CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the research, research question, objective of the research, scope and limitation of the research, significances of the research, and definitions of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing is a way to communicate and express our ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinions to others. Writing has also become one of the important skills that must be mastered by students in the language learning process. Not only in the field of education, according to Karyuatry et al (2018) writing skill also play a crucial role in real life, especially in the today's modern era. With the help of increasingly advanced technology, people may engage with each other and exchange information in written form even if they are thousands of miles apart.

Writing is frequently considered as the most difficult and challenging to learn compared to the other three language skills (Listening, speaking and reading). In line with this, Charrouf (2015) stated that writing is a skill that requires practice and can not be acquired and mastered instantaneously, without going through a training process. At the higher education level in Indonesia, particularly in English education study program, EFL writing course take a sizable portion of the teaching and learning process. This is due to the fact that writing an undergraduate thesis is a writing project that students must finish as a requirement to graduate and get a bachelor's degree (Ghufron et al., 2016).

Undergraduate thesis is one type of academic writing. In the process of writing thesis, it was found that many students encountered writing difficulties such as in aspects of grammar, vocabulary usages, misspelling words, and incorrect punctuation (Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018). Departing from these problems, many students take advantage of the use of online grammar checkers to help them detect errors in their writing and provide feedback to them (Pratama, 2020). The existence of online grammar checkers is considered as a solution to the writing difficulties that students experienced. (Perdana & Farida, 2019).

Nowadays, according to Pratama (2020), Grammarly is one of the online grammar checkers that is well-known and most used by students. Grammarly is a free online writing assistant that helps users write error-free in a variety of apps by delivering real-time suggestions to enhance grammar, spelling, and clarity, fluency, style, and tone (Grammarly, 2023). Certainly students have their own perceptions in using or after using Grammarly. It refers to their personal experience in using Grammarly and their opinion about it. Regarding this issue, many studies have been conducted to explore the use of Grammarly in the writing process (Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018; Karyuatry et al., 2018; Perdana & Farida, 2019; Pratama, 2020). However, not all previous studies have shown positive results from the use of Grammar. There were some bad outcomes as well.

Concerning this issue, the researcher intends to conduct research on students enrolled at English Education Study program, The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Jambi University. A comparable phenomena was discovered based on the researcher observations, namely that many students used online grammar checking applications such as Grammarly to correct their writing on assignments

given by the lecturers. However, in this research, the researcher will focus on academic writing, namely undergraduate thesis writing.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled English Students' Perception toward the Use of Grammarly in Writing an Undergraduate Thesis at Jambi University.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher formulated a research question namely "What are English students' perception toward the use of Grammarly in writing an undergraduate thesis at Jambi University?".

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the researcher formulated a research objective namely "To explore English students' perception toward the use of Grammarly in writing an undergraduate thesis at Jambi Universty".

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Research

This research focused on the free version of Grammarly. Furthermore, this research was also limited to the English students who were in the process of writing an undergraduate thesis.

1.5 Significances of the Research

This research provide some information concerning with English students' perception toward the use of Grammarly in writing an undergraduate thesis at Jambi University. It is supposed to be an additional information and beneficial for

those who are in the educational field, especially in language teaching and learning.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Students' Perception

Perceptions are defined as the organization, identification, and interpretation of sensations toward the sentiments of people based on their experiences (Schacter in Hernawan, 2018). In this research, perception means that students have their point of view or opinion toward something that they get from the teaching-learning process and how they react toward it. It refers to their experience of using Grammarly during writing an undergraduate thesis.

2. Grammarly

According to Grammarly (2022), Grammarly is a free online writing assistant that helps users write error-free in a variety of apps by delivering real-time suggestions to enhance grammar, spelling, and clarity, as well as fluency, style, and tone. In this research, the term Grammarly refers to an application that used by English students to verify their grammar mistakes in writing an undergraduate thesis at Jambi University.

3. Undergraduate Thesis

In simple term, academic writing can be defined as any writing done for academic objectives. Undergraduate thesis is one kind of academic writing. Undergraduate thesis writing is the final project that must be finished by every

student to obtain a bachelor's degree. In this research, undergraduate thesis writing is the compulsory course for English students at Jambi University.