

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses the background, research questions, research aims, significance of the research, research methods, and essential terms. They described as follows:

#### **1.1 Background**

Merdeka Mengajar Platform is a platform that runs concurrently with the implementation of Independent Curriculum. The Minister of Education and Culture said that the Merdeka Mengajar Platform would be a teachers friend in teaching this platform also help teachers innovate to create appropriate learning challenges of the implementation of Independent Curriculum (Kemendikburistek, 2022).

Minister of Education and Culture, at the launch of the independent curriculum and Merdeka Mengajar Platform on February 11 2022, the Merdeka Mengajar Platform is a platform for teachers which were developed into a platform that is not just material and content ministry but also truly owned by teachers, from teachers, and for teachers. So this platform for developing an independent curriculum and also develop learning process to become a better teachers (Rahman, n.d.).

The presence of the Merdeka Mengajar Platform was helped teachers in implementing Independent Curriculum in the classroom and in teaching learning a

process. This platform provide learning process starting from preparing lesson plans, student assessments, localization in the form of proof of work and as a place to share experiences through videos because the Merdeka Mengajar Platform provides a place to share videos of teaching learning process experience which can be watched by all teachers who also use the Merdeka Mengajar Platform, but in a fact the Merdeka Mengajar Platform need to socialize and introduce to all of the educational institutions in Indonesia because there are differences in the readiness of institutions in implementing the Independent Curriculum which is obstacle in using Merdeka Mengajar Platform.

As a new platform Merdeka Mengajar Platform need a quick adaptation form the teachers but the problem is in Merdeka Mengajar Platform there are still many teachers today who are confused about applying the Merdeka Mengajar Platform in their teaching learning process in reality base on the previous study there are so many challenges in implementing Merdeka Mengajar Platform in the independent curriculum which are caused by limited teachers competence such as teachers ability in accessing and applying the PMM features are still low, limited mastery in using technology, mastery of technology in utilizing technological tools to guide the millennial generation in the learning process based on their needs/interest, especially the teacher who not from driving school they was difficult to adapt to the application and there is not training routine in using Merdeka Mengajar Platform so that is why the Merdeka Mengajar Platform is not

utilized properly to optimize the implementation of Independent Curriculum concept especially in teaching and learning process .

Therefore the writer in this research was helped the teachers in educational unit especially English teachers to find out about how the English teachers can face the challenges and maximize the opportunities in integrating the use of the Merdeka Mengajar Platform in English Language Teaching based on implementation of the Independent Curriculum.

SMKN 1 Toraja Utara is one of the school in North Toraja district which have been implemented an Independent Curriculum. The head master of SMKN 1 Toraja Utara said that SMKN 1 Toraja Utara have been implemented 100 % of the Independent Curriculum in teaching learning process, SMKN 1 Toraja Utara was chosen because this school is one of the centers of excellence school that implementing independent curriculum with the help of the Merdeka Mengajar Platform, but the problem is the teachers are not fully using the Merdeka Mengajar Platform optimally, which is caused by several factors.

The writer is interested to found out the other challenges which faced by teachers at SMKN 1 Toraja Utara in using the Merdeka Mengajar Platform specifically English teachers and also the writer find out what are the opportunities in using the Merdeka Mengajar Platform so they share their experience about how to face the challenges and maximize opportunities in using the Merdeka Mengajar Platform especially in English Language Teaching.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on background above, the writer states that the question of this research:

- 1) What are the challenges and opportunities faced by English teachers in using Merdeka Mengajar platform based on implementing Kurikulum Merdeka at SMKN 1 Toraja Utara ?
- 2) How the English teachers faced the challenges in using Merdeka Mengajar platform based on implementing Kurikulum Merdeka at SMKN 1 Toraja Utara ?
- 3) How the English teachers maximize the opportunities in using Merdeka Mengajar platform based on implementing Kurikulum Merdeka at SMKN 1 Toraja Utara ?

## **1.3 Objective of the Research**

Based on the research problem above, the purpose of this study is to find out the challenges and opportunities faced by English teachers in using Merdeka Mengajar Platform based on implementing Kurikulum Merdeka at SMKN 1 Toraja Utara.

## **1.4 Significance of the Research**

In this research, the writer hopes it can give benefit or contribution to Teacher, Students and next researcher.

1) For the Teachers

The writer hopes that this research become the new input for the teacher's especially English teachers to be able to face with the challenges and how to maximize opportunities in using Merdeka Mengajar Platform.

2) For the government

The writer hope that the government evaluate and develop all of the features in the Merdeka Mengajar Platform and give the role for the teachers so that the teachers will more actively in using the Merdeka Mengajar Platform.

3) For the next researcher

The writer recommends some suggestion for the readers or everyone who wants to conduct a research related to this research, have some more literatures, so they can research deeper about the using of Merdeka Mengajar Platform.

### **1.3 Research Methodology**

Qualitative research is a type of research which explain and also explores deeper insights into real-world about some problems or phenomena. Qualitative research method gather participants' experiences, perceptions, and behavior through interview, focus groups, and observations. The interview may be unstructured, with open ended questions on a topic and the interviewer adapts to the responses. Structured interviews have a predetermined number of questions that every participant is asked (tenny

steven, 2023). In this research the writer was used qualitative research method in collecting the data from respondents and the writer was used interview research instrument to get information from respondent.

#### **1.4 Key Terms Definition**

##### **1) Challenge**

According to Cambridge Dictionary challenge is something that is difficult so that's why we needs great mental or physical effort in order to be done successfully and therefore test person ability.

##### **2) Opportunity**

According to Oxford Dictionary opportunity is a time particular situation makes it possible to do or achieve something have synonym with chance.

##### **3) Merdeka Mengajar Platform**

Merdeka Mengajar Platform is a platform designed to help teachers in implementing the Independent Curriculum.

##### **4) English Language Teaching**

The activity of the practice and theory of learning and teaching English for the benefit of people whose first language is not English.

##### **5) Independent Curriculum**

Independent Curriculum is Curriculum which designed for restore the education in Indonesia after the pandemic covid-19.