

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

English is one of languages which learned by people around the world. In Indonesia especially, English is one of the subjects which is learned by students in junior and senior high school even some students have been learning English since they are in elementary school. English is also one of the important skills which have to be mastered by students because English is the international language. It means that English is used to communicate with people from other countries. There are four skills of English language which have to be mastered by students, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All the four skills are essential for students to communicate using English language. Each skill completes each other. English language speakers can be divided into native English speakers and also the non-native English speakers. The non-native English speaker means people do not use English as their first language; it can be the second, third, or the additional language. One of the terms for the non-native English speaker is EFL or English for Foreign Language.

English for Foreign Language (EFL) means the learners who learn English are not English native speakers. They learn English in formal and private schools and also English course. The EFL students learn the four skills of English language; namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing in formal and informal schools. Indonesia is one of the countries which use English for Foreign Language (EFL).

English learners learn language skills started from listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One of the essential skills in English language is writing. Hamp-Lyons & Heasley (2006) stated that writing is the last language skill which should be mastered by the native speakers and also the foreign or the second language learners. It means that before mastering writing skill, the learners should be able to listen, speak, and read in English. Wilson & Glazier (2013) also stated that EFL learners who have good writing skill not only have benefits in English learning but also they have good life-long careers. This means that writing skill is very important when learning a language. However, EFL learners may have difficulties when learning a language which cannot be found in native speakers. According to Komba (2015), there are challenges faced in writing thesis and dissertations namely appropriate writing for each chapter and lack of skill in writing academically. It means that writing becomes a challenge for students. Since writing is a challenge for students, similar problem can also be found in writing competence such as thesis writing.

One of the requirements for students to finish their study in university is writing thesis. Writing thesis is a process which needs effort and time to be finished. Evans et al., (2014) stated that thesis contains several reasoning which must be logical, structure, and defensible. It means that in writing thesis, students should be able to have critical thinking and problem solving. Moreover, writing thesis also becomes a contribution for knowledge and also judged by experts in the specific field. Writing thesis is important for students because without finishing their thesis, they cannot finish their study in university. In writing thesis, students should consider

many things before finishing the work started from content, format, and many more. One of the things which should be considered in writing thesis is citation and reference.

In thesis writing, writers should present the citation and reference from resources such as articles and books. Citation is one of the important things which should be included in thesis writing. Ray & Ramesh (2017) stated that citation usage is important in the process of writing article and thesis. Besides, reference is also important since it contains the list of resources which is used in writing thesis. According to Neville (2012), reference shows the list of the resources after conducting a writing process. It means that both citation and reference are two of the important aspects in writing especially thesis writing which needs other resources to complete the writing.

In managing citation and reference, students can use reference tools both manually or automatically. According to Parabhoi et al. (2017) the use of reference management software (RMS) can help the writers in the writing process. There are several reference tools which can be used by students namely Zotero, EndNote, TurnItIn, Mendeley, and Microsoft Word References. Zotero, EndNote, and Mendeley should be downloaded and installed before used. TurnItIn needs payment before it can be downloaded and installed. One of the easiest reference tools which can be used is Microsoft Word References. According to Wijayanti et al. (2020) Microsoft Word References can be used to create automatic citations and insert details of the resources. Moreover, Microsoft Word References is included in

Microsoft Word application which is used to write document hence it does not need to be downloaded or installed manually.

According to Emanuel (2013) the bibliographies feature of Microsoft Word is launched in 2007 in Windows and 2008 in Macs. It means that Microsoft Word References does not need to be installed or downloaded manually. According to Beel et al. (2013), Microsoft Word is a user-friendly tool because it allows users to edit references. Another advantage is that Microsoft Word References is free and no need any payment like TurnItIn or EndNote. It is also familiar for students because it includes in Microsoft Office Word which exist in every windows pc or laptop. However there is still lack of resources which identify the Microsoft Word References usage in thesis writing.

Before conducting the research, preliminary study had been conducted to identify the number of students in English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education who used Microsoft Word References in proposal/thesis writing and the lecturers' recommendations to use Microsoft Word References in writing. There were 54 responses in 5 days of online survey. The respondents were 77.8% of 7th semester students and 22.2% respondents were the 9th semester students. There were 46.3% respondents answered that they used Microsoft Word References in their proposal/thesis writing and 53.7% respondents answered that they did not use Microsoft Word References in their proposal/thesis writing. there were 37% respondents answered their lecturers recommended them to use Microsoft Word References in their thesis writing, 33.3% respondents answered they were still unsure

that their lecturers recommended them to use Microsoft Word References in their thesis writing, and 29.6% respondents answered their lecturers did not recommend them to use Microsoft Word References in their thesis writing. It means that only half of the English Language Education Department students who responded the online survey use Microsoft Word References in their thesis writing. Moreover, only few students received recommendations from their lecturers to use Microsoft Word References. Furthermore, there is no previous research which investigated the undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use Microsoft Word References in English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education.

Based on the explanation above, the novelty of this research is identification of Microsoft Word References usage especially in thesis writing. This can be a contribution as reading materials especially in the place where this research is conducted. Moreover, there is no research related with the identification of Microsoft Word References usage in thesis writing in English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education. This research focuses on the undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use Microsoft Word References on students' thesis and the factors which influence the perception. It means that this research provide information related with the use of Microsoft Word References which can be the consideration of students to use Microsoft Word References in thesis writing.

There are two purposes of this research. The first is to identify how undergraduate EFL students perceive Microsoft Word References as automated referencing system in thesis writing. The second is to identify what factors that

influence undergraduate EFL students' perception to use Microsoft Word References in the process of thesis writing. The participants of this research were the undergraduate EFL students especially the 7th semester students of English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education who were still working on their thesis writing. It is important to be identified since 46.3% respondents use Microsoft Word References in thesis writing. Moreover, this also can be the consideration for students who will write their thesis or use Microsoft Word References in academic writing in the future.

1.2 Problem Identification

The problem identification is as follows: since 46.3% respondents use Microsoft Word References in thesis writing, it means that 53.7% respondents did not use Microsoft Word References. It showed that there were students who still used Microsoft Word References although more than half students did not use it. This problem is essential to be studied in order to identify the undergraduate EFL students' perception when they use Microsoft Word References in thesis writing especially for undergraduate EFL students in English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education. This is essential to understand the perception since Microsoft Word References is included in Microsoft Office Word application which is a common application used to type words and save documents. Furthermore, in writing thesis, students need to use application such as Microsoft Word in order to type documents and also they have to include citation and reference in their thesis writing. In addition, there is still lack of resources which explain about Microsoft

Word References usage on thesis writing although Microsoft Word is a familiar application for students. This is why it is important to identify undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use Microsoft Word References and factors which influence the perception.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

This research is limited for undergraduate EFL students especially the 7th semester students in English Language Education Department, Ganesha University of Education who use Microsoft Word References in writing context especially thesis writing. The focus of the research is to identify the students' perception towards the use of Microsoft Word References in order to help students in writing thesis and the factors which influence the perception.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the aforementioned problem identification, the research questions are formulated as follow:

1. How do undergraduate students perceive Microsoft Word References as automated referencing system in thesis writing?
2. What are the factors that influence undergraduate EFL students' perception to use Microsoft Word References in the process of 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 EFL students' perception towards the use of Microsoft Word References in process of thesis writing
2. To describe the factors which influence the use Microsoft Word References in process of thesis writing

1.6 Research Significance

This research is expected to be able to give beneficial contribution in theoretical and also practical significance for the society, students and other researchers.

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance that is expected by conducting this research is to give contribution to the development of knowledge about the use of Microsoft Word References in order to help writing process, especially thesis writing.

2. Practical Significance

This research is expected to give positive significances to the society, students, and other researchers.

2.1 For Society

By conducting this research, it is expected that the society can use the result of this research to enrich their knowledge and comprehension in term of

Microsoft Word References usage as a reference tool in writing process especially thesis writing.

2.2 For Students

The result of this research also expected to help students to consider the use of Microsoft Word References to help them finish their academic and thesis writing.

2.3 For Future Researchers

By conducting this research, it is expected that the result of this research can be a reference for conducting a similar study related to the Microsoft Word References especially the use of Microsoft Word References in writing process.

1.7 Research Scope

The research design used in this research was mix-method design, especially explanatory sequential design. Then, this research was conducted in Ganesha University of Education especially in English Language Education Department. This research was conducted in order to investigate undergraduate EFL students' perception towards the use of Microsoft Word References in thesis writing process as well as to describe the factors that cause students still use Microsoft Word References as an offline reference tool to help students to finish their thesis writing.