

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes several things encouraging the researcher to conduct this research. The first is background that elaborates the phenomena and statements related to the reason in conducting this research. The second is formulation of the problems. The third is operational definitions that explain several terms related to the topic. The fourth is aims of the research that will be achieved, and the last is the uses of the research that are divided into three parts; theoretical, empirical, and practical use.

#### **A. Background**

Mobile phones recently have become a crucial part of our daily life. Every individual has a personal cell phone of their own. They are employed not only for sending text messages and making calls, but also for the other purposes such as watching a movie, playing music and accessing internet. Many operating systems such as Windows, Mobile, IOS and Android are developed to give more functionality in mobiles (Hashemifardnia, 2018, p.258). Thus, mobile phone has been the important tool for every individual, included in English learning. It is supported by Heil, et. al. (2016) who stated, “With Mobile language learning applications have the potential to transform the way languages are learned.” In conclusion, mobile phone is important because it provides

language learning application for people to learn language including English language.

By the advance of technology, all operating systems of mobile phone and smart phone today gives more functions in mobile. They released modern application more than Short Message Services (SMS). The applications are Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, etc (Hamad, 2017). From those applications of the smartphone, Whatsapp is one of the popular applications mostly used by people in the world. The users of Whatsapp in 180 countries reach 1500 million people in 2018 above the users of Facebook Messenger that only reaches 1300 million people (Statista, 2018). Whatsapp Messenger is a smartphone- and web-based instant message application that allows users to exchange information using a variety of media including text, image, video, and audio messages through Internet connection (*Ajid, et al., 2018*). Therefore, Whatsapp becomes the application of mobile phone or smart phone that is popular allowing people to communicate via text, image, video and audio through internet connection.

In Education, Whatsapp can support learning process. Gon and Rawekar (2017, p.20) stated, “Whatsapp has a significant potential to support the learning process and has major implications on pedagogies, allowing direct access to lots of online resources, more focus on student’s creativity, autonomy, and responsibility on one’s own learning.” This explanation is supported specifically in English learning. Whatsapp can be

used to improve the students' English skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing and enrich vocabulary from the activities of the students read the English text sent by the teacher through Whatsapp Group. Hamad (2017, p.74) found, "Using Whatsapp helped students to develop English skills, enriched their vocabulary and learn from their mates mistakes." In addition, Whatsapp is emerging as a tool that can be used for different educational purposes. Whatsapp is already being used to teach vocabulary or to disseminate general information and links for language learning. Hashemifardnia (2018, p. 265) found that, "using Whatsapp significantly developed Iranian EFL learners' vocabulary learning. The conclusion to be drawn from this study is that chatting and learning via Whatsapp is beneficial to EFL learners to learn English language." Thus, Whatsapp can give benefits for learning in general and learning English in specific.

This research is relevant with the previous research conducted by Jafari and Chalak (2017) who aimed to investigate the role of Whatsapp in the vocabulary learning improvement of Iranian junior high school EFL students. The results revealed that using Whatsapp had significant role in vocabulary learning of the students. This previous research is different with the present research. The present research will focus on investigating senior high school students' perception on the use of Whatsapp Messenger in learning English. Thus, if the previous research was specified on the use

of WA in vocabulary learning, the present research will be generalized on the use of WA in learning English.

## **B. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on background, this research focuses on answering the question, “What are the students’ perceptions toward using Whatsapp Messenger in learning English?”

## **C. Operational Definitions**

To avoid misunderstanding in interpreting the terms used in this research, the researcher explains some operational definitions that are related to the topic of this research:

1. Students’ Perceptions : It is the opinion given by the students toward using Whatsapp Messenger toward learning English using Whatsapp Messenger. Data are obtained from the semi-structured interview with the students at senior high school.
2. Whatsapp Messenger : It is smartphone- and web-based instant message application that allows users to exchange information using a variety of media including text, image, video, and audio messages through Internet connection. It is used to teach

English at Senior High School.

#### **D. Aims of the Research**

This research is aimed at investigating the students' perceptions toward the use of Whatsapp Messenger in learning English.

#### **E. Uses of the Research**

##### **1. Theoretical Use**

This research is to give theoretical information and knowledge to the next researchers about the students' perceptions toward the use of WhatsApp Messenger in learning English.

##### **2. Practical Use**

This research is to give information to the language teachers about the students' perceptions toward the use of Whatsapp Messenger in learning English.

##### **3. Empirical Use**

This research is to add the writer's knowledge and experience about writing a scientific paper and conducting a research.