

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction of research which involves the background of the research and statement of the research. This study contains with two research questions that answer the problem of the research. Moreover, this study also includes a statement of the problem and the limitations of the research. Besides, the significance of the research and the research outline are explained below.

Background of The Study

Social media is widely used in the world. It is made to interact about daily life, but it has expanded its use to promote, access news and information, and entertain. There are many kinds of social media applications, according to Greenhow et al., (2012) social media includes social networking sites namely MySpace, Facebook, video sharing services like Youtube, image sharing services like Flickr, Tumblr, and Pinterest, and microblogging services like Twitter. The social media recently used by young people in Indonesia today are Facebook, Youtube, Twitter and Instagram. And the data shows that the number of internet users in 2017 reached 54.68%, with the age division 19-34 years reaching a percentage of 49.52% (Malik et al., 2019). In addition, among the kind of social media, Twitter as one of the most used social media, provides users with a place to communicate, interact, and share the most up to date information. Although many other platforms led to a bunch of advantages, Twitter deserves attention for its speciality and popularity as media for

discussion, exchanging ideas, or reflective thinking (Junco, Heiberger & Loken, 2011). Also, another exciting thing about Twitter: the limited amount of character to deliver information.

Twitter is a platform where users can use the application as their microblogging media with 280 maximum characters supported with many features such as link, videos, GIF, pictures, and many more that help the users socialize. There, people do microblog to socialize, and how people can socialize on Twitter can be with retweet, mention, or forming a tweet. Based on an article published by the Indonesian Ministry of Communications and Informatics (2012) revealed that 19.5 million users of Twitter are from Indonesia and the data indicates that the number of active Twitter users in Indonesia is large.

Students massively use Twitter to socialize in an entertaining way. There are so many features on Twitter that allows the students to socialize in various forms, namely, text, pictures, audio, and video. As the motto of Twitter's home page now, 'Share and discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world', the students are able to exchange information not only in various forms but also in various languages, to the fact that Twitter is used worldwide. It makes it more interesting when students could decide whether who or what kind of content they want to see on their timeline based on preference in whose account they follow on Twitter. On the other hand, on Twitter the user may receive shared information to other users as well as write new information to other users.

Twitter has become a popular place for students because of its usefulness. In its use, the topics conveyed can be general things, such as sharing links or opinions on news, entertainment, science, or other information, or personal things such as one's current activities, moods, daily life, or simple conversations with other users (Hargittai & Litt, 2011). Again, Twitter enthusiasts usually rely on Twitter for daily consumption by sharing constant personal updates in their timeline and cannot be separated from their laptops or smartphones rather than interacting directly in real life. Users, especially teenagers, rely heavily on Twitter to access up-to-date information and for updates about their personal thoughts and whereabouts (Saaid et al., 2014). Although these features seem favourable and positive for people, the overwhelming flow of information and tweet might cause to negative effects such as addiction (Kircaburun 2016).

Knowing that many students use it, it is quite questionable whether it can be beneficial for them or is it just simply entertaining or even a waste of time. In fact, if viewed from the Twitter microblogging feature with access to worldwide interaction and authentic language, Twitter is possible to facilitate language learning. As a result, the researcher is interested in investigating whether microblogging on Twitter can contribute to the development of language proficiency or not.

Statement of the Problem

Twitter is widely used by students because of the facilities it provides. This phenomenon was also found to occur in students from the English Language

Education Department at one of Islamic University in Yogyakarta. Based on the results of interviews with students, they use Twitter simply to socialize or to entertain themselves in their spare time. Besides, Twitter as a platform that has many features such as microblog, audio, video, GIF and many more would give students various things to be explored.

Students tend to use microblogging in Twitter to entertain themselves. People or teacher might see that students are just playing around when using microblogging in Twitter, plus the fact that microblogging has become their routine activity. In the other hand, students said on the interview conducted by the researcher that they felt that their vocabulary had increased unconsciously by the extensive use of microblogging in Twitter. However, the problem is that there is no scientific evidence about this. As a result, the researcher is interested in conducting research on this matter.

Delimitation of the Problem

Talking about the feature on Twitter, among many features, the researcher focuses only on the microblogging feature with the reason that microblog is one of the features that used the most when using Twitter. However, among the many benefits of microblogging on Twitter for language proficiency, the researcher focuses on vocabulary acquisition.

Research Question

Conduct with the study, this is the research question below:

1. What are students' perspectives on the strengths of microblogging on Twitter for vocabulary acquisition?
2. What are students' perspectives on the weakness of microblogging on Twitter for vocabulary acquisition?

The objective of the Research

In light of this examination question, the target of the exploration:

1. To find out what are the students' perspectives on the strength of using microblog on Twitter for vocabulary acquisition.
2. To find out what are the students' perspectives on the weakness of using microblog for vocabulary acquisition.

Significance of the Research

This research will be useful and have advantages for the students, the EFL teacher, and future researchers.

Students. This research may inform the students about the benefits of Twitter as an authentic material source for vocabulary acquisition. They are expected to explore the advantages also to reduce the weakness of using Microblogging on Twitter for vocabulary acquisition according to the findings of the research.

Teachers. The results of this research will become a consideration and development material for teachers to use microblogging in Twitter as learning material. In particular, the teacher will see what strengths can be utilized from microblogging and what weaknesses must be anticipated in its utilization.

Future Researchers. This study would help future researchers with the previous information for their research and to provide them with some perspective if they about to conduct a study related to Twitter for vocabulary acquisition.

Research Outline

This research divided into five chapters. The first chapter will explain the background of the research, statement, and limitation of the research. Moreover, it will explain more about the research question and objective of the research. Besides, the significance of the research will explain the benefit of this research and the research outline, which will describe the sequence of the research.

The second chapter will explain the literature review and conceptual framework of the research.

The third chapter will explain the methodology of the research. There will be research design, research participants, and research setting. Moreover, in chapter three, the researcher will present the data collection method, data collection technique, and data analysis.

The fourth chapter will be about the result and discussion of the research. Further, the five chapters will explain the conclusion of the research and recommendations for some parties related to this research.