

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Four English skills that must be mastered well by EFL students' in today's era, such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills, are needed. In this case, writing skill considers an essential skill in learning English. One of the reasons why writing considers as an essential skill to be mastered for EFL students, it is because EFL students must complete their study by completing thesis or academic writing to graduate (Kosasih, 2018). In other words, if EFL students could not settle a good quality academic writing, they will not be able to graduate. Therefore, students are required to have good ability in writing.

Writing is an activity that composing ideas into text (Dwihandini et al., 2013). Moreover, several parts must be concerned in writing such as the grammar usage, punctuation, paraphrasing the ideas that we got from any sources to avoid plagiarism, how to plan and organize ideas into a text which have good harmony and related to each other, the use of consistent and appropriate citation style are highly important. According to Santosa et al. (2020), students are required to know the citation style they used in their writing to prevent plagiarism. Regarding the citation and references usage, especially in thesis writing context is important, several problems that EFL students faced, which are: 1) One of the common problems that students face is managing citation and references in the list of their writing (Ariyanti & Fitriana,

2020). It is stated that students tend to use various sources to support their writing, such as books, articles, journals, etc. Moreover, they are required to paraphrase the ideas, add the citation and references to prevent plagiarism. Nevertheless, surprisingly, some students still lack knowledge in managing citations and references. So, they prefer to use a manual way, which can influence their thesis quality. 2) some students still use manual ways in managing citations and references (Ariyanti & Fitriana, 2020). In addition, using a manual way of managing citations and references is risky. The possibility that this might happen, the students will forget to add citations and references in their writing, and plagiarism will currently appear. Besides, when the students use the manual way, it enlarges students' possibility to write citations and references incorrectly and inconsistently. 3) EFL students lack knowledge of the citation style that must be used and appropriate to their learning context (Santosa et al., 2020). In addition, this is also supported by Ariyanti and Fitriana (2020), EFL students still do not understand which one is APA style, MLA, Oxford, etc. However, working on a thesis is a challenging job that must be done for university students. Thus, citing and referencing the sources is highly important in writing to prevent plagiarism (Santosa et al., 2020). So, EFL students have to be wiser to overcome the challenges.

Students who still use manual way in managing citation and references in their writing are the main problem. Nowadays, the development of technology is highly exploded, and it can help and manage human's work. One of the tools that have been suggested by many experts regarding managing citation and references is

an automation based tool. Many automation tools can be used for students to manage citations and references, such as Ms. Word References, RefWorks, Zotero, Endnote, Mendeley, etc. Mendeley is one of the reference management software that has been suggested for students, especially in writing. This is supported by Alrshah (2015), which stated that there are several advantages that Mendeley offers to the users. 1) the users can manage references. When the users add articles or e-books in Mendeley, the users can manage the articles' or books' references. The references can be automatically done and ready to put in our writing. 2) Mendeley can manage PDFs. With the add library feature, the users can add a file in PDF and manage the PDF based on the users' need. The users can manage the file into one or more than one folder, categorize the PDF based on the year, topics, author, etc. 3) Mendeley can generate citations. When the users connect the Mendeley desktop to Microsoft word, the users can generate citations automatically. The users only need to search the author's name, title of the article, or year. Then, just one click citation will be done. 4) Generating reference list from A-Z automatically. The users do not need to write and listed manually, and it will save the users time to do it. 5) Mendeley can be used to share references. Mendeley can be used to create groups which consisted of some people who having similar interest. Besides, the users can share the articles to the groups, and the references will be shared as well. 6) The users can manage their own profile as well. The users can create and manage their profile in order to publish an article or join to the communities based on the users' interest. Thus, Mendeley is an automation-based tool that used by EFL students due to some features of Mendeley, which can help students, especially in thesis writing.

Numerous experts stated that Mendeley is highly recommended to use due to the provided efficiency and flexibility. However, the researcher conducted a preliminary study at the Ganesha University of Education, especially English Language Education students. The purpose of conducting the preliminary study are 1) To know the number of ELE students use Mendeley as automation based tools on students' thesis. 2) To know what kind of tools that students use before use Mendeley. 3) Does ELE lecturers suggest you to use Mendeley in writing?. The survey was spread out to ELE students, and after five days, 64 respondents answered the survey. The survey results showed that 64% of students stated that they use Mendeley in thesis writing, and 36% stated they do not use Mendeley. Regarding to the tools that students use before use Mendeley, it was found that 85% students use Ms. Word Reference and 15% use manual way. Moreover, 97% stated that ELE lecturers suggest them to use Mendeley in writing and 3% of them mentioned that ELE lecturers do not suggest the students to use Mendeley. However, it can be concluded that most ELE students use Mendeley on thesis writing. In addition, before the students use Mendeley they use Ms. Word Reference and manual way to manage citations and references on their thesis. And most of ELE lecturers suggest the students to use Mendeley in writing. Nevertheless, surprisingly, there is no research investigating students' perception of Mendeley usage in English Language Education, Ganesha University of Education. Moreover, describe challenges faced by students in using Mendeley on thesis writing.

Moreover, some previous studies incorporating Mendeley's use in academic writing had been conducted by some experts. Firstly, Ariyanti and Fitriana (2020) conducted research which focus to investigate the perception of EFL students towards Mendeley usage as reference manager in Thesis. The result of the research indicates that the students had positive perception on Mendeley usage. However, the challenges come up from the computer, which has a low specification and influences the users' perspective to Mendeley's use. Secondly, a study from Iskandar and Patak (2019) which focuses to know how accurate the citations and references produced by Mendeley. This study's findings showed that Mendeley is a beneficial tool due to it helps the accuracy of citation writing and reference lists. Thirdly, research from Hudriati, Rusdiah, Patak, & Basri (2018) which focuses to find out students' preferences of Mendeley in scientific writing context. The results of the research showed that 1) the user prefers to use Mendeley word plugin in citing and write references of their work, 2) Mendeley users able to put themselves how to be open and keep their private, 3) Mendeley mobile is commonly used by the users, but Mendeley desktop and website are used to import PDF's. Fourthly, Saliya et al. (2016), this research focus to find out Mendeley impact on scientific writing. The findings of the research showed that: 1) plagiarism can be prevented by using Mendeley. 2) Mendeley provides a feature backup file that can be used by the users. 3) Mendeley provides any citation styles that can be used by the users. 4) the user can utilize the library feature to create and highlight PDFs. 5) Mendeley provides a social network feature that can help the users connect their Mendeley Web and mobile and find any community related to their area of interest. Fifthly, Patak and Tahir (2019)

which focus to investigate Mendeley usage as tool to avoid plagiarism. The research findings showed that: 1) limitation of time, lack of ideas, and business are three factors that influence people to do plagiarism, 2) Mendeley has a significant impact to avoid plagiarism in writing. However, based on the previous study above, Mendeley has a positive impact on students' writing. So, it essential to investigate undergraduate EFL perception on the use of Mendeley on thesis writing.

Based on the previous researches above, the novelty of this research is since research on this topic involves undergraduate EFL students in North Bali is still limited and scarce, this research aimed to contribute as reading material to this area. Research investigating the perception of undergraduate EFL students on Mendeley's use of thesis writing is a new one, primarily conducted at a University located in North Bali. Looking at the fact that many English Language Education students use Mendeley on their thesis writing, there is no research investigating the perception of undergraduate students towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct this research to discover the reflection of Mendeley's usage in thesis writing. Moreover, it will provide information showing challenges faced by undergraduate students towards Mendeley usage on the thesis writing context.

There are two purposes of this research, which are 1) Investigate undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing. Moreover, 2) Describe undergraduate EFL students' challenges towards the use of Mendeley on thesis writing. Undergraduate EFL students will

participate in this research, and they will be the population and sample of the research. In this research, undergraduate EFL students are ELE students, mostly 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th semester students who are still working on thesis writing. However, perceiving the Mendeley usage as a referencing system on thesis writing, especially at a University in North, Bali is a crucial thing that must be conducted. It is expected that the result of the research will provide insightful inputs to a specific area.

1.2 Problem Identification

The problem that has been identified is presented as follow:

Mendeley is a reference system that mostly used by ELE students who working on thesis writing. Previously, ELE students used traditional way and used Ms. Word references in managing citations and references of their thesis writing. Using a manual way of managing citations and references is risky. The possibility that might be happened is the students will forget to add citations and references in their writing and it will be detected as action of plagiarism. Besides, managing citations and references in thesis writing context is not an easy job. The students are required to use various sources to support their thesis writing such as books, articles, journals, which means that the students have to understand how to manage citations and references effectively. However, Mendeley usage on students' thesis writing can cause problems for the students if Mendeley usage could not carried effectively. As the most disadvantaged part, it is important to investigate students' perceptions towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing, so Mendeley could be beneficial to support students' thesis. Therefore, this study appears to investigate

undergraduate EFL students' perception and challenges regarding to the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

This research is limited for undergraduate EFL students, English Language Education students, the Ganesha University of Education, especially for students in 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th semester students who use Mendeley in thesis writing context. The research's focus is to investigate the students' perception and describe challenges faced by EFL students who use Mendeley on students' thesis.

1.4 Research Questions

Regarding to the background of study, there are two research questions that will be investigated. The research questions are presented as follows:

1. How do undergraduate students perceive Mendeley referencing system for thesis writing?
2. What are challenges faced by undergraduate students towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing?

1.5 Research Objectives

In relation to the research questions stated above, the objectives of this research are as follow:

1. To investigate undergraduate students' perception towards the use of the use of Mendeley referencing system on students' thesis writing.

2. To describe the challenges faced by undergraduate students towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis writing.

1.6 Research significance

There are two research significances of this study such as theoretical significance and practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of conducting this research is expected to provide information about the perception and challenges faced by undergraduate students towards Mendeley's use of thesis writing. The information from this research is expected will give a contribution to development of literature in this area.

2. Practical Significance

This study is expected to give positive significance to the students, lecturers, and other researchers.

2.1 For Students

By conducting this research, it is expected that the students can use the result of this research to enrich the information about Mendeley as their online feedback regarding managing citation and references in their writing.

2.2 For Society

By conducting this research, it is expected that society can use this research to enrich their knowledge and comprehension in terms of Mendeley's use as the reference management software.

2.3 For Future Researchers

By conducting this research, it is expected that future researchers can use the result of this research to conduct similar research that focuses on the tools that can help students in managing citation and references in thesis writing.

1.7 Research Scope

A mixed-method research design will be used in this research. This research will be conducted in English Language Education, the Ganesha University of Education, located in Buleleng, Bali, Indonesia. This research will be conducted to investigate undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use of Mendeley on students' thesis and describe the challenges faced by EFL students on students' thesis.

