

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

A notable technological accomplishment, artificial intelligence (AI) seeks to imitate and duplicate the intricate cognitive functions of the human mind. This cutting-edge field combines a variety of approaches and strategies with the goal of enabling intelligent thinking in automated machines. In essence, Artificial Intelligence is a very significant knowledge mechanism that, with the aid of the instruments employed to make this process easier, is essential to the growth and evaluation of intelligence. Artificial intelligence is being used more and more in a variety of industries to improve operational effectiveness and preserve competitive advantage as it develops. Besides automation, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize social interaction, professional settings, and our understanding of the complexity of the world.

Regarding Artificial Intelligence itself which is one of the technologies that is currently developing and growing, relevant to the verses of the Qur'an. The development of technological science is found in Q.S Al-Baqarah: verses 164 to encourage people to study more actively and increase knowledge and to develop it into modern technology so that it is useful for humanity in the future.

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمُوتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْفُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا
 يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ
 دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيْحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

In this verse, Allah guides humans to see, pay attention and think about everything that exists and happens around them by mentioning His creation. Humans' efforts to know the secrets and signs of Allah's greatness also encourage them to draw closer to Him. Understanding the greatness, sophistication and harmony of the universe has made quite a few scientists increasingly aware and convinced that in fact everything that exists in the universe exists. deliberately planned, created, regulated and maintained by Him. so that humans can develop science and technology that is useful for themselves. The verse encourages humans to look, pay attention, and contemplate all of Allah's creations, including in understanding and utilising technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). By studying this verse, humans are reminded that technological sophistication is part of the signs of greatness and knowledge that Allah has given. Humans are invited not only to marvel at technological sophistication, but also to use this knowledge

wisely and responsibly. This verse teaches that technological sophistication is one of the means to improve the quality of life, deepen understanding of the universe, and get closer to His creator. Thus, humans should not only see AI as a technological tool, but also as part of the search and understanding of Allah's greatness and the effort to utilise knowledge for the common good.

Artificial intelligence is very useful in various fields including Many industries, including education, banking, entertainment, e-commerce, health, agriculture, gaming, robotics, transportation, remote sensing, and industry, are involved in the study and use of AI technologies (Kumain et al., 2020). In today's digital era, the field of education has undergone major changes as a result of the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI has emerged as a promising tool to enhance the teaching and learning experience as it has the potential to revolutionize various industries. English language teaching, in particular, faces many problems in meeting the needs of diverse students. Therefore, it is very important to know how effective AI is in teaching English to see new opportunities in language education. AI applications have expanded in various aspects of language teaching, offering new opportunities for personalized and adaptive learning. In English language learning, AI significantly improves participants' abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, AI technology is currently being used in English language teaching to support language learning, facilitate communication, and provide feedback

to learners, Abimanto & Mahendro (2023). The use of artificial intelligence (AI) has become a topic of increasing interest in various fields of study, including English as a foreign language (EFL) education. The use of AI in education has shown great potential to improve the teaching and learning process, especially when it comes to students' writing skills.

English language skills not only required to communicate verbally, but also to write well are essential in today's academic and professional environments around the world. EFL learners who want to improve their writing skills independently and reduce their dependence on traditional face-to-face learning these AI tools are considered an irreplaceable asset for students to help them in improving their academic writing skills as EFL students at universities. Technology-driven learning experiences not only allow for diverse learning styles, but also increase student participation and create a more effective educational environment. In addition, the rise of artificial intelligence is also considered a transformative force because it has a way similar to humans to think and make decisions. Popenici and Kerr (2017) call AI an important force that shapes technology and influences various aspects of daily life because of its diverse and complex nature.

Regarding writing skills, writing is one of the most important talents that students must have, as the Al-Quran verse that is relevant to the importance of writing skills is Surah Al-Alaq: verses 4

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

The essence that teaches humans to write with a pen, and that is a great pleasure from Allah SWT. Allah teaches humans with the pen that they have never known before. Allah began the preaching of Islam with a call and invitation to read and write, because it contains enormous benefits. This verse emphasizes the importance of writing in the process of human creation and as a way for humans to gain knowledge. This reflects how important writing skills are in acquiring, storing and disseminating knowledge.

Academic writing is among the several types of writing. Academic writing is a type of writing that is related to an academic subject and is typically done by students in a university or classroom. Academic writing is a crucial ability to acquire at the university level because written assignments will be the main activities that students complete. For most students, it's a difficult and demanding task. Academic writing is a difficult ability to master, particularly when writing in a foreign language, according to Al Badi (2015).

One type of academic writing is producing a research paper or thesis. It includes a suitable subject, information sources, and approach. Most university students, especially those majoring in English, must finish their studies. Writing that is composed of arguments and supporting details is known as a thesis.

Students majoring in English need to concentrate on grammar and diction in addition to the idea of the thesis. Students will need writing skills to complete the final assignment, namely the thesis. For students enrolled in the English Department, writing a thesis is a challenging task. The main challenge lies in the requirement that the thesis be written in English, which is not the first or second language in Indonesia.

Since English is taught as a foreign language in Indonesia, students hardly ever utilize it in everyday situations. When asked to write their ideas in English, EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students frequently struggle, particularly with grammar. When writing academic writings, students should follow all English grammatical standards, such as appropriate sentence structure, subject-verb agreement, consistent and precise lines, and the usage of articles. However, as previously said, undergraduate students still face difficulties in this area since their writing abilities are still growing and because they don't always employ effective or precise terminology (Myhill 2009).

This also occurs when EFL students attempt to write a thesis frequently, they struggle with grammar and find it difficult to select the appropriate words, sentences, and assertions. Writing in English has long been thought to be the hardest talent to master; writing an academic paper, in particular, necessitates the use of problem-solving methods and approaches to meet communication objectives (Fithriani, 2019).

In the 21st century filled with advanced technology, EFL students can benefit significantly from the integration of AI in teaching and learning. The main advantages include AI's ability to provide instant feedback, detect grammatical errors, provide word suggestions, and even assist in the development of ideas when writing. AI-based writing tools have a wide range of applications, including text translation, spelling correction, text analysis, text rewriting and summarization, and more. These tools can provide detailed suggestions and recommendations for modifying text components in seconds.

In the context of writing a thesis, AI can be an invaluable tool for students. When writing a thesis, students are often faced with complex tasks, requiring in-depth analysis and the preparation of strong arguments. AI can help in this process by providing suggestions for formulating a clear and focused thesis statement. In addition, AI can help in conducting literature searches efficiently, identifying relevant references, and compiling appropriate bibliography according to the chosen writing style.

As students write specific chapters of a thesis, AI can identify patterns that indicate weaknesses in argument or structure, provide recommendations to improve the flow of ideas, and ensure consistency in the use of terms or concepts. Apart from that, AI can also help in checking the correctness of facts, avoiding plagiarism, and ensuring consistency of writing style throughout the thesis.

Thus, the integration of AI in thesis writing provides great benefits for EFL students, helping them improve the quality and efficiency of their writing, as well as ensuring that their theses meet the required academic standards. On the other hand, understanding student perceptions of the use of AI in writing theses has not yet been explored too much. In order to increase this understanding, The purpose of this study is to explore how EFL students' experience in using the application of AI to writing.

According Ginting & Fithriani (2022) Students can examine their writing in language classes by integrating AI-based technology. In addition, students can use online paraphrasing tools to improve the quality of their paraphrases. Online tools for paraphrasing can help with many different activities, including text rewriting and text spinning, as well as identifying plagiarism (Ansorge et al., 2021). By rewording an existing text, spinning is a strategy that creates a new text without using text-matching algorithms that are based on machine learning to detect plagiarism (Prentice & Kinden, 2018).

There are some application or website are provided by Artificial Intelligence. There are many applications or websites based on Artificial Intelligence in this technological era, such as quillbot, grammarly, chat gpt, perplexity, deepL and many more. This AI can help students make their thesis writing easier.

It is hoped that this research will provide valuable insight into how EFL students' experiences in using AI for helping them complete important academic assignments such as writing a thesis. Thus, it is hoped that this research can contribute to developing more effective and efficient learning approaches in the context of higher education, especially for EFL students in the English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, where their students make a thesis in English. This research will be conducted with the title **"Exploring of EFL Students' Experiences in Using Artificial Intelligence for Writing Thesis"**.

B. Definition of Key Terms

Several terms related to the research are clarified to avoid misconceptions:

1. EFL Student

EFL stand for English as a Foreign Language, EFL Students are students learning English in a context where it is not the primary language spoken. These students are studying English in a country or environment where English is not the dominant language. In this research, EFL Students will be participants in this research, where they are EFL students of English Education Study Program batch of 2020 who are doing on their undergraduate thesis.

2. Experiences

Experience is something that has been done by a person. In this research, the experience that will be examined among participants is how their experience in using artificial intelligence includes the usage, the kind of AI and their attitude towards using AI as a tool to help them write their thesis, are experienced by participants in using artificial intelligence.

3. Writing skill

Writing skills are a person's ability to convey ideas, concepts and information clearly, structured and effectively through writing. This includes word choice, correct grammar, and the ability to structure sentences and paragraphs so that the writing can be understood and influence the reader well. In this research, the researcher wants to explore students' skill in writing thesis.

4. Thesis

A thesis is a form of academic writing, Undergraduate thesis is a research paper completed by undergraduate students as a requirement to earn their bachelor's degree. It is a scholarly work that demonstrates a student's ability to conduct independent research, analyze information, and present findings in a structured manner. In this research, the undergraduate thesis will be part of the research because the researcher wants to explore how the writing skills of EFL students are when writing their thesis.

5. Artificial Intelligence

AI or Artificial Intelligence will refer to technology and computer systems designed to imitate and perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. In this research, AI-based paraphrasing is used as a tool for EFL students in the process of writing their undergraduate thesis.

C. Research Questions

1. How are EFL Students' experiences in using Artificial Intelligence in writing thesis?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence in helping EFL Students write their thesis?

D. Objectives of Study

In accordance with the research questions, this study aims to investigate

1. To explore how EFL students experience using Artificial Intelligence to write their undergraduate thesis.
2. To find out the advantages and disadvantages of using Artificial Intelligence in helping EFL Students write their undergraduate thesis.

E. Significance of Study

This research can provide new insights into the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the thesis writing process, which could be an innovation in higher education, especially in the context of teaching English as a

foreign language (EFL). The quality of thesis writing by EFL students can bring significant benefits in improving their academic abilities. The results of this research can provide input for the development of better curriculum or pedagogy in integrating AI technology in language education. This study can provide insight into how AI can be developed further to support learning and academic writing.

This research is useful for students, teachers and other researchers. The importance of using technology in learning for teachers and students because it can help teachers teach and help English students learn English more easily. One of them is the use of Artificial Intelligence, especially in writing skills. With AI's ability to provide instant feedback, detect grammatical errors, provide word suggestions, and even assist in developing ideas when writing. AI-based writing tools have a wide range of applications, including text translation, spelling correction, text analysis, text rewriting and summarization, and more. These tools can provide detailed suggestions and recommendations for modifying text components in seconds.

1. For students

Students can find out how AI can help them to improve their academic writing skills, as well as find out what the benefits and impacts of using this technology are, and also can help them in the learning process, one of which is their writing ability.

2. For lectures

Lectures can find out how AI can help them prepare lessons in the classroom. As well as knowing how AI impacts students.

3. For other researchers

Other researchers who want to conduct deeper research on AI can be helped by this research, especially by providing participants' experiences in this research as a reference for future research.