CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

A. Background of the Study

Reading is a skill that is needed to master because by reading we can get a lot of information and knowledge. Reading not only enhances personal, spiritual and mental development but also provides entertainment, inspiration, and knowledge (Dogan, 2014). Reading is a language skill that makes it possible to understand information clearly, this skill is one of the basic skills that allows students to improve their performance. Reading skill is indispensable for students in acquiring new knowledge, reading is the most essential skill in the educational context as it can be the assessments for students' general language ability (Brown, 2007). Through reading, students can provide new experiences that will form the basis for the acquisition of achievement (Floris, 2009).

In reading, there are many benefits such as being able to develop a wider vocabulary and a better understanding of other cultures. In the world of education, reading is an absolute thing to do. Most of the acquisition of knowledge is obtained by students through reading activities. The success of

students in achieving progress and completing studies will be largely determined by their reading skill. The higher demands of the world of education compel everyone to have good learning techniques. The key to the success of learning outcomes lies in reading skill. For this reason, effective reading strategies are needed to develop reading skill (Pourhosein, 2016).

Covid-19 is a new virus and is rapidly spreading. The spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has affected all elements of global citizens, including Indonesian society and community academics in it. COVID-19 has happened to be declared a world pandemic (Khatri, 2020). According to Agung (2020), pandemic is a disease that is spreading in multiple countries around the world at the same time. This situation requires all citizens to take precautions so that COVID-19 does not spread more widely. Following up on this emergency, the government gave instructions through university policy makers, instructed lectures using the internet network, a possible learning model is learning through a network system, such as e-learning prepared by the university through the campus website or using the online application (Sintema, 2020). These media can facilitate the teaching and learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The use of learning media that are useful to support the reading skill are not obtained naturally, however shaped through the introduction of unique tactics and exercises. To improve reading skill, strategies and the use of appropriate learning media are needed. The existing learning process in

fact is also a concern. Internet based technology is currently integrated into learning activities. One of these technologies is WhatsApp.

WhatsApp connection with learning activities is very close. Mobile learning aims to facilitated the learners in learning whenever and wherever they can since it can be access for all various learning materials (Dewi, 2019). The use of WhatsApp has contributed greatly to field of language learning which including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This application can send messages, files, documents, images, audio, video, and location. One of the great features of WhatsApp is its ability to facilitate communication through groups. It uses the internet to send message sending documents. The cost of using it is much cheaper than sending an SMS (Warman, 2017).

In this study, WhatsApp is used. This application is actually used by lecturers and fourth semester students in reading class at IAIN Kediri. Most users choose and use this application because it allows to the send message one another with a low cost.

Users are not only able to send text message, but they can also post image, video, and audio media messages as well as their location using integrated mapping features. Those features, therefore, offer a great opportunity for people, including students, to express their feelings, thoughts, ideas, or events with other more easily and efficiently.

Previous studies have shown that the use of WhastApp has positive impact. Dweikat (2018) explained that WhatsApp is very helpful in ELT

practicums and enables students to achieve educational outcomes and course requirements in several ways. WhatsApp provides faster and easier communication between students and with supervisors, and promotes sharing ideas. It allows students to express their thoughts and ideas through various features of the WhatsApp platform such as images, videos, web links, recorded videos and many more

Napratilora (2020) presented that WhatsApp messenger can be used as a communication tool. It makes the teacher and the students are easy to communicate and discuss reading material before going to the class to improve students reading. WhatsApp application is very easy and inexpensive to implement in teaching reading because students are familiar with WhatsApp. The steps using WhatsApp in teaching reading are setting the rules, creating a unique name for WhatsApp group, star the reading activity, and give them

Based on some previous studies explained before, it proves that WhatsApp is helpful. Therefore, it is still demanding to conduct a study about WhatsApp. In this occasion, the researcher is interested to conduct a study in reading entitled **"Students' Perception Toward the Use of WhatsApp in Reading Class at IAIN Kediri"**

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the statement of the problem as follows: What are the students' perceptions toward the use of WhatsApp in reading class?

C. The Objective of the Study

Related to the statement of the problem, the objective of the study is to identify and describe the students' perception toward the use of WhatsApp as learning media in reading class.

D. The Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research is expected that lecturers might know students' perceptions about the use of WhatsApp during the pandemic. This will be an input for them so that the teaching and learning process runs optimally. In addition, this study is expected to be a reference for other researchers who want to know students' perceptions of using WhatsApp in the reading class more intensively.

Practically, the researcher conducts this research to determine students' perceptions of using WhatsApp as learning during the pandemic. This study suggested that English lecturers apply student learning using the WhatsApp application in the reading class. It is hoped that this research can provide benefits so that students are more enthusiastic about learning using these media.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Limitation in this study is important part to make research more efficient and directed. The study focuses on students' perception toward the use of WhatsApp in reading class. The subject of the study is students of extensive reading fourth semester of English Department of IAIN Kediri in the academic year of 2019/2020. It only describes students' perception

toward the use of WhatsApp in reading class and the analyzes it.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

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

a. Perceptions

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

b. WhatsApp

WhatsApp or online learning is the teaching and learning process that use gadgets and internet connection. Through WhatsApp, the students and the teacher do not need to be present in class.

c. Reading

Reading is functioned to understand a text that is read as the process of constructing meaning from a text