

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Learning TEFL, or Teaching English as a Foreign Language, is an essential skill for looking to teach English abroad. One of the critical components of TEFL is reading, as it helps students improve their vocabulary, comprehension, and overall language skills. TEFL instructors must develop teaching strategies catering to different reading levels and learning styles to teach reading effectively. It involves using various authentic reading materials, such as articles, short stories, and even songs, to engage students and build confidence in the language. Additionally, TEFL instructors must provide opportunities for students to practice reading and give feedback to help them improve. Learning how to teach as part of a TEFL program is crucial in equipping future teachers with the skills they need to help students succeed in learning English as a foreign language.

Furthermore, TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) offers diverse opportunities for individuals interested in teaching English to non-native speakers globally. ChatGPT can provide language learning materials at different levels of learning, such as vocabulary lists, conversation exercises, grammar lessons, and other language learning resources to be used at various stages of learning. In terms of on-demand learning resources, ChatGPT can provide a valuable and convenient reference website with names, websites, profiles, and more. (Huang et al., 2023). It offers the ability to fully engage with many cultures, hone teaching abilities, and obtain priceless global experience.

As a receptive skill, reading can help students enrich their knowledge. Reading could be interpreted in many ways based on people's backgrounds of knowledge and their purposes in doing it, but it is generally considered the most essential academic language skill (Harmer 2015, p. 314).

Technology's role in teaching reading has revolutionized how students learn and engage with material. TEFL instructors can use digital tools such as e-books, interactive whiteboards, and online resources to enhance students' reading comprehension and fluency. In addition to offering a diverse range of material, technology provides opportunities for students to practice reading and receive instant feedback. For instance, using educational mobile applications and quizzes can help students progress, identify areas where they can practice more, and reinforce their understanding of concepts. Moreover, technology can make reading more accessible to those with learning disabilities; it allows for individualized experiences that cater to their needs. Overall, technology is an indispensable tool in teaching reading, providing a dynamic and engaging medium that motivates students to expand their vocabulary, improve their comprehension skills, and appreciate the richness of the English language. One of the most popular technologies today is ChatGPT.

ChatGPT is an innovative online chatting platform that uses artificial intelligence to answer users' and offer helpful advice. With the rise of digital communication, it has become increasingly important to have access to online that can assist them in various aspects of life. ChatGPT addresses this need by providing an interactive chatbot to help users navigate multiple topics such as relationships, health, technology, and education. The platform is intuitive and user-friendly, making it easy for people of all ages to utilize. Whether you seek advice on a personal matter or help navigating a complex issue, ChatGPT is an invaluable tool that can provide insight and help you make informed decisions. Overall, ChatGPT is a powerful resource that can help them access the information they need when they need it and improve their quality of life.

Meanwhile, in terms of empirical consideration, there have been several researches on ChatGPT (Tierney, 2023), (Yang et al., 2023), and (Mcgee, 2023).

Tierney (2023) conducted a study about the rise of ChatGPT. According to this research, ChatGPT is currently the main participant in the AI scene (but there are others). This free online application generates text outputs in any

desired style by accepting text inputs and instructions. Even a novice may quickly produce high-quality work because there are entire internet forums devoted to offering advice on making the most of the tool.

Another previous study conducted by (Yang et al., 2023) regarding exploring the limits of ChatGPT for a query of aspects-based text summarization. The researcher explained the problems in summarizing text and the performance in using ChatGPT. Text summarization has been a significant challenge in natural language processing (NLP) for many years. It strives to keep the most essential information while condensing long documents into small copies. Text summarizing techniques such as extractive and abstractive summarization have been proposed. Our tests show that, in terms of Rouge scores, ChatGPT performs at a level with conventional fine-tuning techniques. Additionally, we point out certain special distinctions between summaries produced by ChatGPT and references from the human world, offering insightful information on ChatGPT's versatility.

The last study was conducted by (Mcgee, 2023), entitled "Is ChatGPT Biased Against Conservatives? An Empirical Study." In this study, researchers stated that ChatGPT caused quite a stir in the academic world. This can lead to students easily using ChatGPT to write papers and essays using multiple keywords.

Based on the above discussion, the use of ChatGPT as a teaching medium for learning TEFL of Reading at the English Study Program 2023 has not been investigated. Therefore, the writer would like to explore this topic.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

What is the use of ChatGPT as a teaching medium in learning TEFL of reading the English study?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

To investigate the use of ChatGPT for teaching media in learning TEFL of reading at the university.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitations**

The scope of this study is the sixth-semester students in TEFL in practice classes of the English Language Education Department (ELED) at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang in 2023. Meanwhile, this study's limitation is that it focused on using ChatGPT in teaching media to learn TEFL reading skills.

#### **1.5 Significance of this study**

**Theoretically**, incorporating ChatGPT as a teaching medium in TEFL reading instruction at the English Study could offer students personalized and interactive learning experiences by utilizing its extensive linguistic knowledge and adaptability. By engaging in dynamic conversations, students can practice their reading skills, receive real-time feedback, and explore a wide range of English language topics, potentially enhancing their proficiency.

**Practically**, using ChatGPT as a teaching medium in TEFL reading instruction at the English Study may offer pupils individualized instruction based on their specific needs and proficiency levels. Through interactive conversations and real-time feedback, students can actively engage with the material, improve their reading skills, and develop a deeper understanding of the English language in a dynamic and adaptive learning environment.

#### **1.6 Definitions of Key Terms**

##### **1. Teaching Media**

According to (Testing & Vol, 2022), instructional materials are vital to teaching and learning English. Teachers can establish more productive learning environments in the classroom by utilizing appropriate media when teaching a new language.

##### **2. TEFL**

Teaching English as a Foreign Language, or ESL instruction for non-native speakers, is referred to by the acronym TEFL (John Bentley, 2022).

##### **3. Reading skills**

The ability to read, understand, interpret, and decode written language and texts is referred to as reading skills. The ability to comprehend and react to written communications, such as emails, messages, letters, and other written communications, can be significantly aided by exceptional reading skills (Jennifer Herrity, 2023).

#### 4. ChatGPT

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence model that uses deep learning to produce writing that appears human when users ask it to do so. It functions by making predictions about the following word in a given text using patterns it has discovered while analyzing a vast quantity of data for training (Joe Fedewa, 2023).

