

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Writing is an essential skill for language production. Students can express their thoughts and compose their ideas in written form through writing. It is a way to share particular meanings and emphasize students to construct their views on a topic (Nurhayati, 2016). Writing is also considered a fundamental communication skill and plays a crucial part in language learning. It is presumed to hold great importance to academic success because it is often used as a form of assessment measure in academic settings to evaluate students' language ability. Thus, writing cannot be ignored since it is an important skill in daily life (Thi & Anh, 2019). However, Indonesian students revealed that writing is a difficult skill to learn due to the long process of writing, which consists of planning, drafting, editing, and revising (Rosiana & Yasmin, 2017). In recent years, many online media and applications can be used to support writing activity since technology has developed well and fast in every sector, including education. The development of digital technology brings a new method of teaching-learning. There are many ways that students can use to improve their language skills, for example, by writing Fanfiction.

Writing Fanfiction may become an activity that has the potential to be useful as a tool to help EFL students make improvements in their writing skills to some level. Through writing fan fiction, students will become familiar with the concepts of literature. Thus, they can work on the concepts of literature to write their fiction. According to Alim (2011), literary works help language learning by increasing vocabulary, understanding sentence structure, and interpreting context. The easy

publishing process, free access, and large audience encouraged EFL students to write their fan fiction on the online platform. An online platform, Wattpad, hosts many writers along with their stories. On this platform, the students also gathered many readers. Writing Fanfiction on this platform enables the readers to read the stories and lets the students know how their readers reacted.

Since writing is a meaningful skill, students need more exercise and practice, one of which can be tried through creative writing. Göçen (2019) defined creative writing as a process-based writing approach that will make students feel like writing and regard writing as a need. In creative writing, Fanfiction is an interesting means used to practice writing. Compared to any other kind of writing, Fanfiction is less formal. Fanfiction is a work made by fandoms in the form of creative writing that establishes characters from movies, television series, novels, singing groups, and other areas of popular culture where there is a relationship between characters (Widjayati & Anwar, 2020). Writing Fanfiction trains students' critical thinking because students have to think clearly about story concepts starting from the plot, setting, and characters. Fanfiction could affect their ability to learn vocabulary, where students can be trained to choose more varied words in their writing. Hence, their language skills could be developed through writing Fanfiction (Korobkova & Black, 2014).

Creative writing class in the English Education Department used Fanfiction to encourage students' literacy works. In this class, the students are expected to write their creative writing in original manuscripts. They are encouraged to write Fanfiction in any kind of genre, such as romance, fantasy, and adventure as the task. Their works were also published on online platforms like Wattpad. When the Fanfiction was uploaded, students commented on their friend's work. Therefore, they know what the readers think about their work. Based on

preliminary study through interviews, students argued that writing Fanfiction is an interesting project because they can write the stories based on their imagination, starting from the storyline and setting with their favorite character.

Fanfiction has increasingly gained attention from academics, and it can be made as an alternative means to teaching writing to students. The result of the study conducted by Surya and Aiswarya in 2021 showed that 88.7 % of the respondents pointed out that Fanfiction helped improve their L2 skills, including grammar, vocabulary, and language fluency. Furthermore, 72.6 % of the respondents also encouraged using Fanfiction as an academic tool to enhance the development and improvement of English skills. Besides, the study by Sauro and Sundmark (2016) also found that Fanfiction positively influenced and supported literary and language learning in students. They found that writing Fanfiction enhanced students' language skills and increased their vocabulary, although they do not commonly use English daily.

Based on the previous studies and the phenomenon, the researcher will specifically explore students' perception of writing Fanfiction during a creative writing class. Students' perception of writing Fanfiction during creative writing class may be different for every student. Their different experiences can cause it. Based on the different perceptions among the students, the researcher wants to observe their perceptions. Thus, this study does not measure participants' writing skills but explores students' opinions about Fanfiction based on their experiences as Fanfiction authors.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problem in this thesis as follows; what are students' perceptions about writing fanfiction during creative writing class?

1.3 Operational Definitions

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms set out in this study, the researcher provides the definition related to this study as follows:

1.3.1 Students' Perceptions Students' perceptions are an impression of students' experiences in the educational environment, especially in writing Fanfiction during creative writing courses, through their sensory systems and feelings. Hence, students can give meaning to and interpret their experiences.

1.3.2 Creative Writing Creative writing is an elective course offered by the English Education Department, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Teachers' Training in a University in West Java, Indonesia, specifically at Siliwangi University. This course is designed to capitalize on students' creative abilities in creative writing works such as fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction writing, and more, intending to educate or entertain someone, spread awareness about something, and

express thoughts.

1.3.3 Fanfiction in EFL

The learning material used in the creative writing course is Fanfiction. Fanfiction is a product of creativity in the form of stories written by students involving the cast/character from a specific person or group, including plot lines, characters, and settings that can grab the reader's attention.

1.4 Aims of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, here are the aim of the study;

- 1.4.1 Theoretically** This study provides the literature of writing fanfiction, especially at the Indonesian tertiary educational level.
- 1.4.2 Empirically** This study reveals empirical insights about students' perceptions of writing fanfiction. Thus, it will contribute to providing an overview of the advantages of writing fanfiction, especially during creative writing class.
- 1.4.3 Practically** In addition, this study provides practical insights to English language teachers concerned with the implementation of writing fanfiction in writing class, so the researcher hopes they will be more creative and innovative in conducting English teaching and learning activities.

1.5 Significances of the Study

By conducting this study, the researcher hopes that this study can be useful for the teachers, the students, the other researchers, and the institution.

- 1.5.1 For the teachers** The result of this research provides information about students' perception of writing fanfiction during writing class. The teacher also can use different media while teaching writing but be more careful about the media that is used in the classroom.
- 1.5.2 For the learners** The research can be used to motivate students in mastering writing ability because by writing fanfiction, the atmosphere of learning will be interesting.
- 1.5.3 For the further researcher** The research result provides information and knowledge about students' perception of writing fanfiction during creative writing class and to do the next research in the future with a different aspect of psychological background.
- 1.5.4 For the institution** The research result is expected to be a reference and information for the educational institution to encourage their English teachers to be more creative and innovative in conducting English teaching and learning.