

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Problem

English is a foreign language that is commonly used in all fields of information and is used as a medium of communication in international relationships. As Carson said, there is no doubt that English is a vital linguistic tool for many business people, academics, politics, science, technology, tourism, and citizen of the world.<sup>1</sup> Noticing the importance of it, English has been learnt by students as a foreign language in Indonesian schools. Teaching English in Indonesia has many challenges because it is not our native language. It is not commonly used in our everyday life. Furthermore, English is rather difficult because it is not our mother tongue. Commonly, English is regarded as a compulsory subject which is taught in Junior High Schools up to Universities.

In general, teaching English aims to make students able to communicate in English both written and spoken. In accordance with the applicable curriculum, the target of teaching English will always be different at each level. Thus, English teachers at each level must have their own way to achieve these targets. Sukarno (2008) discovered that in order to achieve the intended aim of teaching-learning English in elementary school, many factors must be considered, including the management of the English classroom and environment, as well as factors to consider when

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<sup>1</sup>Lorna carson. *Language Learner Autonomy*. (German:SouthEastEuropeanUniversity. 2010). P.77

designing materials.<sup>2</sup>We will find differences in teaching at the top level such as in universities. Teaching at that level will be more specific and direct.

One of the most significant differences is the selection of media and learning resources. Students in universities usually use more scientific and verified media or sources such as online journals. The rapid advancement of information and communication technology has an influence on many facets of people's lives, including learning media such as the publication of journals that are no longer only printed but are now available online in electronic form, allowing them to be accessed at any time and from any place. The definition of electronic journal (e-journal) is "a journal that is transmitted via a computer network".<sup>3</sup>Lee (2017) discovered that using an electronic journal is a good way to get students involved in honest and meaningful reading and writing practices. It also provides an alternate method of assessing students' progress.<sup>4</sup>

Scientific journals are one of the means of scientific communication between scientists to mutually information to meet the needs of information in supporting teaching, research activities etc.; as a medium to publish and disseminate or convey information of research results to other scientific communities so that scientists know the developments in a field of subjects that are known and also to add to the treasures of science.

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<sup>2</sup>Sukarno, "Teaching English To Young Learners And Factors To Consider In Designing The Materials". Jurnal Ekonomi dan Pendidikan, Vol. 5 No. 1, 2008. P. 71.

<sup>3</sup>Dictionary of Information and Library Management. 2006. P. 65.

<sup>4</sup>Hsiou-Chien Lee, "The reading response e-journal: An alternative way to engage low-achieving EFL students". Language Teaching Research. No. 142, P. 127.

The existence of journals is one of the basic needs for a scientist (student) because the journal is one of the sources of science and means of scientific communication between scientists. Without journals, we will have difficulty knowing the latest developments in science and technology. In addition we will also have difficulty to create a theoretical basis for a research problem to be studied. Therefore, it is not wrong to say that journals both in printed and electronic form are one of the primary needs for academics (students) and in supporting learning activities as stated by Cox (2004) that "The potential of e-journal to support learning activity has been acknowledged, and new services have emerged (and disappeared) in recent years".<sup>5</sup>

According to Jones (2000) e-journal is a digital periodical that publishes on the Internet or World Wide Web (WWW). E-journals are becoming an accepted and necessary means of meeting the demands for the dissemination of knowledge. Jones asserts that e-journal is a new method of knowledge delivery and scientific development. Students' need for journals is like two sides of an inseparable currency. Journals and/or e-journals are a medium for students to acquire science and also to publish works in the community, especially the academic community.<sup>6</sup>

Then what about the use of e-journals among students in Indonesia, especially for students in the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of English Department at UINSU? This is the issue that the author is interested in discussing further, with the title:

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<sup>5</sup>Cox, John. *Challenges and Opportunities*. (D-Lib: 2004. Vol. 10 No. 10.)  
<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october04/cox/10cox.html>.

<sup>6</sup>Jones, et. al. "Electronis Journals : Are They A Paradigm Shift?". Online Journal of Issues in Nursing 5 (1). Melalui [http://www.nursingworld.org/ojin/topic11/tpc1\\_1](http://www.nursingworld.org/ojin/topic11/tpc1_1)

## **“STUDENTS’ PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF ONLINE JOURNALS AS MEDIA IN LEARNING ENGLISH AT 2019 OF ENGLISH STUDENTS IN STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY NORTH SUMATERA“**

### **B. Identification of the Study**

In the current information age, information is no longer available in printed form but has been presented in electronic and online form, so this is a good opportunity to support learning in an academic environment. Moreover, the current situation requires students to explore online learning resources more often. The use of online learning media or online learning resources such as electronic journals or online journals is very important. It is not new for students to use e-journals as one of the main sources of learning. One of the easiest ways to get literature is to look it up in a journal online. It is inextricably linked to the development of information technology. With advancements in information and communication technology, there is virtually no limit to distance, time, or space.

Anyone anywhere may access and use electronic journals that have been made available online. Students' use of electronic journals is a series of practices involving the use of knowledge to suit their needs. The scientific information contained in journals plays a significant role in the field of scientific studies which always requires up-to-date and accurate data. Apart from the importance of using online journals, there are still many students who do not know and do not realize what the real use of online journals is in learning English.

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

For the analysis to have a clear focus, the issue must be restricted. All of the factors

identified in the problem identification are still very general. The emphasis of this research is on the use of an online journal of online English learning.

#### **D. Research Problem**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulated the following problem statement, “what are the students’ perception on the use of online journals as media in learning english at 2019 of English students in state Islamic university north Sumatera?”.

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher intends to find out the students’ perception on the use of online journals as media in learning english at 2019 of English students in state Islamic university north Sumatera.

#### **F. Significances of the Study**

The significance of the study can be considered into two, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research can be a reference for the next researcher in term of the students’ perception on the use of online journals as media in learning English, in conducting a further related research. While, practically, this research can be useful for the teachers in order to know the educator can know and use the online journal as a media in learning Englis in the better way.