Chapter Two

Literature review

This chapter discusses several studies related to this research. The first part of this chapter talks about some theories of perception. Second, researcher talks about Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Then, this part discusses the definition of blogs and types of blogs in education. This part also discusses advantages and disadvantages of blogs. In the last part of the chapter discusses review of related study and also the conceptual framework of this research.

Perception

According to Robbins (2001), perception is a process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impression in order to give meaning to their environment. Then, Kreiter and Kinicki (1992) stated that perception is mental and cognitive process that enables us to interpret and understand our surroundings. Based on the explanation above, perception is a process of people to understand and observe the environment arround them. In other words, perception is a cognitive process experienced by people in comprehending information about the environment. Moreover, by using perception people can understand, comprehend and be aware of something or someone else in their environment.

Futhermore, people have different perception and expectation about world, things, places, methods, and environments. The personal perceptions are influenced by personal feel, imagination and interpretation. According to Lahey (2009) stated that humans are aware of the world because of they have a number of sense organs which enable humans to see, hear, taste, smell, touch, balance and experience such feeling as body stiffness, soreness, fullness, warmth, pleasure, pain, and movement.

In teaching and learning process, teachers should know about students' perceptions. Knowing students' perception also help teacher or lecturer in preparing classroom activities.

While, the students' perception of the classroom can help teacher to identify about what kind of activities that effective and suitable to be applied in classroom. In line with theory by Diamantes (2002) as cited in Fullerton and Guardino (2012) who found that students' perceptions about the classroom environment can guide teachers in making environmental improvements. Then, students provided valid information about their preferred and ideal environment which helped the teachers in the classrooms. Knowing about students' perception also helps teacher to engage students to participate actively in learning process. In this research, perception refers to how students perceive about blogging activity in ICT Online Class.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

According to Yunus et al (2013) who stated that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) cover a wide range of technologies. Toomey (2001) as cited in Restuti (2008) added ICT refers to a range of Information and Communication Technology which is including computer workstations, software and hardware. Toomey added that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) generally relates to those technologies that are used for accessing, gathering, manipulating and presenting or communicating information. Based on the statements above, it can be concluded that ICT refer to technological tools and resources which are used to communicate, create and manage information. These technologies include radio, television, computers, internet and social networks.

In the last decade, there has been a growing interest in using computers and internet to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning in all levels and in both educational and non-educational settings (Saleh and Salehi, 2011). Old technologies such as radio, television, and telephone are given less attention todays, however they a longer and richer background as educational tools. Nowdays, teachers and the lecturer are used laptop that connect with internet in teaching on the classroom. Using laptop who always connect with internet make

teachers or lecturer easier in teaching process. The lecturer can add others sample or resources directly in classroom when it needed. It is related with theory by Yunus et al (2013) who found that the integration of new ICT tools such as laptop, LCD projector, internet and social networks in education is still in its infancy in comparison with the use of older technologies such as radio and television.

The significant purpose in the teaching learning ICT is the increasing convergence of computer-based, multimedia and communication technologies. And the main goal of establishing the ICT- based class is preparing students to face future's challenge. Umiyati (2006) as cited in Restuti (2008) argued that students of the ICT based class can master science and technology by using English competence. Students who mastering science and technology has better chance in the future. According to Philips and Vallance (2004) who stated ICT based class of the English language teaching is believed to be able to offer individualized, active, and interactive learning experiences to large numbers of students, solutions to the problem of an acceleration enrolment and higher demand for education.

Moreover, ICT has a positive role in the language teaching and learning. Students can access the world in the classroom by using ICT. According to Carrington and Robinson (2009) who said that today is time for our classrooms became places where digital and print literacy come together to allow children opportunities to develop the skills and attitudes they will need to navigate complex urban sites and social forms. Meanwhile, ICT based class offer the students big opportunities to faced the world and improve their skills used technology.

Concept of Blog

Definition of Blog. The Oxford English dictionary of United Kingdom (2011) defined that the noun blog as personal record that somebody puts on their website. Zhang (2009) added that blog is some frequently updated website that consists of personal observations, quotation from other sources and usually attach with hyperlinks from other sites as an online

journal or diary. Godwin (2003) cited in Zhang (2009) argued that blog is a web-based space of writing where all the writing and editing information is managed through a web browser and it is immediately and publicly available on the internet. Based on the statements above, blog is a place for everyone to share their feelings, ideas, stories, experiences and photos. People can use blog like their personal diary. In blog, people can write anything that they want to write.

Moreover, Hossain and Quinn (2012) found that web 2.0 technology is a new development of internet services available on the World Wide Web, allows internet users to collaborate and shares web information actively. Blog is a standard example of Web 2.0 technologies. Therefore, Blog is an online journals and their content is depend on the feelings of people who maintain blog. Blogs can be updated any time by using software that allows users with little or no technical background to create, design, and maintain the blog.

Drexler, Dwason and Fredig (2007) described blogging is a vehicle for sharing feelings and insight with the world without leaving the classroom. It can be concluded that blogs are a constructivist tool for learning where participants construct knowledge, share ideas, and build upon each other's work. Blog can combines with text, images, links to other blog, web pages and other media related to its topic.

Types of Blog in Education. According to Dudeney and Hockly (2007) who stated that the most common type of blog is kept by one person, who will regularly post comments, thoughts, analyses, experiences of daily life, interesting links, jokes or any other form of content, to a web page. Then, Tseng (2008) argued that blogs can be used in various fields, purposes, and function. In school context, educational blog are being used by more educators and students. Blog that is used in education are known as edublogs. Futhermore, edublog cover a wide range of topics related to education. Edublogs also focus on educational policy and developments to learner compositions.

Campbell (2003) as stated in Tseng (2008) specifically points out three types of blog used in EFL (English Foreign Laguage) classes. There are tutor blog, learner blog and class blog.

The Tutor blog. Dudeney and Hockly (2007) stated blog set up and maintained by teacher is known as tutor blog. In tutor blog, teachers can gives daily reading practice for students and provides handouts of syllabus or some websites related to articles or journals that students read. Moreover, this blog provides study tips, reviews class work and provides extra links on specific topics such as pronunciation.

Campbell (2003) in Tseng (2008) stated that tutor blog can also encourage students to give comments in tutor's blogs or their classmate's blogs, and do some online verbal exchange. The teachers may decide to allow their learners to write comments in the blog. In a tutor blog, teachers can ask students to read some journals and teacher should manage them to make summary from that journal.

The learners' blog. Blog who maintained by students known as learner blog. The learners' blogs can be used as journals for writing practices or for personal expression. According to Campbell (2003) as cited in Tseng, (2008) who found that by students can develop a sense of ownership that they master from their own blogs then they can gain the experience of exchanging comments with their teacher or their classmate.

Afterwards, teachers may encourage students to set up and maintain their individual blogs. Learner can be asked to post in their blogs once or twice a week or however often teacher judges' convenient, and content can range from comments on current affairs to description of daily activities. Then, the other learners, from same class and from other classes or even from classes in other countries can be encouraged to post comments and reactions to students' blog. Based on the statement above, learners has some opportunities to

comment the others students' blogs and it is help students to develop their skills in giving opinion about something.

The Class Blog. According to Campbell (2003) as cited in Tseng (2008) found that students can join access and publishing rights to create and maintain their class blogs. Teacher can decide to use a blog provide their learners with news and comments on issues, extra reading practice or homework, online links, a summary of a class for learners who were unable to attend and study tips. In the class blog, learners will access and read and possibly add comments to the blog outside the classroom.

Advantages of Blog. According toTseng (2008) provided that web is a familiar piece of the educational landscape, and for those sites where personal publishing or chronological ordered content would be useful, blogs have stepped to the fore. However, blogs are innovative tools that require learners to interact one another. It is not only having interaction with computer but also having interaction with people.

Pinkman (2004) argued that blogging takes more communicative role than others computers assisted language learning (CALL) tools. Pinkman continued that blogging and CALL can not replace face-to-face interaction, but blog provide a practice environment where students can think, reflect, and create language slowly for a real-life audience. Drexler, Dawson and Fredig (2007) found that blogging can promote critical and analytical thinking. Blog can lead to creative, intuitive, associational thinking and also analogical thinking. Blog is the best combination of solitary reflection and social interaction. Blogs provide a real-world tool for learners with which to practice their written English as well as a way contacting learners from other parts of the world. In line with theory by Zhang (2009) who said studies that have been published include effect on learner autonomy, increasing writing fluency, as a place for completing writing assignments, posting class materials, and as a way to open communication with bloggers outside the classroom. Moreover, Zhang continued that

blog appears to enrich the learning experience and provide an opportunity for learners to learn by themselves, such as blog as a learning journal is a way of documenting learning and collecting information for self-analysis and reflection. It helps students' nurturance a habit to study from surface to deep.

Stanley (2005) in Zhang (2009) argued that there are numerous reasons for using blogs in education, namely provide a real audience for student writing, to provide extra reading practice for students, to increase the sense of community in a class, to encourage students to participate, and to create an online portfolio of student written work. Blogs are well suited to serve as online personal journals for students, particularly since they normally enable uploading and linking of files. Language learners could use a personal blog, linked to a course, as an electronic portfolio, showing development over time. Hossain and Quinn (2012) stated that student has the possibility of writing for readers beyond classmates which is not usually possible to be talked in discussion forums by publishing it on the blog. Readers can give comment on what they read, although blogs can be placed in secured environments as well. Self-publishing encourages ownership and responsibility on the part of students, who may be more thoughtful in content and structure if they know they write for a real reader.

Disadvantages of Blog. Despite the advantages, blog also bring some disadvantages. Tseng (2008) found that the first disadvantage of using blog is teachers' workload when making correction. Students can post a lot of messages or comments on blogs. It increases teachers' workload to correct all the students writing. Tseng continued that blog is a place for students to express thoughts and comments. It is also a place that everyone can browse. Some students post diaries, personal information, photos and they could carelessly leak private matters to the public. Furthermore, blogs are publicly accessible. There is no limitation or restriction to block those who intentionally leave inappropriate and annoying messages.

Research done by Tseng (2008) found that some students might be lazy to post something on their blogs. Some of them just copy and paste something like articles or journals from other resources. Copy paste people's work on your blog without any qoutation is a kind of plagiarism. Plagiarism make students uncreative, lazy to work by themselves. Sweeny (2010) as cited in Yunus et al (2013) added that the concerns of teachers who used technology like blog is that students will not take the work seriously.

Moreover, blogs is universal and everyone can write and read articles on blog easily. People can post any articles on their blogs including articles with adult content. And it is makes risk for students to read unappropriated articles. Ward (2004) as cited in Yunus et al (2013) stated that students could be exposed to a variety of reading materials and genres of writing, there is a danger that the reading skills that are developed from scrolling the computer screen lead to an accelerated but superficial, and often inaccurate, understanding of the content students can read in some blogs.

Review of Related Study

There are some researcher that has been studied about blog and ICT. Moreover, this research is little bit different with previous research. This part will explain the previous research.

The first research has been done by Pinkman (2005). The aimed of this research is motivating students to take advantages of authentic environments outside the classroom in order practice language skills and communicate with others. This study seeks to determine the usefulness of using blogs in the foreign language classroom, and to assist foreign language professionals interested in developing learner independence in their own learners by using this relatively new computer-based learning forum. Pinkman used questionnaires and interviews to collect the data. The findings of the research suggested that learner-perceived benefits of using blogs included increased interest and motivation to use English because of

interaction with, and feedback from, classmates and teachers. Although the project helped to improve reading and writing skills, some learners were more interested in developing oral communication skills not in the blog project.

Second, research done by Hossain and Quinn (2012). This research explored student perceptions of a twelve week blogging activity that became a standard component of a college Euclidean Geometry class offered in a university in the Western United States. This research used qualitative research and focused on students' perceptions on the advantages and disadvantages of using blogs as supportive tool in the Euclidean Geometry course. Data were collected by open-ended interview. This research applied ten themes related to advantages and six themes related to disadvantages of using blogging activity as a supportive tool for teaching and learning in this class. The result showed that there is an unconnected aspect of an overall phenomenon.

Third, research done by Youssef and Dahmani (2008). The purpose of this research is to examine the relationship between the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and student performance in higher education. So far, economic research has failed to provide a clear consensus on the effect of ICT investments on student's achievement. The research aimed to summarize the main findings of the literature and to give two complementary explanations. The first explanation focused on the indirect effects of ICT on standard explanatory factors. Since a student's performance is mainly explained by a student's characteristics, educational environment and teachers' characteristics, ICT may have an impact on these determinants and consequently the outcome of education. The differences observed in students' performance are thus more related to the differentiated impact of ICT on standard explanatory factors. The second hypothesis supports the using of ICT in the organization of higher education. While ICT equipment are growing very fast in the European Union, but the adoption of complementary organizational designs is slow.

This research is different from previous research. What makes this research different is from the focused of this research. This research focused on students' perception on blogging activity at ICT Online Class. This research did not measure the impact or the influences of blogs with other variables. Then, this research did not focus on improving particular variables. Therefore, this research collected the data only from students who have joined in ICT Online Class and they have learnt about blogging at EED UMY.

Conceptual Framework

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) refer to technological tools and resources which are used to communicate, create and manage information. ICT including computer workstation,software, hardware, internet and social networks. There are some examples of ICT tools such as radio, televison, computer, podcast and blog. Hence, one of the example of ICT tools which are used in teaching and learning process is blog. This is caused by blogs are easy to be accessed. Moreover, blog is technological tools which are used to share feelings, ideas, stories, experiences, photos or videos based on internet connectivity.

Although, blog is used on a classroom almost in all universities arroud the world, blog also has advantages and disadvatagesw for students. The advantages of using blog in classroom are blog can promote critical and analytical thinking and blogs provide students a place where they can practice their written English with students who come from others city without leaving the classroom. Then, blogs also provide students an opportunity to learn by themselves. Besides that advantages, blogs also bring some disadvantages for students. Plagiarism is one of the disadvantages of blog. Students will not take the work seriously and they just copy paste from other resources. Then, others disadvantages is blog is free to access by everyone, and it is makes a possible access for students to found unapproprited articles on the blog.

In addition, the researcher has assumption that the implementation of blogging activity in ICT online class at EED UMY gives some benefits for students, especially in increasing students' writing skills and improving the implementation of autonomous learner. Therefore, there were some problems faced by the students during blogging activity.