

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In daily interaction, language is the most important system used for communication, whether through writing, gesturing, or speaking. In the age of globalization, English serves an important function as a global language and growing in importance in fields, including economics, politics, business, technology, and education. It is obvious that foreign languages, especially English, are important for many things, thus learning English is a necessity for Indonesian students in particular who seek to communicate with the rest of the world.

Technology plays an important role in our lives today, making daily activities easier and significantly impacting education. Many students prefer to use technology for learning because it is engaging and convenient. The internet facilitates students in seeking assistance, tutorials, and resources that can help them develop academically.

Many learning media can be utilized by learners in language learning including English. Moreover, English learning teaching is not only about study in the classroom, but also can use social media as the tool for learning (Faiza, 2020). That is because social media can assist learners in developing their language skills, especially for young generation who are often engaged with technology.

The use of technology has grown quickly in recent years, as the number of users, types of media, mobile applications, and connections have increased. As a result, a new communication pattern has been created, namely social media. Social media is a technological tool that improves interaction, communication, collaboration, and connection between people. Through the use of social media, students can connect with a variety of people and share knowledge.

In the era digitalization, media plays a very important role in giving impressions (Zainuddin, 2020). This principle finds resonance in Islamic teachings on ethical communication, which can be extended to social media usage. While in the Qur'an does not specifically mention modern social media, QS. Al-Ahzab 70 provides foundational guidance on truthful speech that is applicable to digital interactions:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا

The meaning of this verse is that Allah commands believers to ‘speak words that are just and appropriate,’ a principle that applies to digital interactions. In the context of language learning, this verse highlights the importance of sincerity and responsibility in online English language practice, where students interact with global content while adhering to Islamic values.

There are various examples of social media that are effective for learning and use in educational settings. Twitter is one of an example

alternative platform that provides information to its users. Twitter is a micro blogging platform that allows the users to write a short message that is shared among the community members. Twitter is an excellent place to discover what is happening and trending in the world (Faiza, 2020). Twitter is widely used by people, as well as students who choose Twitter as a media for communicate. In addition, Twitter has made use of English on their display. English is used in a number of Twitter keywords, including mention, re-tweet, trending topic worldwide, hash tag, favorite, and share.

Student perception is a student's point of view or understanding of the material or information received during learning activities. This perception is reflected how students understand and respond to subject matter that has been explained through the learning process. Ensuring that students have a strong and accurate perception of the material is important, thus a correct understanding will allow students to understand the material and achieve objectives for learning. This perception can be said to be the result of students' thinking or cognitive aspects where through the formation of student perceptions this will affect how students behave or affective aspects to how students act or psychomotor aspects (Imran, 2015).

Investigating how students think about using Twitter is important since it teaches them how to use the platform in order to improve learning experience. The development of students' English achievement is significantly affected by the study of Twitter applications for English

language learning. Additionally, students' perceptions of Twitter use affect both their academic achievement and Twitter application experience. Applications for Twitter can serve as instructional tools to help people become more fluent in English. Several surveys reveal how students feel about Twitter's innovative applications, despite the fact that undergraduates and other platform users utilize it extensively in many aspects of their lives. Stated differently, there is a dearth of research on students' perspectives toward the use of Twitter, hence there is a need to make significant efforts in order to study Twitter applications as a medium for English language learning.

Based on the explanation, the researcher is curious about how Twitter can help the learning of English between students. Despite the fact that they use the same applications, their perceptions might be different. The use of Twitter as a tool for English language learning is the main topic of this study.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of study, the researcher formulates some statement as follow:

1. How do the Higher Education Students class of 2023 UIN Antasari use twitter for learning English?
2. What are students' perception on using twitter for learning English?

C. Objective of Study

Dealing with the statement of the research question above, the researcher intends to achieve some objectives through the study as follow:

1. To explain how Twitter helps Higher Education Students to learn English.
2. To identify students' perception using Twitter for learning English.

D. Significant of Study

The result of this study is hoped to be beneficial for the improvement of the education as follow:

1. For the teacher, the results of this study are expected to provide information and advice to use social media especially Twitter as one of media in their English class. It can be implemented as a fun and enjoyable alternative method to the teaching and learning process.
2. For the student, the results of the study are supposed to encouraged them to engage with social media especially Twitter to benefit others by this study to learn English since English is become essential skill for their future career.
3. For the researcher, the study helps to improve knowledge and practice of teaching English related to the use of information and communication technology.

4. For the further researcher, the results of study are supposed to give information and knowledge also to improve the application of educational methods in circumstances where the process of teaching and learning process.

E. Definition of Key Term

The researcher defines the words used in this study to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the meaning of terms in the study, they are:

1. Perception

Perception refers to the way students understand, interpret, and feel about using Twitter as a tool for learning English. This includes their attitudes, beliefs, and opinions formed through their experiences.

2. Twitter

Twitter refers a social media platform that functions as a micro blogging service, enabling users to post and interact with short messages (originally limited to 140 characters). It is widely used for communication, information sharing, and networking, making it a potential tool for language learning.