia use to learn English. English is one of the compulsory subjects in formal schools in Indonesia, both public and private schools. Learning a foreign language is a continuous process. Most English teachers agree that students must practice English outside the formal classroom to improve their communication skills (Chappele: 2003, p.10). People can take English courses that are circulated in various cities throughout Indonesia. People can also study English in a country using the main language, namely English, or they can use technology to study and improve their English language skills.

Technology can play a crucial role in facilitating and enhancing learning, not only in the classroom but also in independent and collaborative learning. One of the famous technological senses the student uses is the site of social networks or social media. Social networking sites have provided many opportunities for language learners to interact in authentic ways previously challenging to achieve (Chartrand, 2012).

Social media is an integration of media facts and social communication used online senses that facilitate finding facts, interacting and communicating with other people (Rahman & Alhadid, 2014). As an online sensory formation, social media has many types and various forms, but the most well-known are Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram (Matthew A Russell & Mikhail Klassen, 2018). But Instagram's general media is more familiar to teenagers or young children (Hina Adeeb et al., 2019). Below is a brief description of *Instagram* :

“Instagram is an American company founded in 2010. Instagram is a free mobile smartphone application on App Store and Google Play. Instagram is a social network that allows users to share their lives through pictures. Since 2010, Instagram has obtained 100 million active monthly users. Forty million pictures are being uploaded daily, and there are 8500 likes generated per second” (Bergstrom and Backman, 2013:11)”.

The number of active Instagram users has increased over time (Pavica Sheldon & Katherine Bryant, 2016). Instagram is the most popular social media. Therefore, many people are more attracted to Instagram than other social media. However, they do not know that Instagram positively and negatively impacts society, especially young people and teenagers (Elimira Djafarova & Chloe Rushworth, 2017).

One of the positive benefits of using Instagram social media is that Instagram social media can help students learn English (Nouf Aloraini & Walcir Cardoso, 2018). Social media contains much information and knowledge, so you can use Instagram to learn English (Khalitova Liliia & Gimaletdinova Gulnara, 2016).

Instagram users can take advantage of various features. Users can add text and hashtags to take and upload photos and videos. Users can also tag friends and add locations when uploading pictures and videos. Users can use the search function to search for followers and hashtags. In recent years, Instagram has launched other features such as "Your Story" and "IGTV" features. Posts uploaded to the Your Story feature can only be viewed 24 hours daily. The posts can then be deleted or automatically saved to the user's archive. When performing the "Your Story" feature, the user can select and use the available "Filters" or "Effects" features. The Instagram TV feature allows users to upload videos longer than the Your Story feature.

The writer realizes that English is an important language to learn. In addition, rapid technological developments affect the lives of Indonesian people. Acquiring and improving English language proficiency is important for English language education students. Instagram features such as posts, stories, comments, Instagram TV, and news provide English learners with opportunities to learn and improve their English skills.

Some previous studies focus on the effect of the use of social media. The first is from Bandjar (2018). He uses the theory of Cohen (2011) and Chamot (2011) in his research. The results of the study indicate that there are positive and negative impacts of using Twitter in learning English based on student perceptions.

The next previous study was conducted by Trianasari (2017). His research found that there were significant differences between students who were taught using social media networking strategies and students who were not taught using social media networking strategies. This shows that students taught using social media networking strategies can achieve better scores in vocabulary mastery.

The last previous study was conducted by Barakiti (2013). In his research, Barakiti identified and analyzed based on Baker's (2005) theory. The results from this study indicate several impacts of using smartphones in learning English based on student perceptions.

Based on the explanation above, comparable studies have been carried out but have a diverse focus. In this case, research on the use of Instagram for learning English. Therefore, researchers are interested in examining the title *"Students' perception of Instagram Usage on English Learning in UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung"*.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the research question is:

1. What is the Students' perception of using Instagram in learning English?
2. How do students use Instagram to learn English?

C. Objectives of the Research

According to the formulation of the research question, this study is aimed:

1. Find out students' perceptions of using Instagram in learning English.
2. Find out whether students use Instagram to learn English.

D. Significance of the Research

a. Theoretically

The results of this study can contribute to applied linguistics in the field of education. The results of this study can provide evidence that Instagram can be used as a medium to learn English for Instagram users and students of the English Department of Education.

b. Practically

The results of this study can provide students with more understanding and information about the advantages of using Instagram for learning English. The results of this study can help students consider Instagram a practical tool for learning English in everyday life.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this study, the researcher analyzes students' perceptions of the effect of using Instagram in learning English. The study focuses on the data from observation, interview, and documentation. Then the researcher analyzed the students' perceptions of the effect of using Instagram in learning English.

F. Definition of Key Terms.

Based on the research title shows the definition of some key terms to avoid misunderstanding the reader. The description will make the reader understand the content.

a. English Learning

English as a Foreign Language is typically used to apply students studying General English in their home country's schools and educational institutions as transit visitors to the country of the target language (Harmer, 2001).

b. Writing

Writing is a process of thinking which requires intellectual effort and consists of generating ideas, planning, goal setting, monitoring, evaluating what will be written, and using language to express exact meaning. (White and Arndt, 1991)

c. Technology in Language Learning

Technology is a teaching resource provider that provides teachers with authentic material sources and gives learners greater access to the target language. Technology provides experience to enhance learning because technology enhances the experience of learning English without limits (Freeman and Anderson, 2011).

d. Social Media

Social media refers to interactions among people in which they create, share, exchange and comment on content among themselves in virtual communities and networks (Ahlqvist, 2008).

e. Instagram

Instagram is a Social Networking Service (SNS) that allows users to create a public profile, connect with other user profiles, view their and other user connections within site, and share events in their everyday lives (Boyd and Ellison, 2007).

f. Students' Perception

Perception is a way of regarding, understanding or interpreting something. In other words, perception is a judgment of awareness and understanding. Perception can also be defined as a human reaction to information in the background (Schacter (2011)).