CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

English has experienced significant expansion and has become the language that is expanding the most rapidly in the modern world. It acts as a shared language, making communication easier between the Eastern and Western regions as well as the Northern and Southern regions (Rao, 2019). People around the world actively want to improve their English language skills, as having a good command of English is commonly regarded as a vital asset in today's culture. Therefore, the use of effective learning methods is important in improving English language skills, even within educational institutions.

Over the past few decades, there have been notable changes in the area of language acquisition. In the past, people have mostly learned language skills in schools, where teachers have typically been the main source of linguistic knowledge. However, the way we learn has changed because of advancements in technology. The occurrence of self-directed learning and technology-based learning has experienced a significant rise, giving learners increased independence in managing their educational path.

Self-directed learning has become a noticeable aspect in the current environment of learning English due to progress in technology and the presence of creative resources such as ChatGPT. Based on Darr & Jemadi's (2020) research, self-directed learning refers to when students independently take the initiative to analyze their own learning needs, set goals, and use suitable tools to evaluate their learning outcomes, with or without assistance from others. The widespread influence of information and communication technology (ICT) on different aspects of human life, particularly education, is unquestionable.

The rise of technology has brought significant changes in the field of language learning. The use of language learning apps, internet platforms, and AI-based solutions is more common in helping people learn languages. According to Hemas et al. (2021), artificial intelligence (AI) was created to allow computers to

serve as instructional tools by gaining the capability to learn. An important development in the area of language learning technology is the rise of ChatGPT. As stated by Sirichokcharoenkun (2022), ChatGPT is an AI-based language model developed by Open AI, using sophisticated deep learning methods. The system uses transformer architectures to handle incoming input and generate appropriate outsiput. The GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) network design builds the system, using a large amount of internet data to learn and understand the grammar, meaning, and organization of language.

Before this research was carried out, researchers had made observations to see the reality in the field with 10 sources from English education study programs. The results obtained from the initial survey that was carried out showed that 10 out of 10 students were familiar with and even used ChatGPT in their learning activities. However, from the pre-research questionnaire conducted by researchers on Jambi University students from the English study program batch 2022, it was identified that there are still not many students who use ChatGPT as an self-directed learning tool and its use is still uncommon among students, therefore research is needed to find out Jambi university student perceptions of ChatGPT as a self-directed English learning tool.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background above, the problem of the research is formulated in the following question:

- What are the students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for self-directed English learning?

More specifically there are 3 sub question as follows:

- What are students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for their self monitoring?

- What are students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for their self management?

- What are students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for their motivation?

1.3 Purpose

- To explain students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for self-directed English learning.

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- To explain students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for their self management.

- To explain students' perception of ChatGPT as a tool for their motivation.

1.4 Limitation

This research is only limited to Jambi University undergraduate students from the English language education study program in the class of 2022 who will enter semester 4. The reason the researchers limited it to only students from the class of 2022 was because they had contracted and completed courses like the development of educational digital literacy and educational digital psychology. And this research will only discuss the free version of ChatGPT because not all students can afford to subscribe to a paid account from ChatGPT.

1.5 Significance

This research adds to our understanding of how technology is used in education, enhances the theory of independent learning, and gives us a better grasp of how students view and feel about using technology for language acquisition. In practical terms, the findings of the research can be utilized to create learning aids that are more efficient, assist educational institutions in enhancing the quality of education, and enhance students' proficiency in English. For students, utilizing ChatGPT can enhance self-reliance in learning and foster abilities related to technology. Furthermore, this study establishes a foundation for future research that has the ability to create models or frameworks, while also making contributions to research methodology in the field of learning technology. Therefore, this study is not only academically important, but also has substantial practical consequences for the advancement of language acquisition through technology.