CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the study's background, research difficulties, research aims, scope and limitations, significance of the study, and definitions of key terms. This chapter provides thorough information and an explanation of the study's significance.

1.1   Background of the Study

In the modern period, writing, one of the English skills, is crucial to the link between languages. Foreign languages are crucial because they enable people to adapt to their surroundings and stay up with the pace of technological advancements. According to thoughtco (2019), writing is a system of graphic symbols that can be used to convey meaning. According to Yule (2010), writing involves the utilization of graphical symbols as a means of conveying symbolic language, which can be obtained and mastered through dedicated and intentional practice. The thinking processes involved in generating, articulating, and organizing ideas into well-written statements and paragraphs (Nunan, 2003).

Unfortunately, the majority of college students still struggle to communicate their thoughts in written English. This statement was also stated by Nurgiyantoro (2001) that writing is a skill that is harder to learn than the other three skills of listening, speaking, and reading. Both internal and external variables may have an impact on it. One of the external factors is the technology implementation when creating classes. There are various factors to take into account while implementing technology, especially online media. The increase of students' motivation and the potential value of online media, particularly in terms of writing (Sakkir et al., 2021). The Padlet application is one of them. Padlet is being used in the language instruction of English courses specifically intended for teaching teachers and students.

In the classroom, educating and gaining knowledge is typically repeated. Thus, learning to write has a tendency to be passive and boring. It has an impact on the students' desire to study English. Moreover, the teacher's activities are occasionally not participatory. As a result, the students' writing abilities and creativity suffer. Therefore, teachers should foster a positive learning environment, enhance students' communication abilities, and use media-based teaching strategies to engage students in writing skills instruction. Based on the above background, the researcher is motivated to conduct research by focusing on the strengths and

weaknesses of the application of using Padlet as an online learning medium in learning writing skills.

Research about Padlet has been conducted by Budiarti et al., (2022). They discovered that it was highly suited to use in LMS Arabic Language Learning in Higher Education of Imam Bonjol State Islamic University Padang because it has comprehensive features. The aspects ranged from preparation to the learning process to evaluation, all easily accessible. As a result, the learning process was well-planned, and the outcomes were maximized. This study used a descriptive qualitative method to collect data through observation, interviews, and documentation procedures. This study found that Padlet for distance learning significantly impacted Arabic learning at the university level. This platform was ideal for the Arabic Language Learning Media Platform since it provided comprehensive capabilities that students could use. Then, this study said that Padlet may be designed as creatively as possible, even for students, but it was intriguing since the students were inspired to participate in the learning.

Furthermore, (Dollah et al., 2021) also explained that Padlet was a media that was expected to be useful for teachers and students in writing learning class. Teachers and companies generally used Padlet to encourage creative multimedia conversation and exchange of opinions. Another research on Padlet by (Syahrizal & Rahayu, 2020) reported about pros and cons of Padlet for English speaking activity. Their research was to determine two research problems, they were about positive effects toward the uses of technology in school, and the obstacles and problems while using technology. This study aims to portray the students' positives and downsides of using an ICT called Padlet during the speaking activity phase. Thirty-five students from a private institution in Cimahi, Indonesia, participated in this study. A qualitative method was employed to present detailed data related to supporting theories. Meanwhile, the observations made throughout the online processes of submitting and commenting on the speaking video and the offline situation were employed and then reinforced through open-ended interviews. According to the statistics, student pros focused on teamwork, flexibility, and autonomous learning. On the other hand, students' disadvantages were based on technical and psychological factors.

According to the research findings, Padlet is a virtual blank wall that offers users a variety of elements that encourage personalized interaction and encourage students to express themselves. A free multimedia wall enables whole-class involvement and real-time interaction between students and teachers (Uknowledge & Fuchs, 2014). Moreover, Deni & Zainal, (2015)

claimed that by enabling students to remark, access links, and view postings immediately, employing Padlet activities can improve students' learning. Students may additionally post links, upload photographs, videos, documents, and PDFs, comment on other people's posts, create public or private walls, and discuss knowledge. This site can use their laptop without students using their laptops. Students can use smartphones, iPads, tablets, and other internet-connected devices without registering. Students only need to click the link supplied by the teacher in order to post.

Students' writing skills can be improved by using Padlet. Students can enhance their writing abilities with Padlet (Jaganathan, 2016). Because of the media platform, students' writing abilities advance on their own. The ability of students to create their writing after receiving teacher assistance is one of the topics covered in online learning. The students are free to talk about the topic and share their opinions. On the other hand, when it came to difficulties, students emphasized the complexity of using the tool. Firstly, it is not appropriate for large group work. Moreover, there are a lot of comments on the wall that can also make things chaotic.

Besides, the use of developing technologies in education is growing among EFL students. One such example is the internet tool Padlet. The study's findings demonstrate that even if the students are still learning how to utilize the Padlet chatroom, they can do so without difficulty. Students were also able to participate in the exchange wall by posting questions and engaging in relevant discussions according to the application (Al Momani & Musa, 2022). Arif et al. (2020) found that writing abilities of ESL students can be considerably improved by using Padlet as a pre-writing approach. Padlet enhances students' writing assignments, but it also provides them with many other benefits, such as the opportunity to learn new words and new information. Also, 70% of people say that the Padlet chatroom is their preferred medium for providing peer feedback. It is motivated by enjoyment and is time-efficient, available to both students and teachers, and conducted via mobile phone (Bayu & Sari, 2019).

At the same time, the researcher found scarcity research that focused on investigating the strengths and weaknesses of using Padlet for writing skill in the EFL learning in higher

education. Because Padlet is beneficial in facilitating social connections, the researcher defines the focus of this research into the usage of Padlet for performing in the writing skill in EFL learning.

1.2   Research Questions

On the other hand, the researcher discovered a scarcity of studies on Padlet in writing learning in EFL higher education. In reality, Padlet is frequently used to improve writing skills. However, the previous researcher should have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of adopting Padlet to develop writing skills.

The researchers in this study are examining the topic and formulating a specific question that must be answered:

1. What are the strengths of Padlet as the learning media for writing skill?

2. What are the weaknesses of Padlet as the learning media for writing skill?

1.3   Research Objectives

Based on the research objectives mentioned above, this study intends to assess the strengths and weaknesses of Padlet as a learning media for writing skills in EFL classrooms of students from the English Language Education Department (ELED) at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4   Scope and Limitation

This research examines Padlet's strengths and weaknesses as an educational instrument for writing skills. The current study looks at English Language Education Department (ELED) students at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang for the 2020-2022 academic year.

1.5   Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that this study will provide important information about:

1.   College Students

Students should use this chance to improve their writing skills. They should be able to practice more with the Padlet program because it is easy to use, and many of their peers' postings can be utilized as references to improve their writing.

2.   Future Researchers

        The researcher anticipates that the research's findings will guide future researchers who want to conduct similar research or develop them into more sophisticated and in-depth investigations. The research findings are expected to have both theoretical and practical applications.

1.6   Definition of the Key Term

a) **Padlet:** Padlet is a free multimedia wall that allows in class participation from the entire class and real-time interaction between students and teachers (Uknowledge & Fuchs, 2014).

b) **Strengths:** Strengths refer to the inherent talents and abilities possessed by individuals that provide them with an advantageous edge or contribute to their success. Students were motivated to complete their English-language project after using Padlet (Lestari., et al, 2018).

c) **Weaknesses:** Weaknesses refer to specific aspects or attributes of an individual or object lacking in strength or effectiveness. Student's may become easily distracted by the variety of multimedia elements, comments, and other posts on the Padlet board, potentially diverting their attention from the main writing task. (Syahrizal et al,2020).