

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter highlights the points of introduction of this research. It comprises the background, formulation of the problem, operational definitions, aim of the research, and uses of the research.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Writing is one of the most essential abilities every student needs to master. In writing skills, students must express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings in written form (Larasaty, 2020). However, expressing ideas in written form has always been perceived to be complicated by many students. Dealing with the problems, Göçen (2019) stated that Creative writing activities allow students to use their imagination to express ideas and thoughts freely while writing and producing authentic content.

Students can develop their ideas and abilities in various writing genres, such as fanfiction, poems, and poetry (Larasaty, 2020). One of the universities in Tasikmalaya has implemented a creative writing course to develop students' writing skills and creativity in producing literary works such as poetry writing, haiku, short stories, fanfiction, etc. In addition, fanfiction writing helps students overcome the difficulties in conveying their thoughts in written form. Fanfiction projects increase students' excitement for writing; even students who have struggled to structure their ideas or were reluctant to engage in writing can complete their fanfiction projects (Bippert, 2017; Surya & Aiswarya, 2021). Based on pre-interviews, students taking a creative writing course at one of the universities in Tasikmalaya mentioned that fanfiction projects help them engage in writing and motivate them to re-write and produce literary works (e.g., fanfiction) again. This increase in motivation showed the potential benefits of fanfiction on students' writing skills. A study by Pawliczak (2015) showed that Creative activities such as fanfiction positively impact students' writing skills and support their creativity. This study considers to which extent

students' interest in fanfiction can positively influence their writing abilities and foster a deeper appreciation for storytelling.

Some previous studies have observed the use of fanfiction in education (Abdulrahman & Cahyati, 2020; Sauro, 2019; Surya & Aiswarya, 2021; Toivakka, 2018). However, these previous studies only focused on literacy development and fanfiction as motivational factors for students in language learning. As Hind, G, (2021) stated that many studies have been conducted about the use of fanfiction in promoting students' personal interest in classroom and introducing fanfiction as a writing material. This is probably because many students are interested in movies, books, music, or video game characters, and they can insert their favorite characters into creating storylines. However, little attention is addressed to the empirical investigation of students' perspectives on the benefits of fanfiction project on their writing skills.

Thus, to fill the gap, this study focused on developing and investigating students' perceptions of fanfiction projects and how engaging in fanfiction writing affects students' writing skills—focusing on their review of the benefits of fanfiction projects in creative writing courses.

## **1.2 Formulation of the Problem**

One research question is addressed in the present study, the researchers investigate “What are students’ perception towards the benefits of fanfiction projects on their writing skills?”

## **1.3 Operational Definitions**

To avoid misunderstanding, about the terms set out in this study, the author provides some definitions related to this study:

- 1) Creative Writing : Creative writing is the course which design to facilitate students’ creativity and develop their writing skills. Through creative writing the students are allowed to express ideas and thoughts freely whether it is through songs,

poems, movie, or fiction/nonfiction story based on students' imagination.

- 2) Fanfiction : One of creative writing assignment that require students to create a story about existing characters based on their favourite celebrity, artist etc. contribute to a new plot or settings.
- 3) Writing skills : The ability to express their thoughts and ideas through written form by expanding the plotline, settings, and existing characters based on the original of stories along with appropriate grammar rules and vocabulary.

#### **1.4 Aim of the Research**

This research aims to explore the students' perception towards the benefits of fanfiction projects on their writing skills.

#### **1.5 Significances of the Research**

##### **1.5.1 Theoretical use**

This research develops the results of previous studies about creative writing in relation to writing skills development. This research investigates the students' perception of the benefits of fanfiction projects on their writing skills.

##### **1.5.2 Practical use**

The study can provide participants or researchers with practical matters in applying and researching the benefits of fanfiction projects on students' writing skills.

##### **1.5.3 Empirical use**

The result of this study is providing an empirical insight on what are students' perception towards the benefits of fanfiction projects on students' writing skills.