CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Technological developments have contributed to major changes in aspects of human life, be it in the economic, social, cultural, to educational fields. The presence of modern technology does not provide any other choice for the world of education other than participating in making use of it. Education needs to anticipate the global impact that will bring a science and technology-based society where science and technology play a very important role as the main driver of change. Thus, education must be relevant to the development of the times so that the goals of education can be achieved optimally. Current technological developments have brought a very big change for progress in the field of education. E-Learning is one type of information technology development that is used in education. E-Learning is an innovation that has made a significant contribution to changes in the learning process, with the role of E-Learning serving as a supplement (extra), complementary, and substitution (substitute) in learning activities.

Research in the field of teaching English using e-learning mostly addresses areas such as teaching methodology, analysis of factors influencing language learning and learning styles and strategies. Previous study has been carried out by Esterina (2020) who applies e-learning in teaching writing and how e-learning can contribute to teaching foreign language studies, especially teaching writing skills.

Furthermore, Fauziah (2021) discusses the strategies teachers use when teaching through the use of e-learning. The previous studies above were carried out in several areas of the TEFL area. However, the researcher wants to analyze how the use of e-learning in developing students' essay writing skills. In Indonesia, English is a compulsory subject at the junior and senior high school levels.

Based on a interview with teacher and a number of questionnaires regarding students' English learning activities, especially students' ability to write essay texts at SMA Swasta Bina Bersaudara, the researcher found that the teacher often use the lecture method, they also given students assignments to work on both in class and at home. At the end of the activity, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about the subject matter that has been studied, if something is not clear or students do not understand the material that has been presented. Based a number of questionnaires regarding students' English learning activities, especially students' ability to write essay texts, students have lack motivation to do writing activity. Students are less interested in writing because they think that they are unable and cannot write. Most of the students have not tried but have responded that they are not capable. They get scared before they even try. Another reason students have is that they find it difficult to concentrate on writing. Writing is considered a complex skill because it involves concentration, memory, fine motor skills, and perception. Teachers must be able to develop and implement teaching and learning strategies appropriate to the needs of their students, as well as using a variety of approaches and teaching methods. In addition, the teacher

should have a good personality and be able to communicate well with the students. In other words, teachers must possess personal, professional and social skills. Teachers can socialize certain strategies. The one of the strategies teachers can employ is using websites as a learning medium. Given the competencies learners must master in high school, it is critical that teachers employ suitable learning methods and media to assist students in meeting their learning objectives. Using e-learning media for English learning as one of the learning innovations really helps teachers and students streamline the learning process. In achieving basic proficiency in English subjects, students need to acquire writing skills.

Shyamlee (2012) in his research found that multimedia technology in English learning increases students' interest in learning, improves students' communication skills, enriches students' understanding of Western culture, enhances teacher-student interaction, promotes conducive and enjoyable learning and create atmosphere and flexibility in material delivery. In realizing effective and dynamic learning, learning resources are needed that can assist the implementation of the learning process. Learning resources can be said to be the foundation of learning in acquiring knowledge. Good quality learning should be supported by good literature as well. E-learning is classified as media in learning that is electronic and can be done interactively to increase students' learning enthusiasm. Using a variety of interactive and interesting media for students can increase the enthusiasm and learning outcomes of students, so that in the end the learning objectives can be achieved properly.

Based on observation and interview with one of the teacher at SMA Swasta Bina Bersaudara, the researcher found that teachers have not implemented learning accompanied by technology or with instructional practices that make effective use of technology. This is because there are still many teachers who do not really understand the use and utilization of digital learning in the learning and teaching process. Based on the results of the interviews, teachers are still not familiar with the Virtual Writing Tutor tool, but for other tools like translation tools have already known and heard by those teachers, but they are hesitant to apply it because they still don't really understand the application of technology.

Through e-learning media it is possible that student learning activities are very effective and can take place flexibly. Because students can access learning without being affected by time and place, both learning materials and practice questions, it can even be done repeatedly. Especially for the development of material in learning and students can immediately apply their learning results in real life. E-Learning is a learning innovation that is prepared to be used in the learning process, not only in presenting learning material but also as a medium to improve the competencies to be mastered. The process of e-learning as a medium of distance learning creates a new paradigm, namely the role of educators who are more of a facilitator and students as active participants in the teaching-learning process. Therefore, educators are required to create good teaching techniques, present interesting teaching materials, while students are required to actively participate in the learning process.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher assumed that the activity learning by using one of the e-learning media, namely the Virtual Writing Tutor can increase students' learning motivation and their ability to write, especially the ability to write opinion essays. This research aims at analyzing students' essay writing through virtual writing tutor for 11th grade students at SMA Swasta Bina Bersaudara.

B. The Problem of the Study

1. How is Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool used to help students in enhancing their essay writing skills?

2. What are the students' difficulties of using the Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool in enhancing their essay writing skills?

3. What are the students' perceptions of using the Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool in enhancing their essay writing skills?

C. The Objective of the Study

1. To identify the use of Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool can help students in enhancing their essay writing skills.

2. To identify the students' difficulties in using the Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool for enhancing their essay writing skills.

3. To conclude the students' perceptions of using the Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool in enhancing their essay writing skills.

D. The Scope of the Study

In collecting data for this research, the writer limited this research to describe the use of Virtual Writing Tutor as an online tool used to help students in

teaching writing. This research only focused on enhancing opinion essay writing skills by paying attention to the quality of writing, namely cohesion and also structure & content, including opening and thesis using the Virtual Writing Tutor tool for 11th grade students at SMA Swasta Bina Bersaudara.

E. The Significances of the Study

In theory, the researcher thought that this research can help enhance language learning and instruction for both teachers and students in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) by expanding their knowledge of e-learning.

Additionally, in practice, a teacher who uses English learning tactics is aware of the various learning styles of every student in the class. Thus, educators employ many tactics to improve students' language acquisition. The significances are:

a. For students: This research is expected to provide new knowledge to students so that they are able to improve their writing skills, especially in improving opinion essay writing skills.

b. For teachers: This research is expected to provide better meaning and understanding to teachers, especially in teaching essay writing, so that teachers can create and find innovative methods and other ways of teaching activities that can be applied in teaching.

c. For readers: This research is expected to be useful for readers. Readers can realize how important e-learning is to improve writing skill