

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Humans cannot read other people's minds, therefore they need language as a way to communicate with others. Language as a system capable of connecting thoughts, where thoughts cannot be seen, heard, or touched, whether by sound, letters, manual signs, or tactile symbols (eg, Braille) that can be (Delahunty and Garvey, 2010). Moreover, language is a communication tool, and in a social context communication almost always occurs (Amberg and Vause, 2009). That is why effective communication needs understanding and admission of the relationship between language and the people who use it.

English plays an important role as a means of communication among people in the world for business, science, economy, technology, and many other life aspects. English is considered a dominant language in the world for the transfer of information and technology in this period of globalization (Nurhasanah et al, 2020). The English language has become the international language which widely adopted for communication worldwide, as it became a tool of communication between native and non-native speakers (Fatiha et al, 2014). As an international language, everyone needs to have good skills in English. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language that must be mastered to support various aspects of life, one of which is learning in education.

There are four language skills in English, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is one of the language skills that must be mastered

by students due to several reasons. First, students study English in an environment where English is a foreign language. They are lack of vocabulary, so it could be overcome best through reading. Second, reading skill boost a learner's mastery of other areas of language learning (Anderson, 2003). It can give many various good sentence structures so that they become familiar to them. By letting them get the most frequently used and useful words, it can promote the students' vocabulary and learn them in a context. Next, reading can also improve students' writing skills. It facilitates the students to learn how to express ideas through words, how to use punctuation correctly, and so on. Also, there was a "spread of effect from reading competence to other language skills - writing, speaking and control over syntax" (Elley, 1991).

Since the development of the internet, it has become important media in communication, almost all people in the world use it in their daily life. The reason is that it provides many opportunities for many people around the world in many different ways. People use the internet for work, education, business, technology, etc. Internet is very helpful for students to help them in learning anything include the lessons from school. Many schools in the world use the internet as learning media. It is very simple, effective, and easy to use for everyone. Basically, the internet offers two main benefits which are communication and information (Warren et al, 1998). On a more comprehensive basis, it can be pointed out that the internet has some functions, especially in education, and these can be listed as (i) storehouse of information, (ii) communication without boundaries, (iii) online interactive learning, (iv) electronic/online research, (v) innovation in the new

world, (vi) improve interest in learning, (vii) global education, and (viii) information catalogs (Park, 2009). As the internet has many different functions, it is important to consider to what extent it is used by students in higher education for academic purposes.

The development of the internet is very fast nowadays, include for educational purposes. One of the examples is E-Learning. Many schools apply the E-Learning platform as learning media. Not only schools but also many colleges already use it. It provides many tools to help both teachers and students to do teaching and learning activities as in the class. Not only teachers but many lecturers also use E-Learning as learning media in their class. Through E-Learning, the material provided to students can be accessed anytime and from anywhere, in addition to getting material that can be enriched or equipped with a variety of supporting learning resources including multimedia that can be supported by teachers (Suartama, 2014). Furthermore, E-Learning can offer one effective teaching method, such as practicing with related feedback, personalizing learning paths based on student needs, combining collaborative activities with independent study, and using simulations and games (Ghirardini, 2011).

Previous studies have shown that the use of E-Learning has a positive impact. Nurhayati (2020) in her research entitled “Perceptions of English Department Students of Islamic University on the Use of E-Learning in the City of Kediri” showed that the use of E-learning got positive responses. Most participants revealed that the use of E-learning is fun and efficient. They can control their own learning through E-learning. Saifuddin (2017) in his research

entitled "E-Learning Dalam Perspektif Mahasiswa" showed E-Learning is beneficial, can improve motivation, make it easier to understand the material and help the readiness in the lecturer. Victoria (2018) in her research entitled "Students' perceptions on the implementation of e-learning: Helpful or unhelpful?" showed that the students perceived the e-learning web-based module to be useful in improving their understanding, independence, self-discipline, motivation to learn, and interactions with each other and with the teacher.

Many schools and colleges use the E-Learning platform as learning media. One of them is IAIN Kediri. IAIN Kediri is using the E-Learning platform as learning media during the covid-19 pandemic. It can be accessed through any electronic device such as a computer, laptop, smartphone, and others. In IAIN Kediri, lecturers and students use the E-Learning platform in their class. All subjects can be accessed through E-Learning, lecturers register their class in E-Learning, then students will join the courses. There are several features provided by E-Learning that can be accessed by several users or accounts, first is lecturers can share the course material, second, students can fill out the attendance list, third, students can submit their work easily, then, lecturers and students can discuss the course material through E-Learning.

The above explanations lead the writer to conduct research on students' views of the E-Learning IAIN Kediri platform as learning platform in reading class. This issue would be discussed in a paper entitled **"Students' Perception toward The Use of E-Learning IAIN Kediri as Learning Platform in Academic Reading Class"**. This research is conducted by using a survey of the

fourth-semester students of the English Department in IAIN Kediri who had already taken Academic reading course before.

#### **B. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What are the perceptions of English Department students of IAIN Kediri toward the use of E-Learning IAIN Kediri as learning platform in Academic Reading class?
2. What are the challenges in using E-Learning IAIN Kediri platform?

#### **C. The Objective of the Study**

Related to the statement of the problem, the objective of the study are:

1. To identify and describe the perceptions of English Department students of IAIN Kediri toward the use of E-Learning IAIN Kediri as learning platform in Academic Reading class.
2. To know the students' challenges in using E-Learning IAIN Kediri platform.

#### **D. The Significance of the Study**

The researcher selects the study because it will give some advantages as mentioned below:

1. The Teachers or Lecturers

The teachers or lecturers might know their students' perception of using E-Learning during the covid-19 pandemic. It will be an input and

innovation to them to make the teaching and learning process runs optimally.

## 2. The Students

Students are expected to be able to understand the new way of learning through technology. It can make the students know the advantages and the ease of E-Learning as learning media in Academic Reading class. The use of E-Learning can make the students know the new way to have teaching and learning activity such as doing assignments, discussions, and interactions online.

## 3. The Next Researcher

The next researcher will get information about the perceptions of the students on the E-Learning platform. It will also give advantages to other researchers who take the same topic to use this research results as a reference in conducting the research.

### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study attempts to describe the perceptions of using E-Learning. The study focuses on investigating students' perceptions on the use of E-Learning IAIN Kediri as a learning platform and students' challenges in using E-learning IAIN Kediri. This study is limited to the students of the English Department in the fourth semester in IAIN Kediri who have taken E-Learning as the way of teaching and learning process in Academic Reading class, there are three classes, they are B, F, and G.

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

The researcher makes the definition of the key term to read and understand this study clearly. It is to avoid misunderstanding and misconception from the researcher to the readers. The definition of the key terms are:

### 1. Perception

Perception is someone's response about something that is reflected in attitudes, actions, and thought based on experience and feeling.

### 2. E-Learning

E-Learning or Electronic Learning is the teaching and learning process that uses gadgets (computer, laptop, smartphone, etc.) and internet connection. Teachers and students can do teaching and learning activities without attending the class.

### 3. E-Learning IAIN Kediri

E-learning IAIN Kediri is a learning platform which belongs to IAIN Kediri. Many students and lecturers use E-learning IAIN Kediri for teaching and learning activity during Covid-19 Pandemic. There are several features provided by E-Learning, they are sharing the course material, attendance list, submitting assignment, etc.

### 4. Academic Reading

Academic Reading is one of the Reading courses series (Intensive Reading, Academic Reading, and Extensive Reading) in IAIN Kediri which is for the third-semester students.