

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

English is a very important language, because it is an international language that connects people with the world in various aspects including that of education. The government decided that English is a compulsory subject for students from elementary to high school levels. Even at the higher education level, all study programs provide English courses for 1 or 2 semesters even those that are not majors and still make English a mandatory subject. This shows the importance of mastering a foreign language, especially English as an introduction to success in one's academic field and to support a career in the world of work (Sinaga, 2010).

As we know, since the end of December 2019 the Covid-19 virus had begun to spread in several parts of the country, especially in Indonesia. This virus has a bad influence in various fields, especially in the field of education. Initially all kinds of face-to-face meetings that usually take place in classrooms had to be forcibly stopped to reduce the spread of the virus. That is why all learning systems must be done online or virtual. In order for distance learning to take place well, the two parties, namely lecturers and students, must be able to complement each other during learning activities in which teacher utilizes technology to help them in their lessons. The media used by the lecturers can be in the form of online discussion forums, material

in the form of video and or virtual face-to-face via zoom or google meet, so that the lecturers provides opportunities for students to be more responsible compared to limited classrooms with time where students just sit around without asking questions related to the material. However, the success or failure of online learning depends on how students respond to learning properly or not. In this case technology also has an important role in improving the quality of distance learning carried out by students, because with technology students can support teaching and learning activities between lecturer and students. However, there may be problems related to the students ability to absorb learning material through this online learning and whether students can overcome the difficulties that arise, so this study aims to explore what difficulties students experience during the use of online learning. The Covid-19 pandemic had a very significant impact on the educational aspect. That the impact are : (a) Changing learning system from face-to-face learning conducted as a usual to a distance learning system (online); (b) Learning from offline to online cannot necessarily be carried out effectively; (c) Online learning tools still lack support; (d) Adaptation of students in the use of online media; (e) Network access, additional costs for students, and (f) The competence of lecturers needs to be prepared in designing online-based learning confirmed by Listiana (2020). A very significant difference that we can feel before online learning is that students can interact directly to facilitate discussion and make students more active, this class provides an opportunity to meet in the same place at the same time between students and

lecturers, and students are expected more actively to discuss the material discussed, it also provides opportunities for students to be more interactive when making presentations. This is different from online learning that is applied today because students are required to be able to use a certain platform to get learning materials. In addition, presentations that are usually done in person have now turned online, thus allowing for difficulties experienced by students.

B. Reason for choosing topic

The writer chooses this topic because knowing students' difficulties can provide feedback which can be used to improve the online learning itself. It can also be used to minimize the problems which occur in online learning.

C. Research Question

Based on background of the research stated earlier, the research problem is as follow "What are the students' difficulties in online learning?"

D. The Aim of Study

The aim of this study is to analyze students' difficulties in following online learning.

E. The Scope of the Research

The difficulties experienced by students are related to the results to be achieved by students in learning through online learning. The difficulties experienced by students are also related to what the solutions students will do in achieving the intended learning targets. If students have the right solution

and do it as much as possible to reduce the difficulties experienced during learning activities, then students will achieve the maximum learning target. In this study, the researcher will only focus on what difficulties students experience when conducting distance learning using online learning.

F. Contribution of The Research

1. Theoretical

Examining the difficulties experienced by students when learning through online learning will contribute to reducing all difficulties experienced by students during learning. The lecturers can also provide an evaluation of each learning process that is taking place to find out what difficulties students are experiencing, and whether the material presented can be received well. This research is also expected to be a useful reference to reduce the difficulties experienced when distance learning uses online learning

2. Lecturers

This study aims to provide information related to the difficulties experienced by students when learning using online learning. If the lecturers knows what difficulties students experience when learning using online classes, the lecturers can minimize the difficulties experienced by students and increase students' comprehension in online learning. So that the lecturers can provide the best solution for the learning media that will be used, and the creation of a maximum increase in student comprehension in online classroom learning.

3. Students

This study is aimed for students to obtain information related to the learning methods experienced by students during this pandemic, namely using online learning, it is hoped that students can minimize the difficulties experienced and motivate themselves to be more responsive and active when learning through online learning. With the aim of students being able to improve the quality of learning which will affect student learning outcomes.

