# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of Study

In line with the enormous growth of internet users and content providers, the use of computers in language learning has been providing more experiential learning, motivation, and enhances student's achievement, authentic materials or resources, interaction, and global understanding[1]. Because computer assisted language learning (CALL) provides many activities with different functions, so as the students, they could use CALL as authentic materials or resources to learn language learning and it will be helpful for them to improve and enhance their English skill via internet. They can learn English easily without spending money for buying many English books at bookstores and they just open the internet then try to browse English language learning websites there.

"The Web offers a global database of authentic materials that can enhance language learning and teaching"[2]. The Web provides a plenty of resources, information, and authentic materials that are easy to access and possess for user in internet. All users can learn and develop their English language learning from those resources and materials easily. One example, we can find those resources and materials in English learning websites in

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[1] Kuang-wu Lee. "English Teachers' Barriers to the Use of Computer-assisted Language Learning" *the internet TESL journal*, (http://iteslj.org, accessed on June 12, 2012)

[2] Jeong-Bae Son. "Exploring and Evaluating Language Learning Websites" (http://www.usq.edu, accessed on June 08, 2012)

internet. English learning websites provide a lot of materials and resources that they can access and learn them easily.

"Materials control learning and teaching"[3]. It means that materials help learning and teaching effectively and efficiently. That is why materials play significant role to the ELT (English Learning Teaching) because the success of ELT is how reliable and valid the materials are. Yet, recently there are so many Websites for English language learning and teaching grow enormously in internet. In this case, many users of English online learners, especially English teachers, lectures and learners exploit Web sites as media to get information, resources, and authentic materials they need. In fact, despite the materials that are provided from the websites are enormous, indeed not all of them are reliable or valuable and match their needs and interests. Thus, as teachers, they should be selective in selecting the best materials for their students before using them. Teacher needs to check first the material chosen, is the content based on curriculum or isn't? does the content meet students' need or doesn't? is the content based on the students' culture or isn't? Is the content credible? Who is the author? And so forth.

Considering the amount of English materials and resources is enormous in English learning websites, it is very important for teachers to evaluate those resources and materials critically. It is their responsibility to check whether all of the elements of the content of English Language

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[3] Kenji Kitao - S. Kathleen Kitao. "Selecting and Developing Teaching/Learning Materials" *The Internet Tesl Journal,* (http://iteslj.org/, accessed on June 08, 2012)

Learning Websites have quality standard for English learning and teaching or not.

The websites that were evaluated in this research were taken from http://english.gotop100.com. It is because this site gives information that all people in the world often use and access those English learning websites and then they were attached from the site. Moreover, this site also provides the result of rating of top English learning websites which is often used by visitors. The user can see the number of visitors from the result of rating of all English learning websites from this site and this site always monitors everyone who accesses English learning websites every time and everyday, so this site knows well the progress of English learning websites and also gives recent information about how many visitors accessing each English learning website, which English learning websites have a lot of visitors and which do not.

There are 100 of English learning websites available in this site but the researcher took five websites which are considered as following reasons: First, the researcher just takes the websites from the first rank to the fifth rank of 100 English learning websites in the mentioned link because those five websites have greater number of visitors than the other websites. It could be considered that the great number of visitors indicates that the websites are as users' favourite. Second is accuracy, with the small number of websites that were evaluated, the researcher is more focus and maximal to do the research.

But despite those selected websites are user's favourite, do those English learning websites have validity product to use or access? and are the contents of English learning websites reliable based on the theory?

Based on various problems of English learning websites stated in paragraph above, the researcher is eager to evaluate those English learning websites to determine their appropriateness or validity.

**B.  Statement of the Problems**

1. What are the most visited English learning websites evaluated in the research?

2.  What are the criteria of good English learning websites?

3.  Do those most visited English learning websites meet the criteria of good English learning websites?

**C.  Objectives of the Study**

Related to the research questions, this research is aimed to:

1.  Know the most visited English learning websites evaluated in the research.

2.  Know the criteria of good English learning websites.

3.                                         Ensure      whether those websites meet the criteria of good English learning websites or do not.

**D.  Significance of the Study**

From the result of this research was expected to provide insight for reader especially teacher, learner and all users of English learning websites to

have critical understanding in selecting English learning websites since not all ELT websites are reliable and valid in recent internet. The findings of this research are to help them to know the way how to identify the validity of English learning websites themselves. So they are to be smart and clever user in selecting and using English learning websites and do not be scared of mistake to access them as media of computer – assisted language learning in recent internet.

**E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

In scope and limitation of the study, the researcher needs to limit the problems of his research in order to be more focus and clearer.

First, for the most visited English learning websites were gained from http://english.gotop100.com/index2.html. There are 100 English learning websites which are available from the site. But the researcher only took five of the most visited English learning websites from the result of great rating to this site, there are:

1. **Total ESL** from http://www.totalesl.com

2. **Fun Easy English** from http://www.funeasyenglish.com/

3. **English Guide** from http://www.english-guide.org/

4. **Learning Chocolate** from http://www.learningchocolate.com/

5. **Primary Games** from http://www.primarygames.com/

Second, the criteria of good English learning websites that were used to evaluate those websites had been gained from some theories of designing good websites for ESL. After the process of selection, comparison, and

consideration in choosing the criteria from theories of designing good websites for ESL, finally the criteria were taken from Jeffrey T. Nelson[4], eMINTS National Center[5], and Charles Kelly[6].

The researcher then selected some criteria from those theories as the evaluation instrument because some criteria have the same direction or purpose. Thus, the researcher just selected the criteria that have different purpose in order that the evaluation criteria become more complete and specific. For this reason, it is hoped that the evaluation result of the selected English learning websites becomes more effective and directed too.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

The definitions are intended to avoid the ambiguity in understanding some terms used in this study. These are the following definitions:

1. **Evaluation**: "Evaluation is an activity to evaluate any source of information to have a critical understanding of its reliability".[7] It is purposed to review, filter, check, screen, and select media for the sake of getting accuracy, reliability, authority, quality, and validity.[8] As well as

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[4] Jeffrey T. Nelson. "the system for evaluating ESL Websites". (http://.itp.innoved.org accessed on August 14, 2012)

[5] eMINTS National Center. "Evaluating and Using Internet Resources", (www.emints.org, accessed on August 02, 2012)

[6] Charles Kelly. "Guidelines for Designing a Good Web Site for ESL Students" *The Internet TESL Journal,* (http://iteslj.org/, accessed on June 08 2012)

[7] eMINTS National Center, "Evaluating and Using Internet Resources", 2008, 7, (http://www.emints.org, accessed on August 02, 2012)

[8] eMINTS National Center................................, 7.

the pupose of this study, the term evaluation can be understood as an activity to evaluate English learning website content to get reliability of the information provided. In this study, the selected EFL websites were evaluated by using some criteria of good English learning websites which were synthesized from different theories of evaluating EFL Websites. It will be explained further in chapter II.

2. **Website:** *"A website is a structured collection of information stored on web servers, and is accessible on the Internet through a web browser. Websites can contain various media, levels of interactivity, and social networking features. Websites, of course, also contain single pages of information, such as news articles".*[9] In other word, website provides lots of information based on their purposes and also depends on its function. The purposes of websites can be for educational purposes such as journals, teaching and learning resources, history, science and so forth; while for social purposes such as facebook, twitter, e-mail, news, etc. According to Yudhi (2010), the function of websites could be personal, commercial, government and non-profit organization website.

In this research, the website is term that refers to English learning website which provides particular information dealing with English learning such as speaking, reading, TOEFL, pronunciation, writing, grammar, genre of texts, etc. The intended websites that were selected are:

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[9] Portland State University Library, (http://library.pdx.edu/copyright/Website.pdf,

accessed on January 21, 2012)

    a.   **Total ESL** from http://www.totalesl.com

    b.   **Fun Easy English**  from  http://www.funeasyenglish.com/

    c.   **English Guide** from http://www.english-guide.org/

    d.   **Learning Chocolate** from http://www.learningchocolate.com/

    e.   **Primary Games**  from http://www.primarygames.com/

3. **Most Visited**: it is used to describe the English learning websites that have the most visitors. The most visited websites which are used as the object in this study are selected from the first rank until the tenth rank from 100 EFL websites which are considered as the most visited in the world provided in the site http://english.gotop100.com.

4. **Ginger software**: it is free online tool from www.**gingersoftware**.com/ To check and correct grammar and spell mistake in written text.