CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The technologies usage in the aspect of life in the recent era grows up since there are innovation and development of technology rapidly in worldwide society. Nowadays, all technologies are closely related to the use of internet connection. By the existence of internet, it brings human accesses in acquiring source of science and technology freely and practically. The use of technology and internet also occur in educational system.

The advancement in technology and internet today require students to be able to do things practically and effectively. The need of concept and mechanism-based teaching and learning of technology information seems to be a fundamental requirement in education that can’t be replaced. It was written in legislation Republic of Indonesia on Higher Education no. 12 year 2012 that:

“Higher education as part of the national education system has a strategic roles in the intellectual life of the nation and advance science and technology by observing and applying the values of humanities along with cultivation and sustainable empowerment of Indonesia”1

1 Derektorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, Depdikbud. (Jakarta: Depdikbud, 2012), 1
By the existence of technology, learning English becomes more fun and interesting by applying electronic usage in education that refers to electronic learning. Electronic learning brings changes in education. Of course, a new breakthrough requires students to be responsible in their learning. It means students do not learn English in real time or face to face with the lecturers or teachers, but students and teachers or lecturers are set in a situation where they can interact through digital or virtual word.

One of new breakthrough in electronic learning in virtual world is the existence of digital portfolios. It has been described as the next big thing in higher education computing.² Digital portfolio (also known as e-portfolio, e-folio and web-folio) is the product created by the students which contains a collection of digital artifact articulating experiences, achievement and learning.³ It can be formed of photo, audio, video, media, journal, etc. Digital portfolio considers becoming important in education, especially in higher education or university because it is suitable with the students trends in technology now. With a digital portfolio, students are demanded to demonstrate their learning progress, and reflect on what and how they have learned as well as devise their plans.⁴

⁴ J Chau, “Three stages of apprenticing students into portfolio ownership”. In G.O’Neill, S. Huntley-Moore, & P. Race (Eds.), Case studies of good practices in assessment of student learning in higher education, Dublin: All Ireland Society for Higher Education. 2007), 134
Digital portfolio is not only the term in education research, but also as one of learning and assessment usage. However in Indonesia, digital portfolio usage is rarely used rather than traditional portfolios in education. Through digital portfolio, both lecturers and students don’t need to carry portfolio anywhere. They simply access the internet anywhere and everywhere. Term of digital portfolio is used to describe the process and result of portfolio tasks that stored in electronic format through blog or web.

One media that can be used in the implementation of digital portfolios is weblog or blog. Blog (also known as weblog or personal journal) is a new media for people to express their own words, ideas and thought in public. This online media rapidly become most popular among internet user since most of users (called as bloggers) use it for self-expression and sharing such things as writing, videos, pictures, etc.

English Teacher Education Department State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya has CALL as one of the courses. CALL is one of elective course which has many advantages in learning and teaching English. In CALL, most activities of learning use computer and internet during the lesson. Generally, the lesson was held in online class and only two meetings were held in the class. All the learning process mostly used

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computer usage. In CALL, all activities of learning mostly used computer for giving assignment, asking students to create media and product in form of digital form by using various software or application. Finally, Students asked to store their works using blog.

There are two CALL courses that must be passed by students. CALL 1 is studied by the sixth semester students and CALL 2 is offered in the next semester (Seventh Semester). In CALL 2, there was no class meeting and most of learning activities held in online class. During CALL 2, lecturer gave students assignments and material weekly. Most of assignments were done in digital form such writing, photo, audio, video, etc. At the end of course, the lecturer asked students to upload their work collection on their personal blog as reflection of learning and as final assignment.

In this research, students work collection refers to digital portfolio assignment. According to Halen Barrett, portfolio is a collection of work that a learner has collected, selected, organized, reflected upon, and stored through World Wide Web or blog. Students were also asked to upload their work on their personal blog during learning process of creating online assignments and blogging.

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7 Hellen Barret, "Using Electronic Portfolios for Classroom Assessment. (Connected Newsletter: Vol. 13, No. 2, 2006), 4-6
However, some of students had difficulties in doing the tasks because students have lack of technology knowledge. They also find some problems with internet connection when they did the online assignments. One of students said that she had no experience before to do online assignments and using blog to storage their collection of work because the use of digital portfolio still rarely implemented in Indonesia.

There are some previous studies which have related to this research. First, the research was done by Kristen J. Steele entitled “A thesis in What It Takes: Issues In Implementing Electronic Portfolios”. In this research, the findings contributed to the explanation about the implementation of e-portfolios which are long-term one and it may need several years before the full benefits will be seen. He also added that students and academic staff who used an electronic portfolio system need the time, skill and resources to do so successfully implement digital portfolio.

Second, a dissertation was conducted by David J Emmett entitled “Student Engagement with an ePortfolio: A Case Study of Pre-Service Education Students.” He concluded that some of students were encouraged to use the ePortfolio as learning and employability tool, but most students

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9 David J. Emmett, “Student Engagement with an ePortfolio: A Case Study of Pre-Service Education Students.(Queensland University of Technology: 2011), 13
ultimately disengage after completing the assessment task. It proved by the result of research survey there are only six of the forty-five student (13%) who used ePortfolio in a sustained manner.

Those research findings have inspired the researcher in conducting the research. The first aim is advantages and disadvantages using blog for digital in CALL 2. The second aim is to find what students’ difficulties in using blog for digital portfolio and how they solve their problems. The third aim is to find students’ ways in solving their difficulties in using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2.

B. Problem of the Study

As the reasons mentioned above, the aim of this research will answer these following questions:

1. What are advantages and disadvantages of using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2?
2. What are students’ difficulties when they use blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2?
3. What are students’ solution to solve their difficulties of using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2?

C. Objective of the Study

In this research, the objective of this study, are:
1. To know advantages and disadvantages of using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2.

2. To know the students’ difficulties using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2.

3. To explain the students’ solution to solve their difficulties of using blog for digital portfolios assignments in CALL 2.

D. Significant of the Study

The result of this study can give some advantages for lectures, other researcher and students. Here the advantages of the study are:

1. The CALL lecturers
   In this research, the researcher hopes the result of this research can be as feedbacks in teaching and learning process and also can be useful information for CALL lectures as references to determine the difficulties and solutions in future. In addition, it can be as evaluations to the lecture consider what students’ need in learning English.

2. Other researcher
   For further research to other researchers who are interested in the similar topic of this research, this is hoped as useful information and can be references in conducting further research.
3. Students

From the finding of this research, the researcher expected students to be more creative, interested and enthusiastic in learning by the existence of blog itself. Because the digital portfolios present in varieties form that can help students to learn and develop it.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research takes place at State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The subject of this research is implemented to seventh semester students of English education department in academic year 2014/2015 that already passed CALL 2. In CALL 2, students did some digital portfolios assignments during one semester in their own blog. From those digital portfolios assignment in blog, the researcher intends to know advantages and disadvantages using blog for digital portfolios assignments in CALL 2. In addition, the researcher also interest to know students’ difficulties using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2. Then, the researcher want to know students’ way in solving their difficulties during the process of using blog for digital portfolios assignment. To answer this research questions, researcher used document review and interview. Afterward respondents answered all the questions what they experienced in CALL 2.
F. Definition of Key Term

1. Blog

Blog is electronic journals that allows the users to keep update their writing on a website. In this research “Blog” refers to a media for students to post all their digital portfolios.

2. Digital Portfolios

A digital portfolio is a computer-based collection of student performance over time. In this research, digital portfolios are form of the collection of students’ assignment on such as, literary work, photos, media, videos tutorial and so on.

3. CALL (Computer Assisted-Language Learning)

Beatty stated that CALL is any process in which a learner uses a computer and, as a result, improves his or her language. In this case, CALL 2 is an elective subject which is provided by English Teacher Education Department to give them how to uses media in teaching English. Thus, the researcher wants to explore the advantages and

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12 Ken Beatty, “Teaching and researching computer-assisted language learning” (Harlow, England; New York: Longman, 2010).
disadvantages of using blog for digital portfolios assignment in CALL 2 class.