EFL STUDENTS PERCEIVED STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF DEEPL AS A TRANSLASTION TOOL IN LEARNING PROCESS

THESIS

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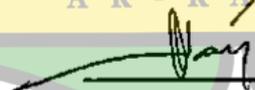
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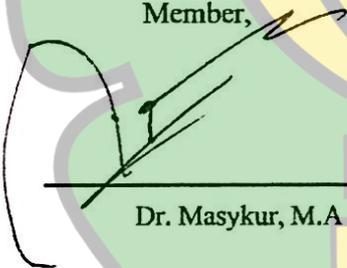
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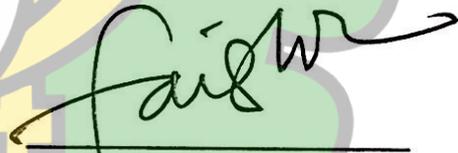
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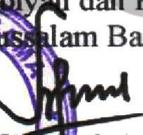
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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

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Menyatakan dengan sesungguhnya bahwa skripsi yang berjudul:

EFL STUDENTS PERCEIVED STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF DEEPL AS A TRANSLATION TOOL IN LEARNING PROCESS

Adalah benar-benar karya saya, **kecuali semua kutipan dan referensi yang disebutkan sumbernya**. Apabila terdapat kesalahan dan keliruan di dalamnya, maka akan sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya. Demikianlah surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya.

Banda Aceh, 31 Desember 2024

Saya yang membuat pernyataan ini,

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I hope this thesis can be useful and give related information for the readers. I realize this thesis far from perfections, every constructive criticism and suggestions are needed for the improvement of this thesis.

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ABSTRACT

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Name	: Cut Fitria Sherina
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Faculty	: Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan
Major	: Department of English Language Education
Thesis working title	: EFL Students Perceived Strengths and Weaknesses of DeeL as A Translation Tool in Learning Process
Main supervisor	: Prof. Jarjani Usman, S.Ag., SS., M.Sc., M.S., Ph.D
Keywords	: Translation tool, DeepL, strengths, weaknesses

This study was conducted to explore the EFL student perceived strengths and weaknesses of DeepL as a translation tool in learning process. This study is qualitative research. Data was collected through interviews with the participants. The participants of this study were EFL students studying at UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh, specifically students majoring English Education Department, class of 2023. The participants were selected based on their experience of the using DeepL as their translation tool in learning language. The results of this study answer two research questions of this thesis. There are how do EFL students perceive strengths of DeepL as a translation tool in learning process and what are the EFL students perceive weaknesses of DeepL as a translation tool in learning process. This study aims to find out the positive impacts that EFL students perceived in DeepL as a translation tool for the learning process and the weaknesses that EFL students perceived in DeepL as a translation tool for the learning process. The study explores the strengths and weaknesses of DeepL as a translation tool for EFL students. It found that DeepL is easy to use, effective, and beneficial in improving English language skills, particularly sentence structure, vocabulary, and pronunciation. However, it faces challenges in translating into regional languages, idioms, slang, and technical sentences, and may not function optimally without an unstable internet connection.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will provide a description of the subject of discussion in this study. These include research background, research questions, research objectives, research significance, and terminology.

A. Background of Study

Translation has an important role in communication. Translation is a medium to transfer knowledge or information. Translation is one of the bridges that connects translation, people can also learn languages and understand other cultures. In other words, translation is not only to change or interpret the meaning of a word, but can transfer cultural equivalence with the language culture and also accept the language properly. According studies by Putra et al (2022),a translation that has a meaning that is close to the meaning in the form of logic and based on facts can satisfy anyone because they get clear information from the results of translating a language. Translation is interpreting or transferring meanings word to word from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL) but it includes several contexts that can distinguish meanings (Nurkholis et al, 2022). This is particularly crucial learning a foreign or second language. It facilitates our ability to comprehend a language and determine its proper meaning.

Today translation has been using DeepL to the existence of technological tools. Technology plays a crucial role in education, especially

when it comes to studying foreign languages (FL), and a variety of technology tools give students new opportunities to practice and improve their language skills (Polakova and Klimova, 2023). Online translation machine can enhance understanding and provide quick references, they should be used as supplementary aids in the language learning process, rather than replacements for traditional learning methods (Zuhairo and Kembaren, 2024). The machine translator is certainly familiar to EFL students. This tool is often used, even arguably very useful and helps students to perfect words in translating from one language to another that they want to translate. The importance of the online translation tool as a didactic tool in the language education process and translation of the educational process (Alsubhi, 2024). The online translator machine is a tool that is currently being used as a benchmark when translating words and sentences from foreign languages that are widely used by today's society especially students and EFL students, because the use of online translation machine is increasing so that many companies are racing to make this translate machine from free to paid, because more and more sophisticated technology today so that makes the translation engine companies then race to create a more intelligent and variable online translations machine (Kucis and Seljan,2014). EFL students may often use machine translator as their translation tool when they are making assignments or looking up vocabulary that they want to know the meaning of the word. in addition, EFL students may also use the site to correct the correct pronunciation. There are a lot of media and technology that can be used to help students in learning (Prayudi et al, 2021).

There are platforms that students can use to translate languages, one example is DeepL. DeepL is an innovative machine translation engine that automatically translates between two languages using deep learning and neural machine translation (Dressmann and Sadler, 2020). In addition to word-for-word translation, this platform can also detect proper grammar with precise and correct accuracy. DeepL can also inform EFL students of new vocabulary and correct pronunciation of words. This platform can also teach us how to write, spell, how to pronounce words correctly, and how to read sentences correctly. DeepL is very easy to access, accessing DeepL can be through computers, laptops, and smartphones. Thus, EFL students can access it anywhere and anytime.

In this research, unlike the previous studies the research will focus on what are the perceived positive impacts of using DeepL as a translation tool for EFL students and what are the strengths and weaknesses of using DeepL for EFL students. Furthermore, this study aims to clarify if these translations will hold their effectiveness over time and whether EFL students would utilize the translations without verifying their accuracy, in helping to sharpen better EFL students in their learning skills. Several studies have described the use of DeepL translation tool in translation. based on previous research conducted by Polakova & Klimova (2023) this study was conducted to see how familiar this translation machine is used by EFL students and then pay attention to what positive impact EFL students get when using this application. then this research

also aims to see this where this research will be aimed at EFL students UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh.

However, this research on the perceived strength and weaknesses is really carried out in strengths and weaknesses in this research. Based on research conducted by Sutrisno (2020) where gaps in the use of machine translation in previous studies, gaps that very often arise and must be considered again are problems in the accuracy and selection of the correct word or not when they use the translation machine. In translating language, there are three aspects that must be applied accuracy, acceptance, and readability. According to him, many people including EFL students using machine translation are not careful in looking at accuracy and lack of reviewing what has been translated. According to Sipayung (2023) research, it can be said that machine translation is weak because the level of accuracy is still doubtful and not necessarily perfect to help humans in translating language. Therefore, the researcher will conduct a study on the strengths and weaknesses in using DeepL, which is known as one of the most widely recognized translation engines including EFL students.

The research design for this study focuses on qualitative research at UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, English Language Education Department. This study aims to identify and interpret the positive impact of using DeepL as a translation tool for EFL students and the weaknesses that EFL students feel when using the translation tool. This study was conducted at PBI UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, a university located in Jl. Syeikh Abdul Rauf Darussalam, Banda Aceh. The

study involved a sample of the population consisting of 2023 students. Data were collected by interview and recording, and then analysed descriptive.

B. Research Questions

The purpose of this study was to find answers to two research questions, which are:

1. How do EFL students' perceived strengths of DeepL as a translation tool in learning process?

2. What are the EFL students' perceived weaknesses of DeepL as a translation tool in learning process?

C. The Aims of The Study

The objectives of this study are to identify the following based regarding the way the problems are formulated:

1. The positive impacts that EFL students perceived in DeepL as a translation tool for the learning process.

2. The weaknesses that EFL students perceived in DeepL as a translation tool for the learning process.

D. Significant of The Study

This study focused on looking at how EFL students perceive the use of machine translation (MT). It is used as a DeepL site in learning English translation, and what an EFL student perceived about the strengths and weaknesses as they use the platform. The researchers hope that EFL students can learn to use DeepL well so that they can feel the positive impact while using

this DeepL as a translation tool. Thus, EFL students are expected to improve their ability to learn English as their second language.

As with the other things that will be investigated, with the existence of this research the researchers can convey perceived strengths and weaknesses of the student when using DeepL as the object of the translation tool among the current students. And hope that this research can also add insight to EFL students in using machine translation in honing and training their learning abilities to continue to strive to become students who are smart in language.

E. Terminologies

I would want to clarify the following terminology used in this research to help make clear what it means.

1. DeepL as translation tool for EFL students

In the last several decades, technological advances have grown rapidly and have greatly influenced the world. Where technological advances help and facilitate the work of its users. Academic matters are also not spared from technological advances, one of which is DeepL which is known as a translation tool assisted by server technology and the internet (Kamaluddin, 2024). The translator tool is certainly no longer foreign among EFL students. Students may have used this server to improve writing, grammar, vocabulary, and correct and precise pronunciation. Students also realize that this application is not only a tool but actually very helpful for students in changing a language (Sidiq and Syafryadin, 2024).

2. Strengths and weaknesses of DeepL

   a. *Strength*

   The strengths of using DeepL are numerous and make it an essential tool for anyone who needs to communicate in multiple languages quickly and accurately English in particular. The positive perceptions and perceived strengths suggest that DeepL can serve as a valuable supplementary tool to enhance language learning experiences. This is consistent with the findings of Sidiq and Syafryadin (2024), which state that DeepL is an essential and highly needed tool for translation, providing easy and straightforward translations. In addition, DeepL produces high-quality translations, with over 90% of sentences being reproduced word for word or with synonyms in a stable leftright order in both the original language and English (Plenter (2023).

   b. *Weaknesses*

   DeepL is an advanced translation technology that may make human work easy. It can translate text quickly and practically while also assisting in the development of particular English language skills. Additionally, DeepL might not always fully understand certain cultural references or idioms, which can to translations that aren't entirely accurate. Its effectiveness also depends on the data it has been trained on, if specific phrases or situations are not included in that data, the resulting translation may not be the best. This means that while DeepL

is a valuable and powerful tool for translation, users should take the time to review and adjust the translations to ensure they are accurate and appropriate for their specific needs. Doing so will help make sure the final result fits the intended meaning and context better (Kirana et al, 2024).