

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher provides the introduction of the study being conducted. There are some main points explained in this chapter. Those points are consecutively arranged in the following order: background of the study, statement and limitation of the problem, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

Background of the Study

The demand for translation has recently increased due to the escalation of information exchange across regions (Okpor, 2014), either through real-direct interaction or virtual interaction. Owing to the fact that language is a medium of communication, while there are plentiful numbers of languages spoken by numerous different speakers around the world, machine translation (MT) tool service is one of the preferable medium to help people in cross-languages communication. Moreover, since its presence on the internet, the trend of MT tool usage cannot but rise. It was recorded in 2008 that internet users who used online machine translation (OMT) tool service reached out to 23%, and the number increased up to 28% in 2010 (Chéragui, 2012). Specifically, in 2013 Google announced that Google Translate served 200 million users and performed billion translations a day (Shankland, 2013).

Thanks to the development of technology and explosive internet expansion that make it happens for MT tool to be installed on web and now provides its service for the internet users. Nowadays, there are numerous available OMT tools

on the internet. The examples of popular OMT tools are Google Translate, Bing Translator, Babelfish, and Freetranslation. Those aforementioned OMT tools offer free translation service for the users.

To serve many different language speakers, many OMT tools cover multi-language translation services. For instance, as July 2017 the researcher noted that Google Translate provides 104 languages, Bing Translator 61 languages, Babelfish 15 languages, and Freetranslation 46 languages. Languages with non-roman characters such as Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic are also supported by those OMT tools. However, there are OMT tools which only provide and are specialized in one language pair, such as Sederet which only provides Indonesian-English translation (and vice versa), and Spannishdict which only provides Spanish-English translation (and vice versa).

In regard to language learning, there are some benefits of using OMT tool proposed by some researchers. First, OMT tool improves students' vocabulary mastery (Clifford, Merschel & Munné, 2013). Second, OMT tool helps students in understanding a reading text (Niño, 2009). Third, OMT tool serves as students' writing assistant and helps them to write better (García, 2010). Fourth, OMT tool can be used to drill students' translation skill and stimulate their awareness of translation error.

Taking into account the use of OMT tool in language learning, this study aims to investigate its usage among students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (EED of UMY). The researcher observed that EED of UMY students are already familiar with and some of them use OMT

tool to help them in doing some assignments. This phenomenon evoked the interest of the researcher to investigate the practical use and the perception about the benefit in using OMT tool in language learning. On top of that, since this field has not been being studied within the scope of EED of UMY students yet, this topic, therefore, will be a pointful topic to be researched.

Statement and Limitation of the Problem

In regard to language learning, some scholars have been arguing about the appropriateness of OMT tool in language learning. Nonetheless, whether they do strongly suggest or object it, the phenomenon itself has already been proceeding up until now. Language students are already aware of some practical advantages of OMT tool. However, they are still not fully aware of its usefulness in language learning. What to be emphasized more is the awareness of the fact that OMT tool can also be beneficial in language learning, so that students can effectively use it to help them in their language learning.

For years, MT tool and other similar tools have become the field of study for some researchers. There are different focuses regarding to this topic, namely: evaluation of MT tool' translation, translation comparison between two or more OMT tools, and OMT tool application in various tasks. However, this study will be limited to the later focus, in order to address the questions of how OMT tool is practically used by students of English language, and what benefits that they obtain by using it in their learning.

Research Question

The research questions being investigated in this study are:

1. How do students use OMT tool in their learning?
2. What are the benefits that students obtain by using OMT tool?

Objective of the Study

Based on the research question, this study aims:

1. To examine the use of OMT tool by students in their learning.
2. To investigate the benefits that students obtain in using OMT tool.

Significance of the study

The result of this study will be beneficial for:

The researcher: This study gives the researcher an insight of how language students use OMT tool in their learning as well as the benefit of its usage.

Students: This study provides information for students about how OMT tool can be used in learning tasks and to raise their awareness on the benefit in using it as well as its weaknesses. Therefore, they will be able to utilize OMT tool effectively and gain the optimal benefit for their learning.

Lecturers: This study gives the lecturers information about how OMT tool is used by students, so the lecturer will be aware of wide range of alternative activities encompassed by using it. They can also give their students a training or courses to help them in using OMT tool properly and effectively in their learning.

Other researchers: This study serves as an evidence of how OMT tool is used in language learning that might be used as a reference for other researchers

who are interested in conducting further study related to the topic. Another researcher might be interested in conducting an experimental study to examine how language proficiency of a group of students who use OMT tool to assist their learning may differ from those who do not use it.

Outline of the Study

This study consists of 5 chapters. In chapter one, the researcher gives an introduction to the study being conducted. Chapter two contains some theories from related literature and previous studies which support this study as a theoretical basis. Chapter three presents research methodology, in which discusses about how this study is conducted. In chapter four, the researcher presents the finding of the study inferred from the data and discusses it. The last chapter is about conclusion inferred from the finding this study and some recommendations in which the result of this study can be applicable.