

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

From this study, several conclusions could be drawn. First, a blog is one of the examples of Web 2.0 that could be used for language teaching and learning. It could be integrated in the classroom activities. The features offered by blogs are expected to help teachers in increasing their performance in the classrooms. Second, writing on a blog could encourage students to write in public places. They are more aware to their writing because it is published virtually. Because of this authentic environment, students face the real audiences in their learning. The readers are not limited to their teachers and classmates because their works could be read by people beyond the classrooms. By providing this environment, students are not only learning the materials but also using it in the communication purposes. Third, blogging promotes students to be involved in social interactions. It brings social community in the classrooms where students are allowed to access their classmates' works and give comments or feedbacks.

The findings of this study found the teacher's perceptions in integrating blogs. A teacher should understand the features offered by blogs to maximize its advantages. This is because the teacher's ability in operating a particular digital tool affects the teaching performance in the class. Apart from that, following the growth of technology is important to engage students in the 21st century learning. It is expected to support students who are born in this digital era where technology and social media emerging their daily life. From this point of view, students might be more proficient in using digital technology than the teacher does. As results, a teacher who does not understand a particular digital tool could ask students how to operate it. This is a good situation because both teachers and students could complement one another. Another solution, teachers are required to participate actively in every events or training related to the ICT-based learning. Those trainings help teachers in understanding the detailed pictures of digital technology implementations in the classrooms. Trainings also help teachers to be more aware

of the new technological tools or media. In conclusion, a teacher has to be up-to-date of the recent trends in the teaching and learning method or strategy.

There are several challenges in implementing blogs into the language learning. First, some teacher might be unfamiliar with the blogs features. It could be solved by the habitual usage of the blogs because unfamiliarity might come from the rare usage of it. In other words, the habits and frequent usage of blogs influenced teachers' knowledge in operating the tools. The second challenge is related to the teachers' motivation in adapting new tools for their teaching. There were teachers who liked exploring new tools and those who tended to stay on the old ways of teaching. Some of them were not interested to try using new innovation because they were fixated in the comfort zone. Another challenge addresses the preparation of richer materials. Because of the broad space blogs offered in its features, a teacher was challenged to present richer learning materials. Teachers could provide many types of resources and the additional resources to assist students' language learning. The fourth challenge is maintaining good Internet connection. The use of blogs in the classroom required Internet connection. Although the school provides Wi-Fi as a facility, it is better to prepare for the unexpected events.

Aside from its challenges, several benefits and advantages are also offered by blogs in the language learning. Blogs help the teacher providing accessible learning materials where students could access it any time without limiting their location. Students could access it everywhere even though they learn it outside the classrooms. Therefore, when there was an activity that required students to learn outside the classroom, they could still check the materials which the teacher posted on the blog. It could be concluded that blogs was functioned as a facility to support the teaching and learning processes. Another benefit of blogs was seemed from its effectiveness in offering a systematic platform to give instructions for students. All learning materials, instructions, and students' assignments could be compiled in one structured platform. Apart from that, blogs provide fun environments and challenging atmospheres for students to avoid monotonous learning. By using blogs, students are encouraged to access new ways of language learning.

Other benefits were also found in this study. Besides providing fun environments and challenging atmospheres, blogs reduced the amount of budget costs. The paper usage could be decreased from both teachers and students. It also helps teachers avoiding the data lost because blogs could be functioned as an online drive. It did not affect the teaching and learning processes when teachers forgot to bring their flash drive or learning materials. The teacher also could monitor students' works without bringing papers. Apart from that, the social community could be built between students in their classrooms. They could learn from other students' works when it was posted on the blogs. By using blogs, teachers could attach different kinds of file types to support students' resources in learning the materials.

Other findings were also found in this study related to students' writing results posted on the blog. For contents, students chose their topics based on their interest found in the school area. It implied that the teacher used local content in teaching. Giving students the freedom to choose topics based on their interests could reduce their writing anxiety. All students applied what they had learned in organizing the generic structure of news item texts. In vocabulary, some students' sentences seemed to be translated from Bahasa to English by using translation machine provided by online websites. Common mistakes were found in the use of tenses. However, the meanings were not obscured. Based on mechanics, students should pay attention to capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Capitalization mistakes were found in name of people and places, beginning of sentences, and titles before a person's name. In punctuation, the mistakes that were found were related to the use of full stop at the end of sentences, comma before direct speeches, and speech marks.

From the explanation above, blogs could be applied in classroom activities. It also supports the scientific approach in 2013 Curriculum where students are required to adjust their learning in the 21st century. Apart from that, blogs are expected to enrich the learning media used by teachers. By using blogs, teachers could provide different kinds of learning materials to assist students' language learning.

5.2. Limitations

Various factors might limit every study. In this study, the first limitation is related to the time allocation. Exploring the teacher's practice in four meetings might not be sufficient to conclude the whole integration of blogs into an EFL writing class based on the scientific approach. Second, this study only focused on exploring the teacher's practice, the teacher's perceptions, and students' writing results posted on the blogs. On the other hand, it is also important to explore whether or not the blogs integration is successfully reached the students. Third, this study only focused on the writing class. On the other hand, the blogs could be implemented in other language skills. Fourth, the data collection was confined to only one English teacher. Therefore, the participant in this study could not represent teachers' practice in Sragen, Central Java, Indonesia. Besides, the research site which is located in countryside might also affect the findings of this study. In other words, different characteristics of a research site and school types might influence pattern of findings differences.

5.3. Recommendations for Further Researches

Considering several limitations of the study, there are recommendations for the further researches. First, it is recommended to extend the time allocation and broaden the participants or scope of the study. Various characteristics of participants might enrich the study results. Other than that, different types of schools, such as private schools or public schools, might present different results. Besides the school types, areas where a study is conducted also influence the study findings. Second, implementing blogs into classroom activities needs technological skills for both teachers and students. Adequate trainings are highly recommended to be provided by education institutions. Third, the study of blogs integrations could be broadened into other language skills which focus on reading, listening, and speaking.