

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the description of the research. It involves the background of the study, formulation of the problem, operational definitions, aim of the study, and significance of the study.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Learning language through technology provides several advantages to students by offering sources of accessibility in learning that can be used anywhere and at any time, and various applications are used in learning (McCarty et al., 2017). It is not something new in education, and it has become increasingly popular around the world as an effective way to enhance foreign language education (McCarty et al., 2017).

Many kinds of technologies can be used to support the learning activity, such as web platform and mobile phone or smartphone. It is one of the technologies, and not only used as a communication tool but also use to a social, work and learning needs (Darsih & Asikin, 2020). It is used by many people including among students in their learning process.

The use of smartphone can help students develop their knowledge and give positive results in learning process (Darsih & Asikin, 2020). Currently, smartphone users can download educational applications among the applications available on Google Play Store or iOS Store to help them learn English. Additionally, some are based on language learning and built for English-reading.

Reading is an activity that is usually learned in English as a foreign language. Reading has the main goal to make an understanding of the text and get the information (Rahayu, 2019). Reading comprehension is one of

skills of reading. It is a process as an activity how the students find the meaning actively by using between their knowledge of the world and the text to comprehend what they are reading. There are several media that can be used to support reading learning process in smartphones such as blog, wordpress, and Wattpad.

Wattpad is one of the media that can be used in smartphone. It has been utilized as an online media for reading platform in the learning language. Wattpad is more popular comparing to other reading platform such as Wordpress, Blogger and Fizzo. It is because social media application that enables writers and readers to interact (Kardiansyah, 2019).

The aim of Wattpad is like social media communities such as Facebook, Youtube, and others to create some content to build interaction among users (Anggitasari et al., 2020)]. Wattpad benefits students to read a lot of stories made by authors from around the world. There are many categories of the story on Wattpad such as short story, classic, fiction, adventure, anime, romance, romance, fantasy, humor, spiritual, mystery, horror, poetry, science fiction, historical fiction, teen fiction, general fiction, and non-fiction (Furotun et al., 2021). It also can be used every time and everywhere. Wattpad can be a medium that can help improve students' reading comprehension.

Wattpad has been used by youth as a medium for reading. In Indonesia, teenagers, especially students, use Wattpad as a medium for reading and learning foreign languages. With this platforms as well as social media, Wattpad provides interesting features such as searching for each genre of story, a library for saving stories, comments on each paragraph to express ideas and suggestions as a reader and a message feature for interacting with fellow readers or writers. In short, the Wattpad

application can be an independent medium for learning foreign languages through the stories available on Wattpad.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher is interested to explore EFL students' perceptions about the use of Wattpad as a media for helping students in reading comprehension in terms of perceived benefits, perceived ease of use and perceived level of comprehension. The previous study, Sari (2016) has discovered the use of Wattpad can affect students' reading comprehension through a short story. Therefore, this study similar to the previous study, it will discuss the use of Wattpad in reading comprehension. As for the gap, it is focused on the use of Wattpad in reading comprehension based on EFL students' perceptions.

## **1.2 Formulation of Problem**

The formulation of the problem of this research is, "What is the students' perception toward the use of Wattpad to help in reading comprehension?"

## **1.3 Operational Definitions**

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms set out in this study, the researcher provides two definitions related to this study as follows;

- |                              |                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.3.1 Wattpad:               | The application platform and online media community for writers and readers. It is as a media for reading to help the readers in their reading comprehension. |
| 1.3.2 Reading Comprehension: | This is a reading process that involves background knowledge, knowledge of text structure and an active search for information and meaning.                   |
| 1.3.3 Students' Perception:  | This is the ability of students to                                                                                                                            |

understand and interpret information towards something based on their experience in reading comprehension by using Wattpad Application through the semi-structured interviews.

#### **1.4 Aim of the Research**

This research aims to explore the EFL students' perception toward the use Wattpad to help in reading comprehension.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research is expected to generate beneficial results in three ways, which are;

- 1.5.1. Theoretically:** This research expands the use of Wattpad in reading comprehension theory in the Indonesian ELT context.
- 1.5.2. Empirically :** The result of the study expands the pedagogical approach in composing a research project proposal.
- 1.5.3. Practically :** The results of the study gives an overview to the EFL student about the use of Wattpad can help them in reading comprehension.