

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter provides some significant points to introduce the research topic. Firstly, the background of the study explains the reason why the researcher is interested in examining the EFL Learners' perception on the advantages of using the Tandem Application in English language learning and the difference of the between the male and female learners' perceptions on the advantages of using the Tandem Application for English learning. In addition, this chapter contains the research questions that should be answered and the objectives of the research. Furthermore, the importance of the study is described which the research results are pointed to specific individuals. Lastly, the chapter organization of the study is explained to ease readers for reading this *skripsi*.

Background of the Study

The development of increasingly sophisticated technology significantly affects to human environments on psychological, socio-cultural, economic, political, governmental, or educational factors. In the scope of education, technology provides convenience in learning, which can improve the quality of education. Mobile learning (m-learning) and computer-based learning are two examples of the new language-learning opportunities created by technological advances in education.

In recent years, a mobile learning model has become popular in education. It has been more well-known as a way to transfer instructional content since portable technology devices, such as mobile phones, iPods, and PDAs, have the

greater processing power and more attractive functional devices than widely available desktop computers (Yedla, 2013). Mobile learning can be done anytime and anywhere. As explained by Yurdagül and Öz (2018), “Mobile technologies have many advantages for foreign language learning. Because of the Internet connection; EFL Learners can reach any information everywhere and anytime with respect to language learning” (p. 2).

Moreover, mobile learning offers a potential to enhance individualized learning for EFL Learners. They might collaboratively learn with their classmates. Afterwards, it can facilitate real and contextual learning, and assist the learners identifying their challenges of learning English. Consequently, it is essential to provide a pleasant surroundings and enjoyable learning environment in studying English for overcoming the challenges. As the example, an application for English study in a mobile phone may give EFL Learners several learning chances and experiences. There are numerous mobile applications that have been designed to improve English language abilities of EFL Learners.

One of the mobile applications for learning a language is 'Tandem Application'. Tandem Application is an application, designed to learn all languages, including English. Through using the Tandem Application, learners can practice English language with native speakers through chatting, sending audio messages, or doing video calls. Moreover, an exciting feature of the Tandem application is the language selection. Learners can choose a language that they want to learn. The Tandem Application automatically selects a learning partner according to a selected language. According to Nushi and Khazaie (2020), using messages, audio recordings, audio conversations, or video calls in

Tandem Application, as community-based software, allow users to practice languages they are interested in one-on-one mode. The software can be available and freely downloaded on the App Store and Google Play for the iOS and Android operating systems.

Meanwhile, according to Becirovic (2017), gender has also a significant impact on an individual's life. It influences an overall experience on all levels, including learning a language. Each gender has its own most important characteristic of every individual. It is supported by Tran (2021) that “there has long been a belief that men and women process incoming information in fundamentally different ways. This belief is inherently valid, which in language learning, leads to the perception that gender is an important factor in the acquisition and use of language” (p. 123).

Research on Tandem applications is significant; therefore, learners can find out which language learning applications are practical for them to use in learning English. However, there are not many studies related to EFL Learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning. Previous studies focus more on improving a specific language skill, speaking skill, by using Tandem application. Based on the above explanations, the researcher is interested in conducting the further research on investigating EFL Learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem application and the differences between male and female learners' perceptions on the advantages of tandem application. Therefore, First, the researcher focuses on the EFL Learners' perceptions of Tandem Application use for English learning. Second, to find out Male perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English

learning. Third, to find out Female perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning and the researcher determines whether or not there is a significant difference between male and female Learners in using the Tandem Application for English learning.

Identification of the problem

As explained in the background of the study, there are some problems in learning English which emerge because English is an international language, and is used as a medium to communicate with people around the world. The problems involve language use (such as limitation of vocabulary, problems memorizing vocabulary, mastery of grammar, spelling issues, listening comprehension, mispronunciation, sentences structure and organization, delivering ideas and meanings) and other external attitude of learning (such as lack of motivation, insecurity, anxiety, and threatened atmosphere) . Those problems should be overcome by students and teachers. On the other hand, there is Tandem application for English learning, and based on some scholars, there are advantages of Tandem application acquired by Learner. Whereas, the use of Tandem applications is rarely used as a tool for English learning Thus, based on the advantages of using the Tandem application, the researcher is interested in investigating EFL Learners' perceptions on the advantages of using the Tandem application towards English language learning.

Delimitation of the problem

Researcher believe that Tandem application affects to EFL Learner for English learning. Using Tandem application provides many benefits in improving English learning, such as grammar, speaking, listening, reading, writing, spelling, mechanism, written structure and others. In short, the researcher wants to investigate the learners' perceptions of using tandem applications for English learning. To make this study more detailed and well-structured, the researcher limits the research problem. First, the researcher focuses on the EFL Learners' perceptions of Tandem Application use for English learning. Second, to find out Male perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning. Third, to find out Female perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning and the researcher determines whether or not there is a significant difference between male and female Learners in using the Tandem Application for English learning.

Research Questions

This study aims to address the following research questions based on the description and concerns presented above. The research questions are:

1. What is the perceived advantages of using Tandem Application in Learning English ?
2. What is Male learner's perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English Learning ?
3. What is Female learner's perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English Learning ?

4. Is there any significant difference between male and female Learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning?

Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, there are two objectives of this research.

These are:

1. To determine the learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning.
2. To find out Male perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning
3. To find out Female perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning
4. To find out whether or not there is a significant difference between male and female Learners perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning.

Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give benefits for some specific parties, such as EFL learners, teachers, and other researchers.

For learners. The results are expected that EFL Learners can recognize the language-learning applications, such as Tandem application which help them learning English. By knowing the benefits of the Tandem Application based on

the research results, EFL Learners can use the Tandem Application as a language learning medium to support them for further practice and understanding.

For teachers. The research gives the benefit that teachers are able to find out that Tandem Applications is profitable used for English learning. Therefore, teachers encourage students to facilitate and practice their language skills through applying Tandem application as their teaching medium. This application can support their teaching materials, so students can experience a new and fun learning.

For other researchers. This study provides starting point of additional research on the same topic for other researchers. It is expected that this research can provide a useful reference for other researchers. This study may propose fruitful ideas and development for other researchers to do further studies related to the use of Tandem Application for English learning which nowadays, mobile learning is well-known used and beneficial. As well, they can accomplish this recent study's limitation, related to the real implementation in the classroom, referring to action research, examine the comparison with traditional class, referring to experimental research, and others.

Organization of the Chapters

The researcher organizes this study into five chapters. The first chapter explains some important points. Firstly, the background of the study explains the reason why the researcher is interested in examining the EFL Learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application for English learning and examining whether or not there is the difference between male and female

learners' perceptions on the advantages of using Tandem Application. Chapter one also provides the research questions, the objectives of the research, the significance of the study, and the chapter organization.

Chapter Two discusses the theories related to English Language Learning. The theories include Technology in Education, Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL), Tandem concepts, Tandem in Language Learning, Advantages in using Tandem application, and review of related studies. The conceptual framework is also presented in the Chapter Two.

Chapter Three presents the methodology used in this research, covering the research design, the research setting, the research participants, data collection method, the research instruments, the data collection procedure, and the data analysis.

Chapter Four includes the results and discussions. The research results are showed in this chapter, including the EFL Learners' Perception on the advantages of using the Tandem Application for English learning and the difference between advantages perceived by male and female learners. The discussion presents the detailed results supported by various related theories from scholars and previous studies.

Chapter Five includes the conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion explains the research results which answer the research questions. In addition, this research provides the recommendations for some parties, including the EFL Learner, teachers, especially English teachers, and other researchers.