

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In this era of industrial revolution 4.0, where technology is developing rapidly, the internet has great potential to improve English language skills. In Kamp, (2023) the number of internet users in Indonesia reached 212.9 million in January 2023. It's means that around 77% of Indonesia's population has used the internet. From a large number of social media users, it does not rule out the potential for social media to be utilized as learning media. In English language learning, using social media for students is very essential, because this is the main element of mastering English. According to Handayani et al., (2020) students activities are also influenced by the use of social media. Most students spend time on social media to interact with their friends. Although the use of social media is to communicate and share information, it does not rule out the possibility that students also use social media for learning and improving their English.

Learning English is a process of gaining knowledge about English language skills. English language skills themselves include four aspects of skills, namely, listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. Al Arif in Handayani et al., (2020) said that social media provides an opportunity to improve student's English language skills. Social media provides a fun learning resource that makes students interested in learning English skills using social media. Another reason students use social media to learn English is that when students find the difficult and want

to improve their English skills, they can learn anytime and anywhere, of course, with various exciting materials and resources provided on social media. Students can add and exchange information or knowledge through social media with others. In addition, social media provides a lot of the latest information or knowledge and makes students creative, because social media has many resources for learning English, starting from photos, videos, quotes, and others. Students can create their content creatively, for example designing photos or videos to improve their English skills. Various types of social media can be used by students to improve their English skills, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, Whatsapp, and several other types of social media.

Even though social media is not directly created for educational purposes, it is social media itself that has attracted the attention of educators, especially in teaching English. Various studies have been conducted by researchers to find out whether social media can be used in English classes. English is widely used on social media because, as we all know, English is one of the international languages. Various sources of knowledge and information about English have been provided by social media enrich students' English knowledge. According to Zayed & Al-Ghamdi in Safitri, (2021) to provide a forum for students in an English environment, there are several research sources related to the use of social media in the English learning process, which in this study shows that social media can reduce various negative psychological factors in student self-such as anxiety, lack of motivation, boredom, and frustration, which are very influential in the student's language learning process itself. The use of social media reduces the

emotional level of students during the English learning process because they will concentrate more on the provisions contained in learning language skills. In addition, students can also determine their own choices and motivations in using English in their lives, (Mubarak in Safitri, 2021).

The level of use of social media in the learning process is increasing when the world facing a pandemic and the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). World Health Organization (WHO) said that; it is a public health emergency, which is also based on Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020. A result of the spread of this virus, school and university institutions were forced to close to reduce transmission of this virus. The closure of various levels of education takes quite a long time that is not specified, and changes the learning process, which generally takes place face-to-face into an online learning process by utilizing existing social media. This situation encourages students to learn to use social media in the learning process, even though they have not fully mastered the procedures for using social media for the English learning process itself.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to find out the kinds of social media platforms are mostly used by EFL students in learning English, and how they use social media in the English learning process in the English education study program at Widya Mandira Catholic University. This research provides information about how much influence social media has among students, especially in the process of learning English.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of the study, there are questions that are answered in this study:

1. What kinds of social media platforms are mostly used by EFL students in learning English?
2. How do EFL students make use of social media platforms in learning English?

1.3 Research Objectives

Going in line with the problem statement above, the researcher wants:

1. To find out what kinds of social media platforms are mostly used by EFL students in their English language learning process.
2. To know how EFL students make use of social media platforms in learning English.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The research result is estimated to give information for:

1. English Lecturer, from the results of this study, it is hoped that it can provide information and suggestions to lecturers to use social media more effectively towards students' needs in the English learning process, which can increase students' interests and abilities.
2. For students, it is hoped that the results of this research can motivate students to learn English because it has been made easy with various social media that can be used. The existence of social media also provides ample space for students to study, because students can learn through social media anytime and anywhere.

3. For the researcher herself, this research helps her to increase her knowledge about the process of learning English by utilizing social media.
4. For future researchers, the results of this study are expected to provide information about the use of social media in learning English that they can use in the research they will conduct.