

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Literacy is a topic that is widely discussed in the current era. Along with the rapid development of technology, driving changes in the concept of literacy itself. In Islam, literacy is another form of the concept of iqra' (Basinun, 2018). Allah said in the holy Quran, Al Alaq verse 1-5

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ ۱ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ ۲ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كَلِمَةٌ إِذِ خُلِقَ ۝ ۳ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۝ ۴ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ۝ ۵

*“ (1) Read in the name of your Lord Who created. (2) He created man from a clot. (3) Read and your Lord is Most Honorable, (4) Who taught (to write) with the pen. (5) Taught man what he knew not.”*

Initially, literacy only referred to the ability to read and write texts and the ability to interpret (Karpati, 2011), but now literacy includes the ability to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media, and digital media (Kennedy, Dunphy, & Dwyer, 2012). Now, the literacy concept continues to

develop and is divided into several forms of literacy, one of which is digital literacy.

Digital literacy is the ability of a person to understand an information and be able to evaluate the information in various formats that have been submitted by digital media (Pool, 1997). Thus, not only includes the ability to read, but also requires a critical thinking process to evaluate the information found through digital media. In the learning process, in order to achieve maximum results a person is required to be able to use digital devices properly. Not only that, individual also understand everything related to digital technology. These individual abilities can be applied in functional skills on digital devices. So that she or he can find and choose information, think critically, be creative, collaborate with others, communicate effectively, and still ignore electronic security and the growing socio-cultural context (Cassie & Payton, 2010).

The development of science and information technology has brought students as the present generation into the world of digital literacy (Raja & Nagasubramani, 2018). Global demands require the world of education to constantly adapt technological developments to efforts to improve the quality of education (Budiman, 2017). Hence Digital literacy needs to be instilled in every individual, especially students. This is expected to be able to spur students to better utilize digital literacy in the academic field. One of the

advantages that can be taken from the development of technology and information is that students can access more up-to-date educative information.

The development of digital literacy is an academic demand at every level of education in Indonesia, especially at universities. Students are currently addicted because Google is more often searched than opening a book as a reference. This shows that the internet offers various needs in finding information (Kurniawati & Baroroh, 2016). The development of digital equipment, the access will form information in digital form that has challenges as well as opportunities for the wearer. Therefore, in organizing education students must have several skills. One of them is the skill in determining accurate, relevant, timely and consistent information through digital media.

In the current era of globalization, the learning model is to encourage students to find out from various sources in the education process. Various academic activities and needs to collect, prepare, store, process, announce, analyze, and disseminate information can never be separated from the role of information systems and technology. Digital technology becomes a tool not just a supporter but a necessity in meeting various academic information needs. The reality is that the development of information systems and digital technology has not been met with adequate literacy competencies, capabilities in information systems and digital technology have not been implemented by students, and the urgency of digital competencies that is not followed up with a strategic management and policy (Shopova, 2014).

Digital literacy is an important thing needed to be able to participate in today's modern world, with unlimited access to digital technology that provides many benefits in various aspects of life, especially in the field of education. Related to this, students should have a scientific basis in digital literacy. But in practice, it is not yet known how the application of digital literacy helps them in the learning process. Paul Gilster groups digital literacy abilities into four competencies that students need to have; internet searching, hyper textual navigation, content evaluation, and knowledge assembly (Gilster, 1997).

Related to this, researcher has reasons why research about the digital literacy skills of students at Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin. The first is that research about digital literacy is still rare, especially in South Borneo. Secondly, the researcher knew that the literacy skills of students were still lacking and students should have a scientific basis in digital literacy to facilitate their academic needs. In this case Paul Gilster groups digital literacy abilities into four competencies that students must possess; internet search, hypertextual navigation, content evaluation, and knowledge assembly.

## **B. Research Questions**

How are digital literacy competencies possessed by students of English Education Department?

### **C. Objectives of Study**

To know and describe digital literacy competence possessed by students of English Education Department.

### **D. Significance of Study**

There are two significances to this research, theoretically and practically:

1. For researchers, this study can increase the knowledge and insight of researchers about digital literacy competence among English Education Department Students.
2. Theoretically, this research is expected to be a reference material for readers, especially for lecturers and students at the university concerned.
3. Practically, this research is expected can be used as a further reference in developing the application of digital literacy.

### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Digital literacy

Digital literacy is student's ability to use digital devices effectively and efficiently in terms of academic needs.