

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher describes the background of the study. The researcher also adds the statement of the problems and the limitations of the problem. Research questions, objectives related to the issues, and significance of this study are added. Lastly, the outline of this study is also included to complete this chapter.

### **Background of the Study**

Nowadays, education is helped by the existence of technology. The activities in educational field are helped with technology and the development it follows. By the involvement of technology in education, people in educational field such as teachers and students are benefited from the use of technology. The example comes from USA, where every public school needs at least one computer for every five students (Herold, 2016). Many states in USA administered tests by technology than by paper (Herold, 2016), just like computer-based test held in Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta for new students' admission.

In English learning, students need to use a tool to aid their study, and dictionary is one of the tools that help students. By using dictionary effectively, students can get a lot of input for exploring different meaning. As stated by Shoebottom (2011), dictionary is a very important tool for anyone to learn a new language. It is a reference book containing the words of a language usually

alphabetically arranged, with information on their forms, pronunciations, functions, meanings, etymologies, spellings, and idiomatic uses (Sarigul, 1999). A good dictionary can help students to look up the meaning of English words that are seen or heard, find the English translation of a word in the language required, check the spelling of a word, check the grammatical information about a word, find out the pronunciation, find example of the use of a word in natural language, and look up the collocations of a word (Shoebottom, 2011). Dictionary can be a helpful resource for students if the students know how to use it effectively. It is obvious that the dictionary can be an extremely useful learning resource, especially as it makes the learner more independent (Sarigul, 1999).

Even though there are some debate whether electronic dictionary (ED) is better than printed dictionary (PD), a study from Dziemianko (2010) revealed that ED has more users especially students. The students who use electronic dictionary, based on a study by Dziemianko (2010), performed much better than those using the printed dictionary. He stated further that it is related to its convenience. In addition, he identified that an electronic dictionary also contains native-language equivalents and explanations, as well as definitions and sentences in English. It is easily seen that electronic dictionary is easier to carry around and to use by students, rather than the thick paper-based dictionary.

English language students cannot be separated from textbook that will accompany them in most of the course but some students face difficulties in understanding English textbook. The textbooks that are used by the English language students are mostly written in English. This might cause problems for

students to understand the textbook, moreover for students who do not use English as their first language. Besides that, students' limited vocabulary can be potentially problematic for students to understand textbook. To overcome this difficulty, the students need a tool that will help them to understand the textbook by translating the difficult words which is a dictionary. Now, a dictionary is available in a printed form and electronic one.

Same problems happen among English Education Department in one of private universities in Yogyakarta where the students faced difficulties mentioned above. In English Education Department in that university, a lot of students use electronic dictionary to understand English textbook given by the lecturers. They use electronic dictionary to overcome their difficulties in understanding difficult terms. Moreover, as observed by the researcher, the availability to access to internet, faster and easier access than printed dictionary are the reasons why the English Language Education Department students use electronic dictionary.

Based on the personal observation from the researcher, some of the lecturers in English Language Education Department in one of the private universities in Yogyakarta recommend their students to use printed dictionary to aid them in understanding textbook. However, almost all the students that researcher has observed at ELED choose to use ED because of the convenience offered. Though, they faced some problems while using electronic dictionary. The common problems are poor internet connection and error application. Hence, the researcher wants to discover the advantages and to find out the disadvantages

perceived by students while using electronic dictionary in understanding English textbook in English Language Education Department.

### **Statement of the Problems**

The use of electronic dictionary is becoming more popular. A lot of students start using electronic dictionary to help them translate difficult term in foreign language rather than using paper-based dictionary. However, based on the researcher's experience and observation throughout his study in English Language Education Department, using electronic dictionary can cause problems.

First, electronic dictionary can make some students too dependent in using it. It prevents students guessing skill and contextualized thinking in vocabulary acquisition. Second, using electronic dictionary in classroom setting potentially disturb the class activity and cause class distraction. It is because the students' focuses are altered to their gadgets or smartphones. Third, for the use of online-electronic dictionary, a poor internet connection can cause a problem when the students are trying to access online-based electronic dictionary. The last is for the use of offline-electronic dictionary, problems come from various cause such as error application and possible low battery while using the application.

However, a lot of students are still relying on electronic dictionary for them to translate difficult terms. The students believe that electronic dictionary helps them to understand foreign language better. Hence, the researcher would like to explore the students' perceptions on the advantages and disadvantages on

the use of electronic dictionary in understanding English textbook at English Language Education Department.

### **Research Questions**

Raised by the background of the study explained above, the research questions of this study are determined as the following:

1. What is the students' perception on the advantages of using electronic dictionary to understand English textbook at English Language Education Department?
2. What is the students' perception on the disadvantages of using electronic dictionary to understand English textbook at English Language Education Department?

### **Objectives of the Study**

Based on the research question above, the objectives of this research are:

1. to discover the advantages of using electronic dictionary to understand English textbook based on students' perception at English Language Education Department,
2. to find out disadvantages of using electronic dictionary to understand English textbook based on students' perception at English Language Education Department.

### **Significances of the Study**

In order to be a constructive research, this study will give some significance. The researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial for the teachers, students, and other researchers.

**The teachers.** This study is expected to help future English teachers to consider whether or not to use electronic dictionary as teaching aid later on.

**The students.** Expectantly, the research will open students preferences whether or not to use electronic dictionary in the classes, especially at English Language Education Department. Hopefully, the students may be able to learn English autonomously through English textbook and have the preference to use electronic dictionary to find difficult terminologies.

**Other researchers.** The result of this research hopefully will be beneficial for other researchers as a tool to help them conduct a research related to this topic.

### **Outline of the Study**

The structure of this research is planned as follows. Chapter one clarifies the background of the research, the identification and limitation of the problems, the research questions formulated for this research, the objectives of the research related to the questions formulated, the significances of the research, and the last is the outline of the research. Chapter two describes the literature review in this research. There will be conceptual framework for this research. Chapter three explains the methodology used in this research. This chapter is divided into four sub categories, which are research design, setting and participants, data collection

method, and data analysis. Chapter four reveals the findings based on the data analysis and the discussion of the findings. The last, chapter five summarizes the overall result of this research and recommendations from the researcher are also included.