

CHAPTER I

INTRODUETION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research hypothesis, purposes of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of The Problem

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language. It is studied by the students at school and university in order to master the four skills. The four skills are writing, listening, speaking, and reading. The language skills are important for communication. As stated by Klimova (2014), the language skills are the aim and the means for the implementation of the communicative goal. Writing has to be taught in school because it is one of the ways to increase students' cognitive for better education.

Writing is the most difficult language skills in English language because we have to put the ideas into written text in a complex process. That complex process in writing has to consider important aspects; content, vocabulary, language use (grammar), organization, and mechanics (Ahmadian & Hosseini, 2012).

Writing can be enjoyable if the students have the ideas and the means to achieve it. Students can make a logic idea about something that they want to write. This is vital in becoming competent in using the ideas and arguments of our subject.

Writing skill can be mastered by the students if they practice to write. One of the methods is writing descriptive text. According to Zulaikah *et al.* (2018), Descriptive text is the text about the

way of things, people, or places. In descriptive texts, the students can use imagination and sense to make reader hear, taste, smell, see, and feel as they present a good word of the subject. Students may be describing a sunset, an individual, or a sinking ship.

With the Covid-19 pandemic widespread around the world and also Indonesia, all of the activities must be carried out from home. In that time, E-learning is widespread used out to provide meaningful learning experiences for students. E-learning means learning that uses technology to enhance and support learning process. The letter “E-” stands for electronic, and it includes all educational activity that uses technology both offline and online. According to Watson et al in Rosalina *et al.* (2020), E-learning refers to an education which is led by teacher by using Internet and web-based educational delivery system that is known as synchronous (participants involved are in real time communication for example online mode by using zoom, google meet and many others) and asynchronous (participants involved are in not real time communication for example interaction in chat room in social media or learning discussion forum).

A number of other terms is also used to describe this mode of teaching and learning. They include online learning, virtual learning, distributed learning, network and web-based learning. In addition, Zolocheskaya *et al.* (2021) state that E-learning (EL) essentially encompasses information communication technology (ICT) on websites, personal computers, portable PCs, mobile phones, learning management System (LMS), radio, and other forms of enhancing teaching and reading. In addition, it requires the application and the usage of information and communication technology.

Nowadays E-learning is being used in many schools, higher educational institutions, and non-formal educational courses. It is used to facilitate and improve learning system. As stated by

Zolocheskaya *et al.* (2021), many developing countries are utilizing highly immersive e-learning from several education institutions that specifically increase students' success. Technologies in recent times are machines used to remove physical barriers, allowing the students to study anytime and anywhere.

As the online teaching and learning processes use computer technology, it has increased the enthusiasm of both teachers and students to participate actively in teaching learning process (Gustiani, 2020). By using technology, teacher can provide interesting media to attract and generate the students' interest in learning English. In addition, Darcy in Ja'ashan (2020) points out that E-learning plays an essential role in English learning courses through the use of ICT. With the coming of computer technology, E-learning has played a progressively important role; especially in higher educational institution in which technology is used to develop course materials, deliver and share course contents. Also, it promotes teachers' presentations and facilitates communication.

From the explanation above, we can see that E-learning gives some benefit for teaching and learning process. With the used of E-learning system, students can study and do the assignment easily, beside that the students might have some difficulties to implement these in their daily life. So, it's better to know students' perception and their challenge in using this system. According to Collin dictionary (2022), perception is the act or faculty of apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding

Moreover, Marsudi (2020) stated that in spite of the fact that online learning and a few applications give great benefits for the understudies and can moreover work as facility for English teachers in teaching and learning process, as well as for students in accepting lessons and

sending assignments. The students might have troubles in utilizing these applications in online learning due to ignorance of the instructor around students' perception, issues and challenges.

Based on the background above, the researcher wanted to know whether there is a significant correlation between students' perception of E-learning with students' writing ability. Therefore, she would like to conduct a study entitled "*The Correlation between second year students' perception of E-learning their writing ability at Bung Hatta University*"

1.2 Identification of the Problem

E-learning has been widely used in many schools and institutions especially since covid outbreak. This condition forces all teacher and students to use E-learning system in learning process. E-learning can be conducted in the form of synchronous and asynchronous. Based on the result of an interview and observation done to some students of Bung Hatta University, there are several problems found related with the used of E-learning in writing. First, some students are new in using the application to support learning like Google Classroom, Zoom, Google meet etc. They do not really understand how to use the feature on the application and also the lack of guidance from lecturer to use it. Second, the technical problem happens when study. Because of that, they always get problem to accomplish assignments. The third, students get lack of feedback in writing using E-learning, so that they do not really understand about their mistake in writing.

Besides, students' problem in writing with E-learning can be seen from the writing aspects such as content, vocabulary, language use (grammar), organization, and mechanics

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

In accordance with the broad scope of this study as already discussed previously, the researcher limited her study to: “the correlation between second year students’ perception of E-learning and their writing ability at Bung Hatta University”.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

To conduct this research, the researcher formulated the problem of this research as follows: “Is there any significant correlation between second year students’ perception of E-learning and their writing ability at Bung Hatta University?”

1.5 The Hypothesis

Hypothesis is often described as an attempt by the researcher to explain the phenomenon of interest. Hypothesis can take various forms, depending on the question being asked and the type of study being conducted. A key feature of hypothesis is that each must make a prediction. The researcher took the hypotheses as follows:

Null hypotheses (Ho):

Ho: There is no significant correlation between second year students’ perception of E-learning and their writing ability at Bung Hatta University

Alternative Hypotheses (Ha):

Ha: There is significant correlation between second year students’ perception of E-learning and their writing ability at Bung Hatta University

1.6 Purposes of the Research

The main purpose of the research is to find the correlation between second year students’ perception of E-learning and their writing ability at Bung Hatta University.

1.7 Significance of the Research

This study is hoped to provide useful information and practical contribution for students and lecturer. The result of this study hopefully can give the students information about the correlation between E-learning and their writing ability. For lecturer, the result is expected to give the information about second year students' perception of E-learning and their writing ability so that teaching and learning process can be better.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about the key terms used in this research, the researcher defines them as follows:

1. Perception is the act or faculty of apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding (Collin dictionary, 2022)
2. E-learning refers to an education which is led by teacher by using Internet and web-based educational delivery system that is known as synchronous and asynchronous (Watson et al in Rosalina *et al.*, 2020)
3. Writing is one of the ways of presenting ideas in written form (Huang, 2011)
4. Writing descriptive text is writing the text about the way of things, people, or places (Zulaikah *et al.*, 2018)