CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In the growing digital era, education faces the challenge of digital transformation that impacts universities and other educational institutions (Anderson et al., 2023) One of the significant innovations in recent years is the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), which has attracted much attention for its potential to revolutionize educational practices (García-Peñalvo, 2023). In Particular, AI applications like ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, are gaining popularity in educational settings, offering promising prospects for improving learning experiences, especially in writing skills (Ngo, 2023).

ChatGPT, an AI-powered chatbot, stands out for its ability to automatically generate text in response to user input, catering to formal and informal writing contexts (Shidiq, 2023). Previous research shows that university students often use AI applications such as ChatGPT to assist them in essay writing tasks, and they view it as a helpful tool that facilitates an enjoyable writing experience while providing time-saving benefits and personalized feedback (Ngo, 2023; Toar et al., 2022).

It is important to note that in the context of English education, essay writing courses are often an important and compulsory part of the curriculum in various colleges, including Muhammadiyah Surakarta University. Students taking this course, especially in semester 3, are at a more advanced stage in developing writing skills. Therefore, their understanding of the use of AI technologies such as ChatGPT in an academic context can provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in their writing learning process.

However, it is crucial to recognize that ChatGPT and similar AI technologies are merely tools to support learning and not the primary sources of knowledge (Liu, 2023). Concerns have been raised about students' ability to discern the quality and authenticity of information generated by such platforms, especially in an academic environment where critical thinking and source evaluation are essential (Ngo, 2023). This underscored the ongoing debate regarding the efficacy and ethical implications of integrating AI into educational practices, especially for students who struggle with writing proficiency.

This debate about integrating AI like ChatGPT in education that led the researcher to conduct this study. This study aims to explore university students'

perceptions and experiences regarding the impact of ChatGPT on their writing skills. By exploring students' perspectives, this research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the complexities of integrating AI technologies such as ChatGPT into a higher education context. This research not only contributes to a better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages associated with AI-enhanced learning, but it also provides valuable insights for educators, educational institutions, and students.

By explaining students' perceptions of the use of ChatGPT in academic writing, this study aims to provide information regarding students' views on the use of ChatGPT in writing skills along with its advantages and disadvantages. Ultimately, the findings of this study may facilitate informed discourse and simplify knowledge-based decision-making regarding the integration of AI into educational practices.

B. Problem Statements

Based on the phenomena above the researcher has the problems to analyze:
1. What is the students' perception of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills?
2. What are the advantages of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills?
3. What are the disadvantages of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills?

C. Objective of The Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the purposes of this study are:
1. To describe the students' perception of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills
2. To describe the advantages of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills
3. To describe the disadvantages of the use of ChatGPT in improving writing skills

D. Benefits of The Study

Given the importance of this research in a variety of factors, the benefits of this study are viewed from two aspects:
1. Theoretically
   a. This research is expected to help enhance our understanding of how artificial intelligence-based tools like ChatGPT influence the learning process in the context of English education.
   b. This research is expected to provide insights for educators to refine their pedagogical strategies and adapt teaching methods in language education.

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2. Practically

The results of this research are expected to benefit educators and education policymakers. Furthermore, it is hoped that they will assist educators in designing more effective and thoughtful learning programs by harnessing ChatGPT technology to enhance students' writing skills. Additionally, education policymakers can use the research findings as a foundation for developing guidelines for using technology in English language learning at the university level, ultimately improving the quality of education.