

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In the modern era where technology takes an important part in it, all information has been easy to be accessed through social media, the internet, electronic news, television, and so on. It helps individuals to gain knowledge. But these things should be accompanied by digital literacy skills to understand and follow the rapid development of technology in this modern era. The lack of digital literacy may cause some things in daily life, especially in education. Amelia and Lailiyah (2020) stated that the language learning process is still hampered by the lack of teachers' competence in reading phonetic symbols in the dictionary. It causes how teachers teach language in their classrooms. Even though the development of technology should be able to minimize it.

In light of the rapid development of technology, people are required to be digitally literate. Technology becomes a part of daily life. It influences the way people think, the way people communicate, the way people act, etc. It involves people's literacy to use technology. Heitin (2016) assumed that the word literacy originally refers to reading and writing skills but when it attaches the technology it becomes much and much more definitions. Digital literacy is an important thing that is needed to be able to participate in the modern era (Sutrisna, 2020). It is

undeniable that technology is now an important asset for many people. Ngafifi (2014) stated that the advance in technology will develop according to the development of science. People are given conveniences and the other way to do something easily. In some conditions, all activities have been digitized by the advances in technology such as in the education sector. If previously communication and interaction were limited by face-to-face interaction, but now it has developed with the presence of technology (Sudin, 2013). Being digitally literate someone may simply access many things wherever and whenever they want.

The urgency of digital literacy today is certainly an important thing. Roza (2020) said the development of technology and communication has a big potential in social life. Its development must be accompanied by digital literacy competencies. In another word, the use of technology in social life must be balanced with digital literacy competencies. If people have good competence in technology, it may give a big contribution to social life. It is required anyone to have literacy, skill, and ability in utilizing digital media (Marini, Hanum, and Sulisty, 2020). But in fact, there are still many people who still do not have digital literacy skills yet. The huge number of Internet users in Indonesia, as well as the high recurrence of getting to information content and social media, do not fundamentally ensure the 'maturity' of netizens in utilizing the Internet (Kurnia and Astuti, 2017). The maturity of someone doesn't ensure maturity in their action. Children and young

people are frequently cast not as they were at the most active user but also as the most at risk (Gruszczynska, Merchant, and Pountney, 2013). So, guidance from adult people is needed. But the next question is whether adult people have good digital literacy skills. This is certainly very worrying because internet users have reached 70 million people from the young generation. They spent their time surfing the internet using their smartphone and others. Internet users in Indonesia have developed into passive users, in other words, they are only consumptive users without optimally utilizing advanced technology. It can be concluded that the individual competence of internet users in Indonesia is still low.

Nowadays, digital competence is needed in social life including in the education sector. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus in Indonesia minister of education, Nadiem Anwar Makarim, through circular letter number 4 of 2020 regarding the implementation of education policies in the emergency period of the outbreak of Coronavirus states that the learning process from home through online learning is carried out to provide meaningful learning experiences for students, without being burdened with the demands of completing all curriculum. The implementation of technology during this period is needed to carry out the learning process. Education society is forced to be able to operate, to master technology to be implemented in teaching and learning. Teachers need to see deeper how important digital literacy is. They should be digitally literate in the modern era. This

becomes their need in this modern era even in this pandemic era. Digital literacy is not only about the process of students' interaction with digital media, but also about how the contribution of the interaction lies in various aspects of students' growth and development. Education in this era can be formulated as the competencies in utilizing animation, images, and languages that are processed with technological and multimedia ideas (Amin, 2020). The use of digital media in teaching and learning also can improve the quality of language teaching.

The urgency of teachers' competencies in digital literacy especially in using digital media led the government to design a digital literacy program which was launched in May 2021 and will continue to be implemented until 2024 (Agustini, 2021). One of the programs is teaching assistant or called *Kampus Mengajar* where varsity students are given the opportunities to take part in some schools in Indonesia especially intended for schools in remote areas called 3T. It aims to assist teachers in implementing the learning and teaching process during the pandemic period. Some activities such as how-to-concept online learning, creative strategy in both online and offline learning, and digital literacy including digital media are required to be held during the *Kampus Mengajar* period. The implementation of *Kampus Mengajar* is hoped that it may help teachers who get barriers to applying and utilizing digital media so that learning will run effectively. Some teachers had no experience in using digital media in teaching. Some of them used students' workbooks, and guidebooks for each subject until

the time came when teachers need to adapt to the use of some digital media such as Google Classroom in their teaching.

In the learning and teaching process teachers is the facilitator for students, which means that teachers need to be able to facilitate students' need for learning to be more enjoyable. The use of a guidebook is sometimes not effective to be used for today's students, and it also takes so much time for them to read. Students have different characteristics nowadays and teachers should analyze what kind of method that suitable for those students. The new method of teaching can be one of the ways for teachers to teach their students. This can certainly be done by utilizing digital media which is currently growing. Teachers are forced to develop learning into varied learning so that difficult material can be easily understood by students.

The researcher has conducted a teaching practice program that have been done from August 16<sup>th</sup> until October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During this time, the researcher applied some methods of teaching such as using Mentimeter to do a mini survey about what have they learned during online learning, and also the researcher used Instagram features to do some pre-test and post-test. Students were interested in the implementation of digital media itself. Meanwhile, the researcher found that the efforts to implement digital media literacy-based learning have been implemented at SMAN 1 Adiluwih by the teachers before but in its

implementation, there are still problems encountered such as students had no internet quota, the application was not familiar yet, and so on. Thus, the researcher wants to explore more deeply related to teachers' competence in digital media at SMAN 1 Adiluwih and its obstacles when they implement teaching using digital media.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

1. What are teachers' competencies in utilizing digital media in language teaching at SMAN 1 Adiluwih?
2. What are teachers' obstacles in utilizing digital media in language teaching at SMAN 1 Adiluwih?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the problem stated above, this research aims to

1. To determine teachers' competencies in utilizing digital media in language teaching.
2. To identify teachers' obstacles in utilizing digital media in language teaching.

## **1.4 Uses of the Study**

This research will bring benefits both theoretically and practically, those are as follows :

### **1. Theoretically**

This research provides information about digital media, digital media literacy, and understanding of those points. It provides an understanding of the

importance of digital literacy competence for teachers to be used in the learning and teaching process. Then the information in this research can be taken as a reference for the learning and teaching process.

## **2. Practically**

This research will practically bring benefits for :

### **a. The author**

This research will be useful for the author to enhance more information and knowledge on teachers' competence in digital media and its implementation in the learning and teaching process.

### **b. The teachers**

This will become the references for teachers to see deeper the importance of teachers' competence in digital media in teaching and learning activities. It also can be the source for teachers to create a new method of teaching by implementing digital media in their teaching and learning classroom.

### **c. The readers**

As part of references for readers to take an important point from this research. To see how important teachers' competence in digital media is in industrial revolution 4.0, especially in a pandemic situation. As well as to know the usage of digital media so that it will be one of the sources for readers, librarians, teachers, and other people.

### **d. The future researchers**

To enable future researchers to increase the insight into teachers' competence in digital media study. As the references to research on the theme of teachers' competence in digital media to develop their research.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

In collecting the data for this research, the researcher has the scope of this research only in describing the EFL teachers' digital media literacy, especially the competence in utilizing digital media, and EFL teachers' competence regarding the policy in using digital media. This study involves all English teachers since there are only two English teachers in SMAN 1 Adiluwih. One teacher teaches students in the first and the third grade of senior high school and the other one teaches the second grade of senior high school of this school.