**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the background of the study, the identification of study, the limitation of the study, the formulation of study, the objectives of study, and the benefits of study.

**1.1 The Background of Study**

English is divided into four skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is an important skill that must be learned besides listening, speaking, and reading, because it is used to communicate, EFL students must be able to communicate not only in oral form but also in the written form. The writing is a difficult skill that must be mastered, especially for the second or foreign language learners to master. Some students can speak English fluently and confidently, although they have difficulties in conveying their writing skills. But if you can master writing you will be easily mastered the other skills.

Students face significant challenges when it comes to writing, and if they do not write well, they will face challenges in the learning, education, and work processes. Writing, on the other hand, is an important skill since it allows us to share and deliver our ideas from our minds to paper, and it also serves as an indirect means of communication to explain what we are thinking and feeling. Writing is the process of a writer producing a written text that is used to convey information to a reader (Fahmi & Rachmijati, 2021: 69). Writing is a form of communication and a way to express their thoughts, feelings, and desires to others through writing. Even though writing skills are so complex, it is necessary to learn a variety of abilities to write well. Control of content, format, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation are all components that must be understood and mastered by the learner to have good writing skills (Hakiki, 2021:100). Writing required the ability to select appropriate words and use proper grammar. The way to improve students' writing skills is by

using the components. Based on the statement above, writing is the ability to produce the idea, feeling, thought that use the components of writing because to express the written text requires careful thought and put into a word, sentences, paragraphs, and then form a written text.

For the EFL students, they have to master how to make writing in the form of formal language according to the academic requirements. While writing in an academic context is different from writing in general or informal writing. In academic writing, not only does the writer express ideas, but the writer also has to present facts and use correct and structured grammar. According to Oshima and Hogue (2007:3), academic writing is the type of writing that is taught in high school and college. Academic writing in English is most likely not the same as academic writing in the mother language. The language and grammar, as well as the way in which concepts are organized, are likely to be unfamiliar to EFL students.

Based on a preliminary study that has been conducted at State Islamic University of North Sumatra, especially the English Education Department, there are problems related to the explanation above. The problem is many English students have difficulty using correct and appropriate grammar, words, punctuation, and spelling in their writing. Therefore, to solve this problem, there are many ways that English students can do, namely by utilizing existing technology. In this globalization era, technology has developed very rapidly, including the presence of the internet which can help the writing learning process by using a grammar checker application. One of the grammar checker applications is Grammarly application. Grammarly application is an electronic database for grammatical text proofreading (Mubarok & Syafi'i, 2020:2). This application is an effective tool for teachers and students; it comes to correcting students' writing. It's because Grammarly application can not only detect punctuation (such as missing spaces after periods) and spelling errors (including the proper noun and providing several alternative options for misspelled words), but also identify fragments and provide verb form advice, although often no

suggested corrections are presented, and complex explanations (Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018:396).

The researcher found that several English Education Department students at State Islamic University of North Sumatera were using the Grammarly application. They use this application to check grammar, punctuation, word, and spelling errors in their writing. Therefore, researchers are interested in conducting a study entitled *"Students' Perception on the Use of Grammarly Application in Writing Skill of Students of English Education Department of UIN-SU Medan."*

## 1.2 The Identification of Study

Based on the explanation of background of the study above, it could be concluded that there were some problems of study which could be identified in this research, namely:

a. Students have lack of ability in mastering grammar, so students find it difficult to arrange the correct language structure.

b. There are writing errors such as word selection, punctuation, and spelling errors in students' writing.

## 1.3 The Limitation of Study

The limitations in this study were taken so that the writing could be more detailed and on focus. The limitation of the problem is students' perception on the use Grammarly application in writing skills and the strengths and weaknesses of this application. The participants of this study are the students of the Sixth Semester who use Grammarly application as an online grammar checker in English Education Department at UIN-SU Medan.

## 1.4 The Formulation of Study

Based on the research background above, the researcher would like to state the problem as follow:

a. What are the students' perceptions on the use of Grammarly application in writing skills at UIN-SU Medan?

b. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Grammarly application?

## 1.5 The Objectives of Study

Based on the above-mentioned problem statements, the research objectives are as follows:

a. To investigate the students' perception on the use of Grammarly application in writing skills at UIN-SU Medan.

b. To describe the strengths and weaknesses of Grammarly application.

## 1.6 The Benefits of Study

This study is expected to give benefits to the students, the lecturers, and the further researcher. The benefits are mentioned below:

For the students of English Education Department, this research can give information on a new way of checking grammar online. This research can give information about the strengths and weaknesses of this grammar checker. Grammarly application as an online grammar checker to check grammar mistakes, punctuation, word choice, etc.

For the lecturers, this research is very useful. This research gives the information for lectures about this application as an online grammar checker. By knowing this, the lecturers can use it to help them to check the students' assignments, especially in writing.

For further researchers, this research is very beneficial. This research can be a reference in conducting further research if they are interested in a similar topic.