

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, the problems of the research, the objectives of the research, the definition of operational research, the significance of the research, and the scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

Reading is one of the basic skills in English. Improving reading skills is a common challenge for English language learners in various countries, including Indonesia. Some factors of difficulty, include limited access to English reading materials, inadequate teaching strategies, and lack of opportunities for meaningful practice outside the classroom.

The reading abilities of a foreign language student can be evaluated with the use of the TOEFL exam. TOEFL stands for Test of English as a Foreign Language. Non-native English speakers must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to enroll in university programs in English-speaking countries, especially the United States and other countries. According to Mahmud (2014) the TOEFL version that is most used in Indonesian academic institutions is known as the Institutional Testing Program (ITP). The university administers this TOEFL exam locally, and it is only used internally to assess students' English language skills. Kaniadewi & Asyifa (2022) stated that some universities in Indonesia used this exam as one of the needs for graduation. This test is usually used by some

organizations, including government, corporate, and scholarship institutions. Therefore, students in college should take a TOEFL preparation program because it will improve their understanding of the test and help them get familiar with the questions.

Wibowo's (2020) research found that the following factors caused difficulties for lecturers to teach TOEFL preparation classes: (1) students' high expectations; (2) students' lack of effort; (3) study time limitations; (4) lecturers' experience; and (5) the number of students of the class. Then, Wibowo said that lecturers used the strategies that followed to motivate their students: 1) making sure they understood the benefits of passing the tests; 2) making learning enjoyable; 3) sharing success stories from students who passed the tests; and 4) reminding them of the reasons they enrolled in the course and spent so much money, time, and effort in passing the tests.

Then, problems in the reading section of the TOEFL test by Fitria (2021) are internal and external factors. Internal factors include motivation, attitudes, interest in reading, habits of reading, emotional state and reader's health, previous knowledge/experience, knowledge of how to read, benefits, and reader intelligence. On the contrary, external factors include environment and time, technical, and text/reading. Additionally, statements by Febriani et al. (2019), reading comprehension problems are related to the reading comprehension process, motivation, background knowledge, lack of reading strategies, and language knowledge.

As mentioned earlier, the reading test is part of the difficulty of the TOEFL test. Some students may experience anxiety when taking the TOEFL exam. This

preparation class can motivate them to spend longer studying and pay more attention when facing the TOEFL exam. Kaniadewi & Asyifa (2022) mentioned TOEFL preparation classes significantly improve students' TOEFL scores and are therefore recommended for students who want to take the TOEFL test. Then, Pranoto (2020) said students responded positively that the TOEFL preparation program can effectively improve their reading comprehension. Then, Pranoto (2020) mentioned students responded positively that the TOEFL preparation program can effectively improve their reading comprehension. Additionally, Rijoly et al. (2023) states that test preparation can have a significant impact on the score achieved in the TOEFL Prediction test.

Chaiyo & Nokham (2017) mentioned that people in the 21st century must adjust to new methods of doing things. MALL stands for Mobile Assisted Language Learning, is an approach to language learning in which the use of handheld mobile devices helps or improves language acquisition. When using MALL, language acquisition is often helped by mobile, cellular gadgets like MP3 or MP4 players (like iPods), and cell phones (like iPhones or iPads) (Juniarta et al., 2020). Likewise, Mufaridah & Nurkamilah (2023) argue for the transmission of 21st-century learning skills, teachers must use technology effectively. In implementing technology into the classroom, teachers can improve student learning and adapt to its needs. It also suggests that using technology goes above simply displaying PowerPoint presentations on an LCD screen.

One part of the MALL is Quizizz. Quizizz is an online resource that offers examinations to improve the educational experience of learners. Zhao (2019) explained that Quizizz is an educational app that uses games to make learning fun

and interesting for students in the classroom. Then, Hardiana (2021) said that Quizizz is a game-based educational program that improves the interest and fun of in-class exercises while implementing multiplayer activities in the classroom. Also, Quizizz is a highly efficient tool for learning and evaluation. Quizizz's interactive and fun learning experience, active student engagement, instant feedback, and personalized learning make it a powerful tool for increasing student motivation and interest in learning, ultimately leading to improved learning achievement (Syafriaedi, 2023).

According to the study by Kaniadewi & Asyifa (2022) entitled "The Effect of TOEFL Preparation Course on EFL Undergraduate Students' TOEFL Scores" mentioned that TOEFL preparation classes significantly improve students' TOEFL scores and are therefore recommended for students who want to take the TOEFL test. In this era, 21st-century learning utilizes a combination of literacy learning, and knowledge, with the help of technology. Then, the study from Roshdan et al., (2021) entitled "Students' Perceptions towards the Use of Quizizz as a Tool in Improving Reading Skills" conducted the students positively viewed the use of Quizizz as an online learning resource. They are more motivated and actively participate in the class. Then, Damayanti (2021) "EFL Students' Perception and Motivation Toward Quizizz as E-Learning Media in English E-Classroom" investigated that Quizizz as e-learning media can support the learning process in English e-classroom. It indicates that Quizizz is an appropriate e-learning media that can be used in English e-classrooms, and it can increase EFL students' motivation during e-learning.

Munawir & Hasbi (2021) claimed that students are using Quizizz to increase their interest in the class and to be more ambitious to succeed. In a similar way, it was found that using learning platform devices increased student motivation. Students' responses that cooperation is important for studying confirmed Quizizz's app and encouraged them to help one another's learning. Students that use this application to play and learn claimed to be more motivated because of the leaderboard and reward system. Students can view their progress status on their smartphones and on the projected screen. They can assess the sub-materials in which they are lacking. Furthermore, including gamification in the teaching methodology aids in improving students' comprehension of the material. Badges make students feel important and students are easier to remember information when presented in a gamified manner. Competition helps them to improve their response to time management and allows them to learn topics that are difficult to understand.

Jannah et al., (2020) state that the perception of students is important for both educational development objectives and assessment purposes. Additionally, Lindawati et al., (2022) argue that understanding how students perceive the learning process is important. A students' perception of something that they provide or use during a learning activity is referred to as the learning perspective.

From the background above, it can be concluded that the preparation class for TOEFL is important before taking the test. In the 21st century learning era, the student can learn anywhere and anytime. The type of language learning that uses cell phones and can be accessed anywhere is called Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL). Benefits of MALL, the students can save costs and time, be more practical and flexible in learning. In this study, the researcher decided to

analyze students' perceptions of using Quizizz for reading tests in TOEFL preparation class. The researcher only focused on researching students' perceptions of using Quizizz as a learning media that can help with TOEFL preparation, especially in reading test practice. Then, the researchers named the research "Students' Perceptions of Using Quizizz for Reading Tests in TOEFL Preparation Class".

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the definitions above, the research problem is formulated as follows:

"How do students perceive the utility of Quizizz for practicing reading tests in TOEFL preparation class?"

1.3 Objectives of the Research

This research aims to know the students' perception of using Quizizz for reading tests in TOEFL preparation classes.

1.4 Operational of the Research

To avoid misunderstandings, the researcher should define the following operational definition:

1.4.1 Students' Perception

Students' perception refers to how students understand and comprehend information their experience through their senses. It is important to the learning process because it may be used to analyze and improve instructional strategies.

1.4.2 Reading Test

The reading test is the third test on the TOEFL exam that must be completed. The aim of this test is improving a students' ability to read and comprehend academic writings. There are 50 questions and 55 minutes to complete the test.

1.4.3 TOEFL Preparation Class

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) preparation class is a type of program intended to help students become better prepared for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam.

1.4.4 Quizizz

Quizizz is an online assessment platform that allows teachers to create and assign interactive tests to their students. It is an interesting educational game featuring themes, music, memes, and avatar.

1.5 Significances of the Research

This research can provide two types of benefits, which are as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Benefit

The results of this study are expected to provide detailed information about the student's perception of using Quizizz for reading tests in TOEFL preparation class.

1.5.2 Practical Benefit

For lecturers, the results of this study can provide an overview of student perceptions of using Quizizz for reading tests in TOEFL preparation classes.

1.6 Scope of the Research

In this study, researcher focuses on students' perceptions of using Quizizz for reading tests in TOEFL preparation classes at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember.

