

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter explains the background of the study, research question, research objectives and the significant of the research. This introduction aims to provide an overview of the importance of the topic being researched.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

English is an international language that widely used in every aspect of life as a means of communication across countries and cultures. Besides that, English also plays a very important role in every sector like education, business, technology and knowledge. The majority of books, science journals, literature and digital learning sources are available in English. In the current era of globalization which is marked by openness of information and technology develops very rapidly, English become one of the essential skills that must be mastered by every individual, especially for young generation. In the context of education in Indonesia, English as foreign language has become a mandatory subject at every level of education start from elementary school to university. This reflects the important role of English in supporting students' academic and professional success. In the world of work, English language skills are often one of the criteria for recruiting employees. According to Ahmet, some people want to learn English language because they think that English language can give them a chance of improving their lives.<sup>1</sup> Some people think that they will get a better occupation if they master at least two languages other than their mother tongue.

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<sup>1</sup> Shameem Ahmed, "Attitudes towards English Language Learning among EFL Learners at UMSKAL," *Journal of Education and Practice* 6, no. 18 (2015): 1.

English learning is emphasized on the development of four language skills like reading, listening, speaking, and writing. As a part of the subjects in schools and universities, Indonesian students are accordingly asked to learn English through the mastery of the four skills, but it is not easy to master them well because the students encounter many difficulties in learning English.<sup>2</sup> But in its development, Learning English also often experience many challenges and difficulties. One of the situations that influences the process of learning English is a lot of student consider English as one of the most difficult subject which is scared. English is a boring and uninterest subject to learn. According to the report of English Proficiency Index (EPI) 2024, Indonesia is ranked 80 out of 116 countries.<sup>3</sup> This rating is included in the low of English proficiency category. Therefore, there is need to increase the mastery of English.

Most student usually having difficulties in learning English particularly in listening and responding instruction and responding an instruction which is done orally by their teacher or friends. If the students don't know the meaning, they have difficulties in listening. Besides, students cannot transfer the meaning in written or understand the written word.<sup>4</sup> They also get difficulty to make sentences based on appropriate grammar because it's different from Bahasa Indonesia. Students not only face problem in the language skill buat also have difficulty pronouncing and

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<sup>2</sup> Asroni Ahmad, "Student's Difficulties in Learning English and the Solutions: Case Study on the Students of Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University," *Journal of English Development* 3, no. 1 (2023): 1.

<sup>3</sup> EF English Proficiency Index, "Daftar Peringkat Terbesar Berdasarkan Kemampuan Bahasa Inggris Di Negara Dan Wilayah Terbesar Dunia," *ef.co.id*, 2024, 2, <https://www.ef.co.id/epi/>.

<sup>4</sup> Hashim Hameed and Hamudi Ali, "The Importance of the Four Language skill: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening in Teaching Iraqi Learners," *HNSJ*, 2022, 2.

reading English text. While they are reading, they may have trouble in distinguishing similar word and letter. The difficulties in learning English usually caused by the English teachers/lecturers, facilities, student's learning environment, student's physical or psychological factors, material, and so forth. As an English student, English language skills are very influential in the learning process in class. They are required to master English to communicate and participate actively in class. In this case, motivation has a big influence on the process of learning English itself. According to Ahmed, learning English requires motivation. Students who have great motivation in learning English will succeed in whatever circumstances they study. They will also be more enthusiastic about following the learning process.

Motivation means the desire or spirit of human to do something they want to achieve. There are two motivations which affect to learning English language, namely integrative and instrumental motivation. Integrative motivation is the desire from ourselves to learn the English language to communicate with people from different culture that speak the same language. In contrast, instrumental motivation is the desire to learn language for specific goals such as getting a job and passing an examination.<sup>5</sup> Learning a foreign language is challenging, and teaching a foreign language can be just as daunting. So, the teacher should look for new and creative methods to boost students' motivation. If the students feel better about themselves, they will achieve more outstanding results as learners. The more inclined students

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<sup>5</sup> I Wayan Suryasa, I Gede Putu Adhitya Prayoga, and I Wayan Astu Werdistira, "An Analysis of Students Motivation toward English Learning as Second Language among Students in Pritchard English Academy (PEACE)," *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 1, no. 2 (2017): 2, <https://doi.org/10.29332/ijssh.v1n2.36>.

share their interests, hopes, feelings, and dreams, the more self-confident they will be. It implies to foreign language teachers that our students would have the confidence to speak more in the target language and move closer to full linguistic competence. Motivation can be divided into two kinds. These kinds of motivation are divided the how the motivation arrives and the influences around the person itself. They are extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation involves the internal motivation to do something for its own sake. Another definition, intrinsic motivation is typically defined as student's engagement in actions for their own sake and without coercion such as satisfaction, interest, learning, and challenge. extrinsic motivation happens when students engage in activities for external reasons such as grades, praise, special privileges, and certificates or material rewards.<sup>6</sup>

Along with the rapid development of technology, technology can also become a medium in the English learning process. Apart from that, technology can also be used to increase students' motivation to learn English. Campbell and Sarac proposed that the technology is integrated into language learning at an increasing rate in order to boost students' motivation and maximize their understanding of the content. One type of technology that can be used to increase student motivation is social media. A study by Akpan and Chayanuvat shows that social media can increase students' motivation by increasing their self-confidence, competence and language skills.<sup>7</sup> Social media is an internet-based platform that can be used to

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<sup>6</sup> Irza Yuzulia, "A Study on Students' Motivation towards Learning," *ELTIN Journal* 9, no. 1 (2021): 3.

<sup>7</sup> Akpan Solomon, "The Impact of Social Media on Motivation Towards Learning English As A Global Language 2021, 3.

interact and communicate with other people. Social media can also be used as a place to create, share and exchange information, ideas, images, messages, videos and forms of content in virtual communities or social networks. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok are very popular and widely used by students. According to data recorded in January 2025 from We Are Social, social media users in Indonesia reached 143 million identities, which covers 50.2 percent of the total population.<sup>8</sup> This shows that almost all Indonesian citizens use social media.

Social media is now a crucial aspect of our daily routine, and its prevalence has affected the educational sector, particularly in language learning. There are numerous examples of social media being utilized as a tool for enhancing English language skills and providing a wide range of chances for learners to progress their four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing), as well as other language abilities. In the context of English as a Foreign Language (EFL), the utilization of social media has advantages and can assist in the development of learners' English skills. For instance, YouTube videos are beneficial in helping learners practice their English listening skills. YouTube can also be used to enhance other English language skills, such as pronunciation, grammar, and syntax.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, there are several applications that can effectively improve listening skills, such as BBC News, Radio, Podcasts, Audiobooks, and YouTube. Furthermore, social media provides learners with the opportunity to enhance their communicative vocabulary

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<sup>8</sup> We are social, "DIGITAL 2025, 2025, 3, <https://wearesocial.com>.

<sup>9</sup> Yuzulia, "A Study on Students' Motivation towards Learning," 4.

by reading new texts and learning new phrases. To improve their speaking abilities, learners can establish their own Facebook groups with other English language learners (ELLs) to engage in regular and open communication. They can also follow or join organizations, companies, and teachers who share language learning platforms and pages. The use of attractive media to English learning and digital contents like film, song and English vlog can increase English learning motivation.

Several previous studies have examined the relationship between social media use and motivation in learning English. One of them is research by Wirantake which shows that social media has a positive impact on students' motivation in learning English.<sup>10</sup> Apart from that, students also show a positive attitude in using social media towards learning English. Other research by Solomon Akpan concluded that social media can encourage students' self-confidence and competence, promote relatedness and autonomous learning so that it can increase students' interest and motivation in learning English.<sup>11</sup> Then another research by Feni Yutika Seli showed student's perception regarding the use of social media in learning English. This research states that students have a positive perspective on the use of social media in the learning process due to the ease of using social media such as easy to access, fun, stress free and reinforce their independence. Apart from that, there are several other studies which also take up similar topics, namely research by Wahid Pernama Putra (2021), Khatami Abror and Heru Setiawan

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<sup>10</sup> Wirantake, "The Impact of Social Media towards Student's motivation and Student's Attitude of Learning English in Sumbawa University of Technology", Nusantara Global Journal, no. 2 (2023): 4.

<sup>11</sup> Solomon, "The Impact Of Social Media On Motivation Towards Learning English As A Global Language Solomon Akpan A Thesis Submitted In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Degree Of Master Of Education In Bilingual Education Suryadhep Teachers College Grad," 4.

(2024), Hanip Pujiati and Ellis Pamela (2022), Azlan, Zakaria, and Yunus (2019), Sari and Wahyudin (2019), Al Arif (2019).

Based on several previous studies, it is true that social media has an influence or impact on motivation to learn English and English learning itself. However, most research still focuses on the direct effects of social media use on language skills, not students' perceptions of the influence of social media on their motivation and skill developments. There are not many studies that specifically explore students' perceptions of how social media influences in learning English. Regarding the growth of technology that social media always uses in daily life where everyone, especially students, are very active in accessing social media, so it is very important to understand their perspective about the influence of social media on the learning English. Understanding student perceptions can help design learning strategies that are relevant and contextual to their lives and can integrate this technology more effectively in English learning. Therefore, it is important to carry out this research to determine students' perceptions of the influence of social media on the learning English so that it can contribute to the development of learning methods that are more interesting and suit the needs of the current digital generation.

From the explanation above, the question arises about what the student's perception on the influence of social media toward English learning. Furthermore, in this research, researchers will discuss what the perception on the influence of social media toward English learning motivation and skill development especially students from English Education majors at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah

Tulungagung in studying English through online surveys. That is the reason or the background that makes the researcher want to do research entitled "Students' perception on the influence of social media toward English learning."

### **B. The Statement of Research Question**

How is the English student's perception on the influence of social media toward English learning at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung?

### **C. Research Objective**

To know the English student's perception on the influence of social media toward English learning at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung.

### **D. Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research lies in its potential to contribute to the understanding of how social media influences in learning English. The findings will have implications for several key areas:

#### **1. For Students**

This research helps students to better understand the influence of social media in learning English. By knowing the influence of social media on English learning, students can be wiser in using social media to enrich their knowledge and not cause distractions. This research can also help students raise awareness of the potential of social media. Social media is not only used as a means of communication and entertainment but can also used as a means of learning for example joining English groups and watching English learning videos so that they can improve their English skills. The use of



social media productively can also increase students' motivation and skill to learn English.

## 2. For further research

This research contribute to the existing body of literature on technology in education, especially in the context of social media, motivation and language education. This research also provides a strong basis for other researchers who want to dig deeper into the relationship between social media and English learning . Further research could explore the influence of various social media platforms specifically (e.g., Instagram, TikTok, YouTube) on English learning.

## **E. Scope and Limitation of the Research**

This research focuses on investigating students' perceptions regarding the influence of social media on English learning. The scope of the research is undergraduate of English department students in UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung. This research examines the use of popular social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, and how these platforms contribute to student's ability in learning English. This research also investigates which social media platforms are most used by students and which are most effective in developing students. The limitation of this research is only focus on sixth semester of undergraduate English department students who active using media social. The data of this research were collected through self-reported questionnaires, so the results depend heavily on the honesty and subjective perceptions of the respondents.

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

### **1. Learning English**

Learning English refers to the process of acquiring and developing proficiency in the English language, including its skills such as reading, writing, listening and speaking. It involves understanding English grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, and pronunciation.

### **2. Motivation**

Motivation refers to the desire and enthusiasm to engage in the process of acquiring knowledge or skills. It means motivation is pushing and show students to do something and continuously keep on the activity.

### **3. Social Media**

Social media is a digital platform that allows users to interact, share and create content online. Social media is a type of media distributed through various electronic and rechargeable devices such as cell phones, computers, tablets, and various other devices to help people share their ideas with others simply and systematically.