

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English covers a variety of dimensions, for example as a designation for a particular European ethnic group, as well as the language spoken by the people of that country (and also some other countries, depending on the definition of terms such as speakers and language). In addition, English is also seen as the form of language recorded in dictionaries and grammar rules, and in many situations (especially those related to education), the term refers to literary works written in the language. The understanding of English depends largely on the context in which the term is used. That context will influence how issues related to English and the individuals involved in it are treated in that and other situations (Rindal 2014).

Nunan et al. 2003 reading is not just one skill, but consists of various types of skills that are adjusted to the goals to be achieved in reading activities. In the classroom, students' reading activities usually have various goals, such as completing their education and gaining knowledge to continue their studies. To achieve sthese goals, reading comprehension skills are needed.

Harmer 1991 reading has important benefits in the process of acquiring language. As long as students can understand most of the texts they read, the more they read, the more their skills will develop. Grellet, 2004 Reading is a process that constantly involves approximation, where what readers bring to the table is often more important than what they find in the text. In reading activities, students need to be taught to utilize the knowledge they have to understand things they don't know

yet, be it new ideas or words. As long as students can understand most of what they read, the more they do it, the more their abilities will improve.

Social media refers to new forms of media that involve interactive participation. Media development is often divided into two distinct eras: the broadcast era and the interactive era. In the broadcast era, media was almost completely centralized, with a single entity such as a radio or television station, newspaper company, or film production studio disseminating messages to the public. Feedback from audiences was usually indirect, delayed, and impersonal. Mediated communication between individuals generally occurred on a smaller scale, often through personal letters, phone calls, or photocopied newsletters. In contrast, the interactive era is marked by two-way communication and user-generated content. Social media platforms like TikTok fall into this category, as they allow users to both consume and create content instantly (Harvey, 2014: 2).

Tik Tok application is an audio-visual media that can spread the creativity and uniqueness of its users. Tik Tok social media is a social media that provides unique and interesting special effects that can be used by its users. Agis,Dwi Prakoso 2021. TikTok allows users to create unique short videos and share them with friends and the world. The app unleashes users' creativity as a form of content revolution, setting a new benchmark for online content creators around the world, including Indonesia. The TikTok application is an audio-visual platform that fosters creativity and self-expression among its users. It offers various effects and features that enable users to create unique short videos and share them widely. According to Agis and Prakoso (2021), TikTok has become a revolutionary tool for online content creation, providing a space for users to unleash their creativity and set new

trends globally, including in Indonesia. The English version of TikTok is now available on platforms such as Google Play (Android) and the App Store (Rosanti et al., 2024).

The writer chose this title based on her personal experience as a student at Widya Mandira Catholic University in Kupang. She observed that many students, including herself, often use social media—particularly TikTok—as a tool to support learning English, especially for improving reading skills. On TikTok, students frequently come across English-language subtitles, spoken English narration, and educational content such as vocabulary tips, grammar explanations, and motivational quotes. This inspired the writer to conduct research on the potential of TikTok as a medium for enhancing students' reading abilities.

1.2 Problems of the Study

The problems of this study consists of two as presented in detail in the following.

1. How are the perceptions of students of English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University towards the use of TikTok as a learning media to improve their reading skills?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok in improving English reading skills according to students of the English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Going in line with the problems this study has two objectives, as shown in the following.

1. To find out the perceptions of fourth semester students of the English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University towards the use of TikTok as a learning media to improve reading skills?
2. To find out the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok in improving English reading skills according to students of the English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University?

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has important value in supporting the improvement of reading skills in English among students through the use of TikTok social media. This research can serve as a reference for the English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University to understand how social media platforms like TikTok can support students' English reading skills. It may help the program align its learning strategies with the interests and characteristics of today's digital generation. This study can help students understand how to use TikTok effectively to improve their English reading skills, increase their motivation to read English texts, and utilize content that supports the acquisition of vocabulary and reading comprehension. The results of this study are expected to serve as a reference for teachers in designing more creative, effective, and engaging learning approaches using social media as a learning medium. This study is expected to provide a new perspective on the role of social media in English education and can

serve as a reference for future researchers interested in investigating the integration of social media into language learning.