CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter provides some basic theories of this study: those are: Independent Learning, The Role of Website for Independent Learning, and Schoology.

2.1 Independent Learning

Learning activity is often associated with teaching activity. Sometimes, people utter the term "teaching and learning". Many people think that both of the activities are closely related. However, it is not always true that in order to learn there should be a teacher there. It means that the teacher is not the only one of information source. If teacher is the only source of information, conventionally, majority students become passive listeners in the classroom for most of the time (Hussain & Safdar, 2008). Teachers often spoon feed by giving lectures even though students participate actively in the class. This statement is contradictory with independent learning where learning process is not necessarily conducted by the teacher in the class.

In the 21st century, independent learning should be introduced to students. Kenny 1993, Dickinson 1995, and Lamb 2009 have the same point that they need to manage, organise and understand their own learning. This activity is useful because students are able to get information that they cannot catch it in the class especially in big size of class teacher cannot check the students one by one whether they understand the materials or not. Moreover, there are a lot of information resources for the students to improve their learning process such as print,
DVD/video, digital resources and web resources. Importantly, independent learning ‘is a goal, not a starting point’ (Knight, 1996, p.35). So that, the expectation of this activity is the students will be an independent learner. Meyer, Haywood, Sachdev & Faraday (2008) state that being an independent learner does not mean ‘learning on your own’ or in isolated way. It means that student is not only learn by himself but also, they can learn together with their friends. The development of learning will be seen if students can position themselves as independent learners. Therefore, the most common descriptor of independent learning is ‘self-regulated learning’ (Meyer et al, 2008, p. 2). For students in this era, there is no reason for students not to do 'independent learning' since they can find many supporting facilities for doing this activity.

2.2 The Role of Website for Independent Learning

Over the last decade, there is some changing in education system such as the roles of teacher. In Indonesia, some teachers explain the material or teacher center. The other role of teacher is as a learning facilitator considering a lot of resources which the students can find. Arguably the most important impetus for these changes has been the emergence of new information and communication technologies, particularly the World Wide Web (Web) (Sheard, Ceddia, Hurst & Tuovinen, 2003). The web is the primary information source and outlet for millions of people in today’s connected world (Owoyele, 2017). The information or material from website can support learning process. In order for independent learning to happen, it needs to go along with the advancement of information and communication technology. For example, from internet students can take many advantages. This approach makes students more active to find their own
information directly outside the learning process in the classroom. Based on this information, website has important role for a student who does independent learning. Independent learners need to get a facilitation to get an information easier. The website acts as a delivery mechanism for service that facilitate various tasks student needs to perform (Owoyele, 2017). There are a lot of information which learners get on the website such as audio visual, documents and a game. Those are the media which easily produced and shared on the website. So independent learners can develop their skill and ability.

In educational institutions, there are a lot of website used for learning process. This is an opportunity for independent learners, to access the resources of the institution as an information service provider. This site is used to facilitate the learning process and obtain an information. Nowadays, a website including a learning management system exists to support learning process. In another word, the site also serves as a platform which facilitate the independent learners to enhance their knowledge.

To sum up, teachers nowadays should shift their roles as a facilitator for the students than being the only one source of information. This function is replaced considering many sources of information obtained through a website. Based on the statement, it is concluded that website gives the big contribution for the independent learners to get the information effectively.

2.3 Schoology as A Learning Resource

The development of information and communication technology give a huge contribution to education progress. By this progress, various facilities are
available to support learning activities. From the development of information and communication technology, the developer provides very useful platform called as Learning Management System (LMS). There are so many models of LMS which have been implemented in higher Education. One of LMS’s is Schoology. The example of others is Moodle, Edomodo, Blackboard, SumTotal System, Skillsoft, Cornerstone, Desire2Learn, NetDimmensions, and Collaborize Classroom. According to Thien, Phan, Loi, Tho, Suhonen& Sutinen (2013) Schoology is in the list of big ten most popular LMSs. It was ever in 8th position from top ten. In the 2014 CODiE awards, known as the “Oscars” for education technology, Schoology took home three awards including the top honor of Best Education Solution (Schoology Wins Top Award for Best Overall Education Technology Product at SIIA CODiEs, 2016).

Wibowo (2016) in her preliminary study about web design concludes that Schoology is designed specifically for educational purpose. According to Biswas (2013) Schoology is an online platform that provides a new style for the teachers to deliver material and facilitate learning. A lot of course materials can be found on Schoology and easily accessed. It makes learners access an information independently. Technologies help to develop autonomy by providing multiple access to authentic materials (Villanueva, Ruiz-Madrid & Luzón, 2010). Furthermore, every post in Schoology is monitored and need an approval before posting. Hence, it confirms the view from Sung, Chang & Yang (2015) that the learners can use mobile devices to search for relevant learning materials. The more relevant learning material, the more appropriate information learners will get. It
makes the learner easier to control their learning. A capacity to control learning also implies a capacity to make learning personally (Huang and Benson, 2013, p. 10).

There have been several studies on Perception of Schoology. One of the study conducted by Wibowo (2016) through the title “Students’ Perception of Using Schoology in Argumentative Writing Class”. The data were gathered using interview with 10 participants. Then, the researcher found that there are positive and a few negative perceptions by participant. From the study, the researcher found, Schoology can be an effective way a medium for teaching and learning.

Another study conducted by Permata (2016) “Students’ Perception toward The Use of Schoology in Pronunciation Class”. The data was collected using a set of interview question. There are 10 students taking the pronunciation class as the participants and were interviewed around 15-20 minutes. The research refers to the 6 criteria of Chapelle (2001). Five criteria were found in the data collection such as language learning potential, learner fit, authenticity, positive impact, and practicality but meaning focus was not found in this result. It means that the students had a positive attitude toward the use of Schoology in their Pronunciation Class.

In conclusion, the progress of education gets a big contribution from the development of ICT. Schoology is one of the platform with many positive perceptions. Its existence is very useful for the learning process.