Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. In this chapter, the researcher explains general information about the study, the statement of the problem, the delimitation of the problems, the research questions, the research objective, and the research's significance. Firstly, the background of the study describes the general description of the Memrise app. Secondly, the research questions as a guideline to present the research's objective and explain the research's aim. Finally, the significance of the research shows the advantages of this research.

Background of the Research

Technology developing very rapidly is beneficial in the world of education, such as the web or easily accessible apps that help simplify the role of teachers as educators and make it easier for students to learn independently. According to Pourhosein Gilakjani and Sabouri (2014), students can take control of their learning process and access much information their teacher cannot control. Technology has become an essential part of the learning process and is now used to aid and improve language acquisition. According to Pourhosein Gilakjani (2013), technology usage can drastically alter the current language education paradigm. It allows teachers to customize classroom activities, improve the language learning process, and continue to be an essential tool for teachers to use in assisting students with language acquisition.

Technology can be used in various ways and fields, for example, in education. Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) has been designed as a teaching/learning paradigm in which mobile phones or other handheld devices with some form of wireless connectivity, such as phones or tablets, are used (Rodrguez-Arancón, Ars, & Calle, 2013,

as mentioned in Esmaeli & Shahrokhi, 2020). Many apps have been developed to support easy learning for students and teachers and can be used for free with excellent features, including language learning. Valarmathi (2011) states that MALL is a language learning method that is assisted or enhanced using smartphone devices. In this case, smartphones and technology can help students learn individually through supporting apps.

Language learning software uses several learning methodologies. The software is used as an innovative learning tool. For example, is the Memrise app. Memrise app is a language learning software that can be used through an app or accessed via the official website. In addition to learning English, students can take other language courses, such as Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, and others. The Memrise app is helpful for teachers and students during this pandemic because they have difficulty learning English. This may be caused by many factors, such as students not being accustomed to listening to English daily. Learning vocabulary and pronunciation is also especially important because understanding the four language skills requires supporting components such as vocabulary and grammar. When students listen to something in English with a vocabulary they have understood, they can quickly get the meaning of what they hear. Likewise, when speaking, they need a vocabulary that they can choose when they want to convey an idea or concept. With A\a collection of vocabulary that students master, the reading process will be fun because they already understand every word. Likewise, students can use their vocabulary to make up their ideas when writing. With excellent vocabulary mastery, it will be easier for the students to use grammatical structures and functions.

The teacher, for example, uses the Memrise app to help students retain words when learning English. According to Chapelle (2009), many teachers have used technology to overcome classroom space and time constraints and avoid becoming technology blind. In

this case, the researcher knows technology has evolved in teaching and learning, particularly for language learning. It can be concluded that the goal of developing technology is to assist students with language learning problems, which is not only students' but also an English teacher's interest (Basma & Savage, 2018). Many apps are used to study and teach, especially during a pandemic. Information and communication technology (ICT) has pervaded many parts of life owing to the widespread adoption of the Internet.

Based on the phenomenon during this pandemic, students are encouraged to do online learning, so that students use various apps to support their learning process, one of which is the Memrise app. Some studies show that using the Memrise app can improve vocabulary. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in exploring students' perceptions of the Memrise app as a means of learning English and knowing what challenges students face when learning to use the Memrise app to learn English.

Identification of the Problem

Covid-19 in early 2020 had a severe impact, especially on education. Schools in Indonesia implement online learning by using apps that allow them to support their learning. Of course, it will be a challenge for students and teachers. One of the apps they use for learning English is the Memrise app. The Memrise app is used by 9th graders in one of the schools in Bantul. They use it to learn vocabulary. The Memrise app during a pandemic can help students learn languages. There are different points of view and strong statements from each student on the app that has been used so far.

However, some perspectives and challenges are found by students in conducting distance learning using the Memrise app to learn English. The researcher, through this study, wanted to explore students' perspectives about doing distance learning with the

Memrise app and explore the challenges students face when using the Memrise app as a tool to learn English.

Delimitation of the Problem

In this study, the researcher examines students' perspectives about the Meon app and the challenges students face when learning English with the Memrise app to improve their English skills. Memrise app is a language learning app with exciting features. In addition, not many researchers have examined the perspectives of the Memrise app in students' English learning.

Research Question

To conduct this research, two research questions are used as guidelines. The following are the research questions:

1. What are the advantages of using the Memrise app as a tool to learn English, as perceived by students at a junior high school in Yogyakarta?

2. What challenges are faced by the students at a junior high school in Yogyakarta when using the Memrise app as a tool to learn English?

Objectives of the research

In this study, the researcher wanted to reveal students' perspectives when using the Memrise app learning app to advance the student learning process. Based on the research questions, there are two purposes for this research. This research is conducted to find out the following:

1. The advantages of using the Memrise app to learn the English Language based on students' perception.

2. The challenges that students at a junior high school in Yogyakarta faced when using the Memrise app as a tool to learn the English Language.

Significance of the research

After the objectives of the research are fulfilled, this study is expected to be helpful for the following parties. The parties are students, teachers, researchers, and institutions.

Student

The findings of this study are expected to provide information to students about the Memrise app. By knowing the advantages, they will be encouraged to use the Memrise app to learn English, and they can anticipate the challenges that might occur when using the Memrise app to learn English.

Teachers

In this modern era, it is increasingly hoped that it can become an alternative learning media in English lessons, as well as take advantage of the habits of students who like to use smartphones in teaching and learning activities and use beneficial technology to be included in the learning process.

Researchers

This investigation of the use of Memrise apps that have been explored based on student experiences may be helpful to be used to support data or studies from future researchers and correct deficiencies in this study. It can be a reference for further research.

The institution

This research can support the department to increase their students' competence after knowing the students' problems.