CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, the problem of the research, focus of the research, purpose of the research, benefits of the research, assumption of the research, scope of the research and the operational definition of term. They will be discussed respectively in the following section.

1.1   Background of the Research

In the educational field, the use of mobile technologies has become a hot trend as tablets and smartphones can offer several learning opportunities. The use of smart devices, smart phones and tablets become more widespread among young people than others. With smart phone, people easy to carryand apply in sudden situation, everywhere and everytime. Applied to higher education, mobile learning is a pathway to develop simultaneously professional as well as technological skills as far as mobile devices (eg. smartphones) are both used and motivated in order to enhance learning experiences. Therefore, we will know students' perceptions concern the usage of e-learning and m-learning to students' learning process through using mobile phone device to increase their speaking skill, especially pronunciation ability.

As language learners, to reach their goal to increase speaking skill, especially pronunciation. Pronunciation of a particular word is something EFL (English as a foreign language) learners need to know about when

they have actually learned the new word; therefore, it is of immense importance since it plays a major role in communication, and mispronunciation may result in communication breakdowns. Here, the learners that still study basic or beginner, they will need and download the translator dictionary whatever the type, for example online or offline dictionary complete with the sound icon to show how to pronounce the word well. Therefore, this feature enables students to take advantage of their free time while they are outside theclassroom to complete their study and homework. Sha (2012) found that students got benefit from mobile phone for their learning purpose. Students can gain benefit by using mobile phone for learning activities because they had the opportunities to regulate their progress in learning activities.

Further research is required to focusing on the students' perceptions and attitude of using the dictionary application of mobile devices service in higher education institutions to improve their pronunciation. Hence, the study here, aims to explore the students' perceptions of the application of M-learning services in higher education environments. Students' perceptions of e-learning in school may be influenced by spesific individual variables. They had positive attitude, perception and attitude in using mobile phone for mobile learning (Al-Fahd, 2009). From attitude we could know their experience how they feel or behaviour through the impact of mobile phone dictionary application to their learning process.

Most of researchers have found that embracing the mobility and connectivity of mobile devices may lead to innovation in language

learning for students across different environments (Looi et al.,2010; Tai, 2012). For instance, it has been shown that mobile phones are increasingly used for improving knowledge of vocabulary (Stockwell, 2010; Zhang, Song, & Burston, 2011), grammar, listening, and speaking (Rueckert, Kiser, & Cho, 2012), in both formal and informal settings (Demouy & Kukulska-Hulme, 2010).

Furthermore, students who use electronic dictionaries are reported to complete reading activities more quickly than those who use paper dictionaries (Koyama & Takeuchi, 2007). Easy application, speed, small size, and improvement in student autonomy are the other considerable advantages of the use of electronic dictionaries for learning EFL (Stirling, 2003).

Now with the development of wireless network and mobile devices, it is possible to learn English anytime and anyplace. Mobile phones are used as a handy tool for language learning. Internet, used to be accessed through personal computer, can be operated through mobile phone and this allows students who are mostly at their teen and youth period to go online anywhere and anytime (Lenhart, 2015). Mobile phone dictionary application for education, provides personalized learning scenarios, the experience of touching mobile devices' screens, voice output, and other functional advantages, has become the mainstream of online education. It becomes a new spirit for them by a set of facilities that can develop teaching and learning process. Moreover, those students have more social applications than instruction tools that could facilitatelearning and enhance

skills development. Therefore, this feature enables students to take advantage of their free time while they are outside the classroom to complete their study and homework.

1.2   Problem of the Research

Based on the research background above, the research problems in this study are formulated as follow:

1. What are students' perceptions on using Mobile Phone Dictionary to improve their pronunciation?

2. What are students' attitude toward the use of Mobile Phone Dictionary for language learning?

1.3   Focus of Research

The focus of the present study is to know the students' perception through using mobile phone dictionary on their smartphone to improve their speaking skill, particularly pronunciation.

1.4   Purpose of the Research

The purposes of this thesis are:

1.   To know the students' perception on using Mobile Phone Dictionary to improve their pronunciation; and

2. To know students' attitude toward the use of Mobile Phone Dictionary for language learning.

1.5   Benefits of Research

The writer hope this research is benefical for some group of people such as English teachers, students and further researchers. The mobile phone dictionary made by the writer will help English teachers facilitate the students to practice their speaking skill especially pronunciation both inside or outside the classroom since they have limited time to practice their English at school. The mobile phone dictionary will help and ease students in learning pronunciation because it provide features to practice how to pronounce words.

The results of the study are expected to give some benefits.

a. For the students

Mobile phone has been proven to bring benefit for students. They can access educational content or e-book and textbook or some applications through their mobile phone anywhere and anytime.Through the mobile phone dictionary that applied in teaching and learning process, student hopefully will know the way of pronounce an English words correctly from the native talk. Learning style that can be applied in speaking class. In which it allow them to learn. Further, they will improve they speaking skill through a good pronunciation.

b. For the teacher

The result of this research is expected to be useful information for the English teacher. The information can be used as a consideration to

improve the quality of teaching pronunciation by using mobile phone dictionary through feature in dictionary application.

c. For the other researcher

The results are useful for future researcher as a reference for further research to broaden the view concerning with conducting further research dealing with pronunciation ability in teaching learning process.

1.6   Assumptions of Research

Using mobile phone dictionaryto develop speaking skill, particularly to fix the pronunciation through applying the feature in the mobile phone dictionary like sound icon or voice output, student hopefully will know the way to pronounce an English words correctly from the native speaker and feel more easier while learning process. If students learn patiently, they will get used their mother tongue to imitate the pronunciation from mobile phone dictionary or dictionary application.

1.7   Scope of Research

This research focuses on students'perceptions of using mobile phone dictionary to improve their pronunciation of the second grade students at MAN 2 Jember.

1.8   **Operational Definition**

    a.   **MALL (Mobile Assisted Language Learning)**

M-Learning is considered to be the next step of e-learning by the use of wireless mobile devices and other communication technologies to enable instructors and learners to conduct learning process anytime and anyplace.

    b.   **Mobile Phone Dictionary**

Mobile phone dictionary is a software application designed and developed specifically for use in small or mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets, rather than desktop or laptop.

    c.   **Perception**

Perception is how someone see something, and how they understanding or interpret something. Or, perception is the process by which individuals getting, interpreting, selecting and organizing their sensory information or impression in order to give meaning to their environments.

    d.   **Pronunciation**

Pronunciation means how we say words. Or, Pronunciation is the way words or a language is spoken. Besides, pronunciation is how someone pronounce the word correctly, according to what native speaker say.