CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

The new wave of technology has rapidly increased among students. The use of mobile devices becomes vital part on daily user. As Alahrani (2015, p. 109) said, “this, of course, has an impact on users’ life styles by affecting their social relationships and opening windows to new learning contexts”. Nowadays, language learning cannot be restricted to the walls of the classroom with limited hours. When we enter the classroom, we see the students with their friends sitting and looking at their mobile phones or tablets. They are consulting their mobile devices more than their teachers.

Those facts could have relation with attitude. In foreign language learning context, there are various factors that influence the learning process such as motivation, attitudes, anxiety, learning achievements, personalities, and many more. Attitudes toward learning have an obvious influence on students’ behaviors.

Along with the development of mobile technology, language learning strategy using m-learning concept also developed. This concept is well known as Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL). According to Rionaldi (2016, p. 292) Mobile Assisted Language Learning is a kind of learning technique using handled technology through portable small devices, such as mobile phones and smart phone. This technology is considered to be the most interesting media than the older one, named...
Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Mobile Assisted Language Learning allows us to use smaller devices anytime and anywhere. The continuity of language learning is easier since knowledge is accessible through the internet. (Bezircilioğlu, p.9). It also has numerous advantages for language learning. They are availability, portability, easily accessed in the classroom or outside of classroom, and convenience.

As English educators, we have to realize this fact through monitoring students. In fact, it can be noticed that most all of students own at least one mobile phone. They used it to take a note for assignment, to browse some definitions or sometimes to play a game. While they are playing mobile games, using the social media, following the instructions in a manual, doing their homework, and many more, students are not surrounded with the walls of the classrooms. By knowing those facts, it gives a chance for teacher to integrate mobile devices with language learning.

Further, knowing how important mobile learning are, it is important to make a research to find out the students’ attitude about mobile technology on learning English. This research aimed to know students’ attitude toward the use of mobile devices in learning English among English Education Department’ students at Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.
B. Reasons for Choosing The Topic

Mobile devices become vital parts of everyone’s daily life. When talking about mobile devices, all sorts of mobile technologies are included ranging from mobile phones, laptops and tablet computers. In fact, the researcher of technology had found some devices that are easier to be used. Computer era replaced by mobile devices.

It has noticed that handheld devices are increasingly involved in the learning process. Mobile devices are being used to support learning. It has been noticed that EFL students are moving away from the traditional methods to the modern one:

Thus, it becomes pivotal to conduct a study to know students’ attitude toward the use of mobile devices in learning English as a foreign language.

C. Research Question

Dealing with the problem explained above, the researcher formulated research question as follow:

How is students’ attitude toward using mobile devices in learning English?

D. Aim of The Research

This research gives description about students’ attitude toward the use of mobile devices in learning English as a foreign language.
E. Research Contribution

This research is expected to give contribution to:

1. English Teacher

   This study is expected to give more information about students’ attitude toward the use of mobile devices. Hopefully, teachers will have interest in using technology for better learning process.

2. Teacher’s candidate

   As teacher’s candidate, they can have better preparation and knowledge about methods that can be used in teaching.