CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the topics related to the study such as the background of the study, the statement of the research problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms. The researcher will discuss these topics below.

A. Background of The Study

Language is a significant aspect in our life to communicate with each other whether by oral writing. (Soejono,1983) explain that language is a tool in spiritual communication and plays an important role in common life. Language is an arbitrary sound symbol used by society in group work, communication, and identifying yourself. (Santoso,1990) also explains that language is a kind of form and not a state or something that the arbitrary sounds, and conventional used as the means to communicate a social group for birth giving, such feelings and thoughts. Therefore, the main role of language is to communicate with each other and socialize at the same time, English is one of the language requirements for Indonesian students who get a job in a company. Companies doing business internationally, usually communicate with each other in English every day based on the speaking ability of both first and second-English speakers the work is meaningful. However, students must actively practice speaking using English in communication. English as an International language plays an important role in life, such as economics or business, education, and international relations. So many countries speak English as a second language, but in Indonesia, English is a foreign language. Related to the subject of teaching, Indonesia introduced English

fromElementary school although there were many problems with English teaching in some elementary schools. The purpose of teaching is to teach English to children as early as possible to prepare them for the era of globalization. English is a required subject in Elementary school, middle, and High school, and teachers at this time must be creative in terms of delivering material such as the media used so that students are interested in what will be taught.

learning media is a means or tool used to convey learning materials to students to increase their understanding and skills. this media can be in the form of printed or digital materials, and in modern times like this, teachers certainly choose to learn media with modern types such as using u-dictionary in teaching spelling. (Clark and Mayer,2016) learning media includes all forms of material that can be used to present information, be it audio, video, or text. In this digital era, there are various ways for people to overcome the obstacles in learning to spell, and most people prefer a simple way to learn, using their smartphone.

The mobile phone can be carried anywhere so students can easily learn spelling anywhere with flexible time when they want whenever and wherever they want. (Gerlach and Ely,1980) The mobile phone is in use incorporated in the following subjects such as algebra (calculator), natural sciences (graphs for lab results), and language arts (vocabulary and spelling). There are several language learning apps for learning language arts a world that can be downloaded on smartphones as an educational resource or tool for students what they need to know. U-Dictionary application as a tool for learning pronunciation (Reiser and Gagne, 1998) argues that media are selected based on their capabilities to introduce

educational events and promote the achievement of set goals, U-Dictionary program aims to help students learn something they didn't know before.

U-Dictionary is a learning tool in the form of an electronic dictionary that helps students improve their spelling skills (Juwita. et al.,2020) By using U-Dictionary, students can also gain a deeper understanding of English. It contains English articles, games, questions, and answers to improve your level of English. This application can be used not only to translate many other languages compiled into an English dictionary. Because the context of the activity in life is different, this application can interpret the translation according to the action of how to study, work, and travel. It can be used effectively as a tutorial to learn spelling. This app includes a voice translation feature that can spell out a word and several sentences, making it easier to practice pronunciation.

In English, we have to learn some skills (Ulfa,2022): listening, speaking, writing, reading. Listening could be a crucial ability in communicating and understanding English dialect orally. It includes the capacity to comprehend words, pitch, and meaning passed on by the speaker. By effectively listening, one can improve their understanding of the English dialect and make strides in their communication abilities. (Stephanie, 2017). Speaking is the capacity to specific contemplations and concepts verbally in English. It includes utilizing a suitable lexicon, rectifying sentence structures, and appropriate pitch. Through practice and coordinated interaction by speaking in English, one can boost certainty and their capability in communication. (Jaffe and Ryan,2015). Writing is the skill to precise thoughts and data in a composed shape in English. It includes organizing contemplations, utilizing appropriate linguistic use, and delivering a message

clearly and viably. With reliable practice, one can upgrade their writing skills and gotten to be a more talented essayist. (Oshima and Hogue,2019). Reading is the capacity to get it composed writings in English. It includes recognizing words, understanding sentence structures, and getting a handle on the meaning and reason of the content. By reading different sorts of materials, from news articles to writing, one can improve their vocabulary and develop their understanding of the English language. (James and Merickel,2016).

The students are expected to have language skills that include the use of receptive and productive language (Ulfa,2022), receptive and productive language are two closely related concepts in language learning. Receptive language refers to one's ability to understand and interpret language heard or read, while productive language refers to one's ability to produce language orally or in writing (Ellis, 2008). In other words, receptive language includes listening or reading skills, while productive language includes speaking or writing skills (Lightbown and Spada, 2013). This theory is often associated with second or foreign language learning. According to this theory, in the early stages of learning, individuals usually focus more on developing receptive language skills, such as listening and reading, before productive language skills, such as speaking and writing, gradually develop (Harmer, 2015).

Reading is one of the basic communication and process skills by which readers find information that is presented. Before students are good at reading, they will be taught spelling at the beginning because the key to being able to read is spelling (Ulfa,2022)

Spelling is important because it helps to read. Learning to write strengthens the relationship between letters and sounds, and mastering high-frequency vision words improves literacy and writing skills. According to (Ramdhini et. al,2016) "The correlation between spelling and reading comprehension is high because both depend on a common denominator: proficiency with language. The more deeply and thoroughly a student knows a word, the more likely they will recognize it, spell it, define it, and use it appropriately in speech and writing". Spelling is one of the basic skills you must master if you want to learn any language, including English.

Spelling skills greatly support one's reading comprehension. This is consistent with (Ramdhini et al., n.d. 2016) Who found that "Spelling instruction has a strong impact on students' reading fluency (effect size = 0.79) and word reading skills across grades 1 to 7."This is consistent with the results of their study." This is consistent with the results of his research. 5 (effect size = 0.68). Spelling ability also has a huge impact on a person's writing ability, because the spelling mistakes a person makes in his or her vocabulary affect every letter written. Also, when spelling mistakes are corrected immediately, people are better able to spell words correctly than those who write words without correcting their spelling mistakes or correcting their spelling mistakes late. This is because spelling skills are not the same, for all people, nowadays people can easily learn spelling through mobile phones.

The previous studies were done by (Wulandari and Handayani,2019) on the topic of The Use of U-Dictionary as a learning media to Increase the Students' Vocabulary in teaching speaking. This research determined to increase the student vocabulary while the researcher used the U-Dictionary towards English

Pronunciation. The other study was done by (Aprilia and Ahmad,2020) on the topic about the use of the U-Dictionary application in learning pronunciation. Components to the high-level student in intelligibility principles in order to get an understandable conversation in speaking practice. The finding of this research showed that the application can assist the researcher in learning pronunciation components especially for segmental features such as vowel and consonant and supra-segmental ones in intonation. The point is that the U-Dictionary Application can be used for students to improve their pronunciation skills even for supra-segmental features only one aspect existed. However this research was done in high level students, while the researcher in this study did research at the students at middle school level.

The other study was done by (Amir Reza Nemat Tabrizi and Muhammad Bagheri Fard,2016) conducted research entitled The Effect of Using Cell Phone Dictionary on Improving Male and Female Iranian EFL Learner's Spelling. This research investigates the effect of using cell phone dictionaries on improving male and female Iranian high school EFL Learner's spelling. Other studies were conducted by (Yayuk Budi Rahayuningtyas,2018) The Effectiveness of Using Online Dictionaries on the Tenth Grade Students Pronunciation Achievement at SMAN 1 Ngunut. The purpose of the study is to know whether the online dictionaries is effective for studying pronunciation or not. The other study was done (M Akmalun Nizam Zam Zam Suciati,2020) conducted research entitled Improving Student's Pronunciation By Using U Dictionary Application In TBI-C'18 IAIN Kudus. This research aims to improve the English pronunciation of English education students C'18 IAIN Kudus. The researcher uses experimental research

and pre and posttests as a medium. The result of the research impacts the improvement of students in pronouncing words.

Based on the facts previously, the differences from this research in terms of methodology, topic and subject. The researcher assumes that the facts will become a problem if not overcome soon. For this assumption, the researcher is interested in doing experiment research with the title **"The Effectiveness of Using U-Dictionary in Teaching Spelling Word at SMKN 1 Boyolangu".**

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher determined the problem of the study that becomes the concern of the research. The problem of the research is:

1. Does U-Dictionary effective in teaching spelling words at SMKN 1 Boyolangu?

C. Objective of The Research

Based on the research problems formulation, the objective of this research is:

1. To know whether the U-Dictionary is effective in teaching spelling words at SMKN 1 Boyolangu.

D. Research Hypothesis

1. Null Hypothesis (H0)

    There is no effectiveness of using the U-Dictionary in teaching vocabulary at SMKN 1 Boyolangu.

2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

    There is an effectiveness of using the U dictionary in teaching spelling at SMKN 1 Boyolangu.

E.   Significant of The Research

1.   Theoretically

This research will give some useful explanations about how to increase in English Spelling of the students by using U-Dictionary. This research is expected to be used as a reference for another researcher to conduct research in the English teaching-learning process. Hopefully, the result of this study is useful for students, teachers, and all of the readers.

2.   Practical significance

a.   for the teachers

If the results of this study reflect profound growth and change, so the teacher could use this strategy in the classroom, in teaching English Spelling.

b.   for students

The students can use U-Dictionary as a learning media to improve many skills in the English language.

c.   For the next researcher

The research could be a reference for the next researcher who wishes to know more about spelling and the U-Dictionary application. The next researcher can use U-Dictionary in the learning process to improve any skills.

F.   Scope and Limitation of the Research

1.   Scope

Research is limited to using U-Dictionary to determine the effectiveness of the application in teaching spelling words at SMKN 1 Boyolangu. This study focuses on students' spelling.

2. Limitation

This research has a limitation. Conditions and situations when students listen to the sound of the U-Dictionary application in each one of their smartphones because their smartphone speaker conditions are different so that when students practice pronunciation, nothing matches the pronunciation. In the application. It is best if the smartphone has a speaker or it can be connected to the Bluetooth speaker.

G. Definition of The Key Terms

There are some key terms of this study, as follows:

1. Spelling

Spelling is explained as the formation of letters in the accepted orthography. (American Heritage Dictionary,2023). Spelling is very important in the language (Graham et.all, 2014). Even according to Simonsen and Gunter (Reed, 2012), spelling has been marginalized in education. This is due to opinions that teachers prefer reading and writing to spelling.

2. U-Dictionary

The U-Dictionary app is an offline English dictionary accessible on both smartphones and PCs, supporting 44 languages globally (Ulfiani, 2020). Perky LIU, Vice President of Netease Youdao, has stated that the company will continue to rapidly develop the app to enhance user experience and fulfill their vision of breaking down language barriers. The app features a voice

translation function that can pronounce words and sentences, making it easier to practice pronunciation. It offers pronunciations in both US and UK English accents.