

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In academic context, writing plays an important role in conveying knowledge, and arguments. Writing is not about presenting information, but also about how to convey it in a clear, structured, and logical way. According to Khalifa and Albadawy, (2024), academic writing is a crucial element in the world of research and education, requiring disciplined techniques to communicate ideas clearly. Effective academic writing not only demands strong arguments but also systematic organization of ideas so that the intended message is easily understood by readers. Before beginning the writing process, researchers must first gather knowledge by identifying and developing research ideas. This process can be highly challenging as it involves identifying unresolved and relevant issues, justifying the significance of the issue, and assessing the feasibility of available methods to address it (August et al., 2023). These challenges often slow down the writing process and make it less efficient.

In recent years, AI tools have seen a growing presence in the field of education, providing innovative support for students in their academic tasks. One of the AI tools used is ChatGPT, which has become popular for its ability to provide interactive text-based responses. ChatGPT is a machine learning-based software that uses the Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) algorithm to generate human-like responses based on text input (Adıgüzel et al., 2023). ChatGPT serves as a solution to assist students in the process of organizing ideas. It aids in generating and organizing ideas by providing prompts and recommendations, helping writers achieve clear and effective written communication (Chukwuere, 2024). By offering guidance and suggestions, ChatGPT supports writers in producing clearer and more effective writing. This technology enables students to better map and organize their ideas, resulting in more structured academic writing.

Students often face challenges when trying to organize their ideas clearly during writing. In response to these challenges, ChatGPT can help individuals create outlines for writing tasks, especially when they face difficulties in organizing their

ideas or structuring their writing (Nguyen et al., 2024). Furthermore, ChatGPT offers additional support in academic writing by providing features such as summaries, abstracts, and structured conclusions. This not only helps researchers articulate their ideas more clearly but also improves focus and efficiency in writing (Mahyoob et al., 2023).

The selection of ChatGPT as the focus of this research is based on the important role of technology in facilitating various aspects of life, including education. In the academic context, students are frequently faced with various tasks that require academic writing. These tasks demand not only a deep understanding of the subject matter but also the ability to organize ideas. Based on preliminary interviews with the participants, it is found that some students had difficulty in organizing their ideas systematically, which impacted their confidence and efficiency in writing. On the other hand, the ability to organize ideas is a key component of effective writing. Therefore, they used ChatGPT as a tool to help organize their ideas. Proper organization helps ensure that readers can follow the arguments easily, which directly impacts the clarity of the writing.

In this context, ChatGPT emerges as a potential tool to help students organize their ideas. Nevertheless, it is crucial to understand students' perceptions of ChatGPT in its role as a medium for organizing ideas in academic writing. These perceptions of ChatGPT include their views on the usefulness and ease of use of ChatGPT in helping them organize ideas. This aligns with The Technology Acceptance Model by Davis (1989), which highlights two key factors, perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEU). TAM is applied in this study to understand how students' perceptions of the usefulness and ease of use of ChatGPT influence their acceptance of this technology as a tool for organizing ideas in academic writing.

Several studies have been conducted to explore the application of ChatGPT in academic writing. Zebua and Katemba (2024) investigated students' perceptions of using ChatGPT to improve writing skills. The results showed that many students had positive perceptions of using ChatGPT, particularly in terms of motivation, user-friendly features, and grammar improvement. Meanwhile, Kim et al. (2024)

examined students' perceptions of ChatGPT and found that students view it as an effective multitasking tool, virtual tutor, and digital companion that supports the writing process. On the other hand, Song and Song (2023) investigated the effectiveness of ChatGPT in enhancing academic writing skills, and their study showed that using AI like ChatGPT significantly improved writing skills and motivation among EFL students compared to those receiving traditional instruction.

However, previous studies highlight the benefits of ChatGPT in academic writing generally, no research has specifically explored how ChatGPT helps students organize their ideas in academic writing. The lack of focus on idea organization is significant. Idea organization is a crucial step in producing well-structured and effective academic writing, and it remains a significant challenge for many students. Many students experienced difficulties in this aspect and it impacted the quality of their work. This study aims to fill that gap by providing a deeper understanding of students' perceptions of ChatGPT as a tool for organizing their ideas in the context of academic writing.

## **B. Formulation of the Problem**

The main issue to be investigated in this study is understanding how university students perceive the use of ChatGPT as a tool for organizing ideas in academic writing. Given that ChatGPT offers various functions that can assist in the writing process, it is important to explore whether students find this technology useful and easy to integrate into their academic writing activities. More specifically, the research question is "What are university students' perceptions of ChatGPT as a media for organizing ideas in academic writing?".

## **C. Operational Definitions**

### **1. Students' Perceptions**

Students' perceptions refer to the subjective views and responses of university students regarding the use of ChatGPT as a tool for organizing ideas effectively and efficiently. Effective means that ChatGPT helps students organize their ideas clearly and logically. While efficient means that ChatGPT makes the process faster and easier.

## **2. Academic Writing**

Academic writing refers to the process of composing written works at the university level without being limited to certain courses, which requires students to convey ideas in a clear way. Academic writing typically consists of several stages, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. However, the focus of this research is on the prewriting stage, where students need to organize their ideas before starting to write.

## **3. Organizing Ideas**

Organizing ideas is an important part of the writing process, ensuring that the content of the writing flows logically and is easy to understand. This activity includes collecting potential ideas, grouping related ideas into certain themes, and ordering these ideas in a clear order to form a structured thought process. The process of organizing ideas begins at the prewriting stage, especially through brainstorming activities. In this context, ChatGPT plays a role in helping students organize ideas more clearly and logically, thereby increasing the effectiveness of their academic writing.

## **4. ChatGPT**

ChatGPT is an AI language model developed by OpenAI to aid natural language processing and generate human-like text responses. In this research, ChatGPT functions as a tool for students to organize ideas in academic writing. ChatGPT provides writing structure guidance, and suggestions for further development of ideas, and transforms initial ideas into a more structured and logical organization. With the help of ChatGPT, students are expected to be able to overcome confusion in determining the direction of writing, thereby simplifying the process of developing writing flow.

## **D. Aim of the Study**

This study aims to investigate university students' perceptions of using ChatGPT as a tool for organizing ideas in academic writing. This research will explore how students perceive the usefulness and ease of use of ChatGPT in helping them organize their ideas. By examining their experiences, this research seeks to provide insight into the role of ChatGPT in academic writing.

## **E. Significances of the Study**

### **1. Theoretical Significance**

This research will contribute to the theoretical framework by enriching the literature on the role of ChatGPT in academic writing and idea organization, offering insights into how this technology can be effectively utilized in educational contexts.

### **2. Practical Significance**

This research will offer guidelines and recommendations for students on how to use ChatGPT to enhance their writing skills. By providing actionable insights, this study aims to support students in integrating this technology into their academic practices, ultimately fostering their development as proficient writers.

### **3. Empirical Significance**

This research will provide valuable data on students' perceptions of ChatGPT, assessing its effectiveness as a tool for organizing ideas in academic writing. This data will contribute to a better understanding of how students interact with and benefit from this technology in their writing processes.