

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, it is common to see everyone uses dictionary when learns language. Almost all people who learn language need dictionary to help them understand the language. That is why, people assume that dictionaries are essential tools for language learners. That assumption can be true because of some reasons. Firstly, the dictionary has traditionally been a widely used tool by Foreign Language students, both in their self process of vocabulary acquisition and in trying to understand a text. They usually use dictionary to look up the word that they do not understand the meaning. Additionally, they usually use it to understand the text or people spoken. Second, Dictionary consists of many vocabularies. So students can be easy to consult about vocabulary every time. Because of the importance of dictionary, students carry dictionary and not grammar book when they travel abroad.

As we know in the modern technologies, there are many dictionaries created, such as online dictionaries, electronic dictionaries and etc. According to Boonton, electronic dictionaries consist of three major types, namely, pocket electronic dictionaries (PED), online or Internet – based

dictionaries, and PC- based dictionaries or CD – ROMS.¹ Electronic dictionaries are very popular in language education. Hand-held electronic dictionary differs from paper dictionaries in a variety of ways. As Nakayama and Osaki note, the process of consulting an electronic dictionary differs significantly from that for paper dictionary consultation.² There are many electronic dictionaries, such as monolingual, bilingual, and other dictionaries contained within one device, users do not need to decide which dictionary to take to a particular class or use for a given task.

Students always use bilingual language in electronic dictionary. Bilingual Electronic dictionary makes them easier to increase their vocabulary. Based on Snell-Hornby) and Yorkey, Kelley & Roby, many language educators....believe that bilingual dictionaries are counter productive because they cultivate the erroneous assumption that there is one-to-one correspondence between the words of the two languages.³

It is shown that dictionary is very important in learning language. Bilingual dictionaries in electronic dictionaries help students more understand in meaning word. As we know all of students used electronic dictionary from Elementary School until to the university. As for the merits of electronic dictionaries Golonka point out that electronic dictionaries offer a wide range of benefits for EFL students. Furthermore students who use electronic dictionaries are reported to complete reading activities more

¹Reza Dashtestani, 2014, *EFL teachers' and students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries for learning English*, p.52 CALL EEJ Vol 2

²²James Ronald Shinya Ozawa, *The Electronic Dictionary in the Language Classroom: The Views of Language Learners and Teachers*, p.1311

³Michael H Flynn, *Electronic dictionaries, Printed Dictionaries and No dictionaries : The effect on vocabulary Knowledge and reading Comprehension* (University of Birmingham 2007)p2.

quickly than who use paper dictionaries.⁴ In other hand, student can check pronunciation when they don't know about the pronunciation of the word. It is very simple to help students learn English language. Student who use electronic dictionaries more quickly in reading activity and reading comprehension. Simple application, small, essier to use and improve student in English skill considerable advantages student use electronic dictionaries in learning english. Since having many advantages on learning English language, students' are prosecuted to keep with ED in this globalization era.

In fact, many students have difficulties in learning English, such as student in senior high school have minim vocabulary, and English is difficult lesson for them. Actually with modern technology electronic dictionaries help them to essier learn English. Not only in senior high school but also in university some student have difficult in learning English. Not all students can take the advantages from the dictionary as the one of new tool for their English learning activities because they face some problems related with it. Its reason why the researcher choose topic about students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning. It will be conducted in a college because it is the higher education level and it has big potential on the use of Electronic dictionary English learning, especially English Department.

There are some previous studies in this research. One of them is EFL teachers' and students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries for learning English by Reza Dashtestani. The result of the study is that both

⁴ Ibid 52

EFL students held moderately positive attitude toward the use of electronic dictionaries for learning EFL. They also indicate that there are several obstacles and challenges, including lack of facilities to use electronic dictionaries in EFL classrooms and distraction from learning caused by using electronic dictionaries in the classroom.

The second preview study is Investigating Students' Attitudes towards Pedagogical Dictionaries: A Study of Sudanese English Majors by Nauman Al Amin and Ali Al Sayed, Ahmed Gumaa Siddiek. Results indicate that students are overwhelmingly aware of the crucial role of dictionaries in language learning. On the whole, dictionary use is almost in variably associated with reading rather than productive language skills. More significantly, in tandem with earlier studies, the subjects of the present study employ the (monolingual) dictionary primarily as a decoding tool to locate definitions, to the almost utter neglect of such vital entry components as pronunciation, collocations and level of usage. Finally, the subjects manifest a marked lack of knowledge, both of ancillary dictionary matter such as appendices and abbreviations and the organization of definitions in the main dictionary entry. Based on the explanation above, the researcher decides to conduct analysis entitled "English Department Students' Perspectives on the Use of Electronic Dictionaries in English Learning."

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above the researcher states the problem of the study as follows:

1. How often does students' use electronic dictionaries in English learning activity?
2. What are students' perspective on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning?
3. What are students' problems on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problem above, the purpose of this research:

1. To investigate students on the use of electronic dictionaries in their English learning activity
2. To investigate students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning
3. To know student problems on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning.

D. Significance of the Study

This study which is focused investigating the students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning is expected to contribute some benefit for the English students, school institution, and the researcher. By knowing the result of this study, English lecturers' and

students' will finally know whether they find Electronic dictionaries helpful in their learning or not. They will be also pushed to explore more about electronic dictionaries to be use as appropriate tool for learning process in this globalization era. For the researcher, the study can be a new knowledge and experience on exploring on about English learning related to use of electronic dictionaries. While for the school institution, the study can be one of the reference for the farther research one the same topic in order to develop the quality of English language education.

E. Scope and Limitation

The study focused on investigating the students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning. The researcher will use or adapt questionnaires to be instrument from on the basis of a careful examination of previous questionnaires by Bejoint. The questionnaires will focus on investigating students on the use of electronic dictionaries in their English learning activity (time use percentage), students' perspectives on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning (accesses and advantages of electronic dictionaries) and student problems on the use of electronic dictionaries in English learning.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To make the study clear for the readers, the researcher defines the key term related with the topic discussed.

1. Dictionaries

Dictionaries are an indispensable tool for learning a foreign language in general. The dictionary, the prototypical work of lexical reference, classifies and stores information on words, phrases, and other lexical items, including their form, meaning, use, origin, and history. There are many types of dictionaries, mainly electronic dictionaries, paper dictionaries, online dictionaries.⁵

2. Electronic Dictionaries

Electronic dictionary is one of dictionaries tool in English learning. Electronic dictionaries are reference source of words in a language or discipline, arranged alphabetically. In addition to defining the words, larger dictionaries also provide information on the spellings, pronunciation, word origins (etymology), function, and different forms the word.

3. Students' Perspective

Perspective in theory of cognition is the choice of a context or a reference (or the result of this choice) from which to sense, categorize,

⁵ Arafat Hamuoda, 2013, A Study of Dictionary use by Saudi EFL Students at Qasim University, Study in English Language Teaching, Vol1, P230

measure or codify experience, cohesively forming a coherent belief, typically for comparing with other. Here the students will explain the perspective about electronic dictionaries in learning English language.