# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

The points to be explained in this chapter are the background studies that will explore the source of the problem and the reasons why it occurs, research questions, limitations of problems, formulation of problems, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, Definitions and study outlines.

## 1.1 Background of the Study

In learning English, students are expected to be able to master all language skills of English; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of productive language skill. It is one of the difficult skill because this skill to communicate the writer and the reader in written language. Reading refers to generating spoken language. Listening is one of receptive skill. It is one of the first skill that to be mastered by the student to understand the spoken language. Speaking is one of  productive language. It used to delivere spoken language. It is the second skill that to be mastered by the students to communicate with other person.

At the same time, technology gives an significant impact in education. Nowadays, technology become  important in facilitating language teaching and learning activities. Lam & Lawrence (2002) claim that Technology gives students rules about their own learning processes and easy access to information that may

not be provided by the teacher. The researcher agree that technology cannot be avoided from teaching and learning in education. Technology can provide a different educational environment than conventional strategies that are only in the classroom to provide students with information and to transform into new language learning strategies outside of the classroom.

English in Indonesia is considered as a foreign language, so it is not easy to learn by Indonesian students, especially in writing. According to Nunan (2003), writing is one of creating ideas, expressing thoughts and organizing them into a good sentence or paragraph. Based on the statement above students must extend their idea in a good concept and arragement. The students must combine between diction, grammar, vocabulary, and also the imagination of the students to arrange their writing.

Based on the researcher's experience when having school teaching practice, the researcher found some problems. The first problem was that the students had low motivation and were not interested in writing activities. The students still ignored about writing skill and it was supported by the result of writing test. At the same time, writing is not the only test conducted. A test used multiple choice form rather than essay form. The second problem is the students lack of vocabulary mastery and they did not master grammar, therefore they do not write well. Many students are not interested in writing because these activities is sometimes so boring and they were scared to write if they make a mistake.

Based on the explanation above,it is necessary to use an appropriate strategy to create fun situation in teaching writing. If the teacher can envolve the

learners writing as a habit, the learners will find interesting things inside writing activity. To support the purpose, the researcher will use an application in a smartphone as a tool because it provides several supporting aspects that can help the students to improve their writing especially formal invitation.

Therefore, Whatsapp Messenger (WA) can be one of the solutions to help the students to solve their problem in writing. According to Alsanie (2015), WhatsApp Messenger is a property, cross-platforminstant messaging subscription service for smartphones and selected feature mobile phones. It uses the internet connection for communication. This is used for sending and receiving messages, video and audio messages. The students can upload the videos or pictures in a chat group discussion and gives a comment based on what their friends upload. By doing this activity there is a written communication between one student and the others with a limited topic based on the picture that uploded. The researcher believes that by using whatsapp and good atmosphere of teaching learning process, it will encourage the students and improve the students ability in writing.

Regarding the facts and theories above, the researcher then tries to investigate the effectiveness of using Whatsapp Messenger (WA) to improve students' writing skill in formal invitation of the 11th graders of SMA N 2 Semarang.

**1.2  Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher have some reasons forchoosing this topic, namely :

1. The students motivation is low and they are not interested in writing activities.

2. The students lack of vocabulary mastery and they do not master about grammar, so they do not write well.

3. The students get bored on teaching learning process in the classroom because the method and strategy used by the teacher are monotonous.

4. The strategy used by the researcher are rarely used by the teachers of SMA N 2 Semarang.

**1.3  Research Question**

Based on the reasons for choosing this topic, the researcher formulated the research problem as the following question: Is Whatsapp messenger effective to improve the students' writing skill in formal invitation of 11$^{th}$ grade students of SMA N 2 Semarang?

**1.4  Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of the research is as follows : To find out whether or not whatsapp online chat group effective to improve the writing skill in formal invitation of 11$^{th}$ grade students of SMA N 2 Semarang.

**1.5  The Hypotheses of the Study**

According to Creswell (2003), hypotheses are prediction the reseracher makes about the expected relationships between variables. They are numeric estimates of population values based on collective data from a sample. Based on the definition above, the researcher hypotheses are:

$H_0$ : There is no significant difference in the mean score of writing achievement between students who are taught by using WA and those who are not taught by using WA.

$H_1$ : There is a significant difference in the mean score of writing achievement between students who are taught by using WA and those who are not taught by using WA.

**1.6  Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, the focus of the reaearcher is on the implementing whatsapp online chat group to improve students  writing formal invitation. The subject of the study is only limited to the 11th graders of SMA N 2 Semarang.

**1.7  The Significances of the Study**

The result of this study are expected to beneficial both theoritically and practically elaborated in the following section :

1. Practical significance

   - For  teachers

This study are expected to be a new learning model and method that can be used for the teachers to make the students active in learning writing skill in formal invitation.

- For students

  This study are intended for the students to have a new learning experience about writing skill in formal invitation and expected for students can improve their skill in making a good writing.

- For researcher

  This research can give information and reference to conduct the research related to improve writing skill and related to WhatsApp itself as a media for teaching and learning students.

2. Pedagogical significance

- For teachers

  The teachers can helps the students to improve their writing skill and teach the students to learn writing effectively. Using creative technique in teaching writing also will motivate students learning easily.

- For students

  The results of this study can motivate the students in learning English and this study also expected can increase students ability in writing.

**1.8 Definition of the Key Terms**

Some definitions of term use in this research are stated as follows:

1. Whatsapp Messenger

   According to Alsanie (2015),WhatsApp Messenger is a cross platform instant messaging application for smart phones. In addition to text messages, users can send pictures, videos and audio media messages to each other. WhatsApp allows users to use their Internet connection to send messages to one another. WhatsAppis such as chat program for smart phones. Smart phones are becoming increasingly popular and WhatsApp is available for almost all smartphone.

2. Online Chat Groups

   According to Hua-Fei Zhang (2013), online chat groups are small-scale multi-user social networking platforms, where users participate in discussions sending and receiving information.

3. Writing Skill

   Writing is one of productive skill. It refers to the ability to communicate with the reader in written language. Writing is conveying information or expressions of original ideas in sequence in a new language. According to Nunan (2003), writing is one of creating ideas, expressing thoughts and organizing them into a good sentence or paragraph.

## 1.9  Outline of the Study

In this study, writing consists of three chapters :

1.  Chapter I – Introduction

    This chapter presents the research foundation including background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, research question, objective of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, definition of key terms and outline of the study.

2.  Chapter II – Literature Review

    This chapter presents review of related study, which consits of definition of whatsapp, group discussion, and writing skill, the advantages of using whatsapp messenger, review of the previous study.

3.  Chapter III – Research Method

    This chapter presents the research design, subject of the study, variables of the study, instrument of the study, procedure of the study, scoring technique, and technique of data analysis.

4.  Chapter IV– Result

    This chapter discusses about the result of this study. Those are Research Description, Validity and Reliability of the Instrument, Research Activity, Pre-test Data Analysis, Post-test Data Analysis and Discussion.

5.  Chapter V– Conclusion and Suggestion

    This       chapter       talks       about       conclusion       and       suggesti