

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about background of the research, research problem, research objective, significance of research, research assumptions, scope of research and definition of the term.

1.1 Background of the Research

It is imperative to emphasize the importance of English writing skills. Development of these skills is crucial, considering their importance in both academic and professional contexts. Writing is a medium to convey ideas, concepts and feelings. To organize their writing ideas, writers must use their imagination and creativity to express them in words (Selvaraj and Aziz, 2019, p.452). Nowadays, in the context of academic writing, writers indicate some similar disadvantages in their writing skills, especially for learners who write using English, which English indicates as a foreign language in their country. Therefore, they often struggle to write in English, especially in vocabulary and grammar.

This struggle is particularly evident when students are tasked with writing narrative essay, which are structured past events or experiences. In narrative essay or biographical essay, students must not only use correct past tenses but also develop a compelling storyline and organize their ideas logically, which adds to the challenges they face in mastering both vocabulary and grammar.

Based on the research by Murti et al (2024) EFL (English as a Foreign Language) grammar is a type of grammar owned by someone who is not

a native speaker to understand the grammar of a language in a way that teaches it consciously. Grammar is essential for producing grammatically correct sentences, but many students struggle to acquire an in-depth understanding of principles like tenses and sentence structure. Students with a limited vocabulary tend to apply monotonous and less varied words, which blocks their ability to ideas effectively. Due to these two limitations, many students still have difficulty in developing their English writing skills so by The development of artificial intelligence (AI) now it can be easier for students to develop their vocabulary and grammar correctly and also make it easier for them to write in English.

According to Fitria (2021, p.45), Artificial Intelligence (AI) was designed with primary purpose of facilitate human work and activities. AI has developed rapidly in various fields, including education. In education, AI has a significant role in helping students develop writing skills in English, especially for students whose primary language is not English. AI offers tools and platforms that automatically correction of grammatical errors and more varied and contextually relevant vocabulary suggestions. One of the most common and popular AI used by students is ChatGPT. ChatGPT is a system that processes a Natural Language Processing (NLP) to answer human question in prompt that are written to the application, the programs's responses to the questions are well-structured, the words sentence will be coherent and the accuracy is quite good (Setiawan and Luthfiyani, 2023, p.50). With ChatGPT, students can easily write prompts according to their needs and wants, and then ChatGPT will provide the appropriate answer. With this, students can easily develop their ideas.

Previously, there had been similar research related to AI in helping students write English. The study of Fitria (2023) discussed Artificial intelligence (AI) technology in writing English essays, which resulted in the finding that ChatGPT can produce essays with a good structure, considering the use of tenses active voice and passive. The difference between this research and the previous research is that the earlier research was descriptive qualitative and only assessed ChatGPT's general ability to write essays, while in this research uses the pre-test and post-test methods to measure the impact of using ChatGPT on improving students' ability to write in narrative essay focusing on grammar and vocabulary.

Salwa and Tyas (2024) discussed that exploring student's perception of EFL on the use of ChatGPT to complete the writing English task. Which resulted, the students agree that ChatGPT can increase their learning motivation because it provides insights in the English writing skill class, has easy to use features, and can improve their learning outcomes and performance in the English writing skills class. The difference between this research and the previous research is that the earlier research is described and explored students' perceptions of using ChatGPT in a descriptive quantitative manner. While my research used the pre-test and post-test methods to measure the impact of using ChatGPT on improving students' ability to write in narrative essay focusing on grammar and vocabulary, particularly in response to identified problem in SMAN 1 Kalisat.

Based on the preliminary study, the research was conducted in SMAN 1 Kalisat. It has found the students struggling in writing because of the limitations of vocabulary and grammar. To validate the problem, a pre-test was conducted to

the students. The results showed an average score is 44.26, indicate a low level of students' writing performance.

Based on the information above, the researcher wants to know how ChatGPT improve the quality of students' narrative essay writing, especially in terms of grammar and vocabulary usage. Based on the background above, the researcher interested in choosing this topic with title **“The Use of ChatGPT to Improve EFL Students' English Writing Performance”**.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the research described above, the researcher identifies the research question, as follows “ How can ChatGPT be used to help EFL students improve their writing of narrative essay in English?”

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the background of the research described above, the objective of the study is to investigate how ChatGPT can be used to help EFL students improve their writing of a narrative essay in English.

1.4 Operational Definition

In this research, the writer tried to define several operational words used in the discussion. These operational definitions were expected to help the understanding of the discussion as follows:

1. ChatGPT

ChatGPT is one of many artificial intelligences (AI) developed by OpenAI, and it is a common and popular AI used by students. In this research,

ChatGPT is used to assist students in writing narrative essay in English by providing suggestions related to grammar and vocabulary.

2. Writing Performance

Writing performance is a person's ability to write in English. It includes how clear their ideas are, how they organize their writing choice of words, use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Writing performance in this study is shown through the students' writing results and how much they improve after using ChatGPT as a learning media. In this study, narrative essay is the main material used to assess students' writing performance in English, a type of text that retells past experiences or events in chronological order.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The research show how ChatGPT can help teachers improve students' writing performance and help students improve their writing perormance by giving quick feedback.

1.6 Scope of the Research

Students in the 11th grade who are learning to write narrative essay will be the subject of this study, which will be conducted in SMA 1 Kalisat. This research will look at how AI tools especially ChatGPT affects students' writing ability. It will involve a comparison between students before and after using ChatGPT, measuring the impact on the quality performance of their narrative essay.