

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines the effectiveness of Wattpad on the Students' Motivation in Writing Recount Text. This chapter covers background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, scope of the research, theoretical understanding and operational definition of key terms.

### **A. Background of the Research**

In recent years, the digital technology revolution has brought major changes in the field of education. Nabhan (2021) states that today's learners are considered digital natives with the ability to use digital technology. They are growing up in a techno-centric world with ubiquitous digital tools and texts. Digital platforms play an important role in changing the way we learn and teach, and have a significant impact on many aspects of student literacy.

Among these diverse platforms, Wattpad has become one of the most prominent online communities. Nowadays, more and more young people are using Wattpad as their main platform for reading and writing stories. Faiza et al. (2022) argue that Wattpad application is one of the most well-known literacy platforms among millennials and Generation Z, aged between 15 and 35. This is due to the ease of access offered by the app, which allows them to read anytime and anywhere via their mobile devices. Ulfa (2020) states that Wattpad that is accessible and offers useful features to write and read in minutes is the reason of the popularity.

The majority of stories available on Wattpad also follow current trends. Thereby, this application has attracted the interest of those who want to connect with relevant and up-to-date content. Wattpad application paved the way for new trends in reading and writing habits (Bal, 2018). With a combination of ease of access and a diversity of stories that are on-trend, Wattpad has become a popular place for young people to express themselves and find entertainment.

Wattpad's role in shaping the reading and writing habits of teenagers and adults is becoming an increasingly interesting subject of research for young people. Studies by Mawarni (2023), Faiza et al. (2022), Agustina and Hidayat (2023), and

Faqih et al. (2022) highlight the positive impact of this platform on reading interest and creative writing skills. Wattpad is not only a place to read and write stories, but also an active community where writers can interact directly with readers and receive valuable feedback. Wattpad creates a motivating environment to test and improve writing skills with the support of other writers and readers. Andriani (2015) also mentioned that there is motivation that encourages someone to enjoy reading stories on Wattpad because of learning and emotional satisfaction.

Motivation is a very important internal factor in writing. Motivation can encourage someone to express their ideas in the writing process. As stated by Faiza et al. (2022), motivation is a factor that is considered to cause someone to be enthusiastic about doing something, and it is very important in the writing process. Without strong motivation, a person may have difficulty starting, finishing, or even improving their writing. Philip and Lindsay (2016) state that motivation and self-confidence are one of the internal factors that are considered very important in the teaching and learning process. When motivation burns, a person will feel more motivated to explore new ideas, pursue better writing skills, and find satisfaction in the process of creating. Many students need more motivation in writing because they need help learning vocabulary and more ideas or inspiration when writing a narrative text (Rahman and Iwan, 2019). Therefore, it is important for someone, especially students, to explore and maintain motivation in order to maximize their ability to write.

Several previous studies have investigated the effectiveness of Wattpad in increasing students' motivation in writing stories. Ramamuthie and Aziz (2022) research that digital tools such as Wattpad have increased students' motivation and confidence in writing. Rahman et al. (2018) also research that students who wrote on Wattpad showed great improvements in their writing skills. In other research there were more specific findings, namely that the use of Wattpad was proven to be effective in increasing students' motivation in writing narrative texts. Agustina and Hidayat (2023) study the Wattpad application has a big role in motivating middle school students to write narrative texts. Indriani et al. (2022) found that the Wattpad application plays an important role as a supporting medium to improve students' abilities and creativity in writing narrative stories. Sari (2022) also stated that using the Wattpad application can increase students' motivation in writing narrative texts.

Recount Text is a type of text in English that serves to retell past events or experiences in chronological order. Recount text basically written out to express an experience of a series of related events (Knapp and Watkins, 2005). This text type aims to inform or entertain the reader by recounting events with specific details, including when, where, and who was involved. In an educational context, recount text helps students practice organizing their thoughts, structuring narrative sequences, and applying descriptive language. By integrating the practice of writing recount texts with platforms like Wattpad, which encourages creative expression, students can find additional motivation to write and share their stories with peers. This research aims to explore how using Wattpad influences students' motivation in writing recount texts, a genre that has received less focus compared to narrative texts in previous studies.

Previous studies have mostly focused on narrative texts and have not thoroughly examined how Wattpad affects students' motivation, particularly in writing recount texts. This research fills that gap by focusing on students' perception of using Wattpad and how it relates to their motivation in writing recount texts. It employs a descriptive quantitative approach to provide a comprehensive overview of the data, and also includes Pearson correlation analysis to explore the tendency of relationships between students' perception of Wattpad and their writing motivation, without aiming to interpret causal relationships. Additionally, this study adopts the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), which, according to Tsai (2015), is used to understand how perceived ease of use and usefulness influence user acceptance of technology. By combining perception, motivation, and the TAM framework, this research aims to offer new insights into how digital platforms like Wattpad can support students' motivation in writing, particularly in the recount text genre.

## **B. Research Question**

How do students perceive the use of Wattpad and their motivation in writing recount text?

## **C. Research Objective**

Based on the research objective above, this research aims to explore students' perception on the use of Wattpad and their motivation in writing recount text.

## **D. Significance of the Research**

This holds significance in both academic and practical domains. Academically, it contributes to the growing body of literature on the integration of digital platforms in language education by focusing specifically on Wattpad and its potential to support students' motivation in writing recount texts. Unlike previous studies that often emphasize narrative texts, this study highlights a less explored genre recount texts while also applying the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) to understand how students perceive the usefulness and ease of use of Wattpad. This framework provides valuable insights into how technology acceptance can influence students' motivation and engagement in the writing process, and may serve as a foundation for further research on educational technology, writing instruction, and motivation in second language learning.

From a practical perspective, the findings may benefit teachers and educators by illustrating how students perceive Wattpad and how it may influence their motivation to write recount texts. If students show a positive perception and motivational tendency, Wattpad could be considered a supportive tool in writing instruction to foster a more engaging and student-centered learning environment. Additionally, this research may encourage educators to explore other similar platforms to enhance student creativity, motivation, and interest in writing activities.

For students, this research can raise awareness of the potential educational value of platforms like Wattpad. Understanding how their perception and motivation are influenced by the use of such platforms could inspire them to be more engaged in

writing, not only as a school task but as a meaningful and enjoyable form of expression.

### **E. Scope and Delimitation of the Research**

The scope of this research is focused on describing students' perception of the use of Wattpad and their motivation in writing recount texts. The study employs a descriptive quantitative approach, supported by Pearson correlation analysis to observe the tendency of relationships between the variables, without aiming to determine causal relationships. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is used as the theoretical framework to assess how students perceive the usefulness and ease of use of Wattpad in supporting their writing motivation. The study specifically investigates how these perceptions relate to students' interest and motivation in writing recount texts. The research is conducted among high school students who are active users of Wattpad, either as readers or writers. Data are collected through a questionnaire that reflects elements of TAM, integrative and instrumental motivation, and aspects of the writing process related to recount texts.

There are several delimitations to this research. First, the participants are drawn from a specific educational institution, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to a wider population. Second, the study is limited to the genre of recount texts and does not explore other types of writing such as narrative, descriptive, or argumentative texts. Third, the research focuses solely on Wattpad as the digital platform under investigation, without comparing it to other writing applications or tools. Lastly, the study emphasizes students' perceptions and self-reported motivation, without evaluating their actual writing performance or outcomes.

### **F. Operational Definition of Key Terms**

- 1. Wattpad Application:** In this research, Wattpad is defined as a digital, community-based application that allows users to read and write stories online.
- 2. Motivation:** Motivation in this research refers to the internal and external drives that encourage students to write recount texts on Wattpad.

3. **Writing Skills:** Writing skills in this research refer to the students' ability to compose a well-structured recount text, including the correct use of grammar and completeness in describing the sequence of events.
4. **Recount Text:** In this research, recount text is defined as a type of text that focuses on retelling past experiences or events in chronological order.
5. **Technology Acceptance Model (TAM):** In this research, the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is defined as a framework used to describe students' perceptions regarding their use of Wattpad, particularly focusing on how useful and how easy they find the platform when writing recount texts.