

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Today, social media has become an important part of our lives as people around the world spend a lot of time on it (Eren, 2012). Used via mobile phones and computers, social media aims to help people share ideas, collaborate and communicate effectively. People also use social media for a variety of purposes, such as finding information, forming friendships, and expressing multiple identities (Shin, 2018). There are many types of social media technologies, such as microblogging platforms such as Twitter, social networking sites such as Facebook, and media sharing tools such as YouTube and Instagram (Dabbagh & Kitsantas, 2012). This type of social media technology is free and easy to register. That is also the reason why most people use it anytime and anywhere.

In Indonesian, the number of social media users, especially Instagram, is gradually increasing. According to the latest data available from We Are Social (2022), 99.15 million people, or 57.9% of Indonesians with a total population of 277.7 million, actively use social media. Another finding is that the average social media user in Indonesia is between the ages of 13 and 34. It turns out that social media is very popular among young people, especially among students. It is also supported by researchers' observations at IKIP PGRI Pontianak. Students are very social media savvy. They use social media tools for various purposes. such as to access information, exchange ideas, and seek entertainment.

Although social media was not created directly for educational purposes, it has caught the attention of educators, especially in the area of English language teaching. Several studies have been done to see if social media can be used in English classes. Social media are said to provide a positive English-speaking environment for students to support their learning process (Bařöz, 2016). English is recognized as one of the international languages, it is mainly

used in social media. The active English environment provided by social media provides students with a rich exposure to English that supports their language development.

An ELT study investigating social media found that not only did it provide opportunities for students to be exposed to English environments, but social media was a tool to reduce students' emotional filters. It is also known as negative psychological factors such as anxiety, lack of motivation, boredom, and frustration that significantly affect the language learning process of students (Zayed & Al-Ghamdi, 2019). Research has shown that the use of social media reduces students' emotional variables when learning English by allowing them to focus on learning the language skills they need (Sharma, 2019). Furthermore, social media also empowers and motivates students to use English in their daily lives (Mubarak, 2016).

In line with previous research, the researcher found that the study had a similarity in knowing students' perceptions towards using Instagram in independent English learning. However, there are some differences between this study and previous related research. The first difference is the student sample used and preliminary studies used a quantitative method to conduct the research, while this study used a qualitative method to further explore students' perceptions of using Instagram in self-study English in quarantine period. So, despite all the differences and similarities in the study, the researcher still uses all the previous studies as a reference to guide himself in this study.

Based on the above explanation, the teacher needs to know the student's perception of the use of social media, especially Instagram for learning English in IKIP PGRI Pontianak, that the use of Instagram for autonomous English learning It is important to investigate research on student perceptions.

B. Research Questions

The research question based on the research background above as follows: How is students' perceptions using Instagram for autonomous English learning?

C. Research Purpose

The research objective of this study was to find students' perceptions of using Instagram for autonomous English learning.

D. Scope of Research

To clarify the term of this research, the researcher will describe the scope of research. There are two main scopes of research, they are research variable and terminology:

1. Research Variable

Variables are various things that are controlled and observed by researchers. Variables are things that change, such as weight, height, anxiety, income, and body temperature (Kaur SP, 2013). Variable also defined as characteristic or attributes of a person that is different from others such as gender, physical, religion, social, skill, language, etc. In this research, there is one variable. Variable in this research is the Students' Perceptions Toward the Use of Instagram for Autonomous English learning.

2. Research Terminology

The following definitions are furnished to make certain uniformity and knowledge of those phrases at some stage in the study:

a. Instagram

Instagram is an application that can be used as a medium for sharing photos and videos on social networks. Prichard (2013) states that Instagram's focus is on users posting individual images and videos with descriptions on their profiles, with approximately 70 million images and videos posted daily.

Instagram is one of the most popular social media channels for her teen and his teens today. Kessler (2013:615) stated that Instagram is a unique way for teachers and students to connect and share information. In fact, Instagram is used regularly in classrooms around the world, and teachers are finding creative ways to use it to their advantage. Teachers can also use Instagram with their students for educational purposes. Instead of adding photos to Instagram themselves, teachers can ask students to document what's happening in the classroom, such as experiments, projects, and hands-on activities.

b. Perception

Perception is also known as the process of receiving stimuli from an individual through sensory tools or sensory processes.

According to Robbins and Judge (2013), perception is shaped by three factors: the circumstances in which the perceptual process takes place and the reasons for carrying out that perception.

Each of the above factors has different components of the perceptual process, such as: Includes perceptual factors, attitudinal components, motivations to perform perceptual processes, interests in perceptual processes, past experiences, and expectations of implementation processes.

In addition, the components of the object factor are something new, novel, movements performed, sounds recorded, level of perceptual processes, background of perceptual processes, proximity and similarity. Finally, there are the components involved in the contextual factors: time required during the perceptual process, work arrangements during the perceptual process, and social arrangements.

E. Significances of Research

Good research must provide impacts and benefits that are useful for the object under study, the community, and further research. In this study, the researcher has two benefits, which are theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically-Significance

This research hopefully can be used to provide some information to the readers about students' perceptions toward the use of Instagram for Autonomous English learning.

2. Practically- Significances

a. To Teacher

1) From this survey, teachers can know students' perceptions of using Instagram for self-directed English learning, and teachers can understand students' needs in the classroom. Such as appropriate media and materials.

2) These results can improve the knowledge and teaching quality of English teachers on using Instagram for autonomous English learning of students of IKIP PGRI Pontianak.

b. To Student

This research is expected to improve the English learning of students using Instagram to the 8th Semester Students at IKIP PGRI Pontianak.

c. To Reader

The results are expected that readers will be interested in observing the students' perceptions toward the use of Instagram for autonomous English learning from another point of view.

d. To Researcher

This research is expected to provide and add insight to researchers, especially as prospective teachers so that they are ready to enter the world of education.