

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

An outbreak of the Corona virus disease of 2019 (also known as Covid-19) was discovered for the first time on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) subsequently classified the outbreak as a pandemic. Travel restrictions, quarantine, curfews, event postponements and cancellations, and facility closures are all part of the effort to stop the spread of the Corona virus. Schools and universities have also been closed both nationally and locally in more than 124 countries and affect more than 1.2 billion students.

Therefore, one of the steps of the Indonesian government to reduce the transmission of the Covid-19 virus is to implement a policy in the form of working from home (WFH) and any activities that are at risk of becoming a new cluster of transmission of the Covid-19 virus, which is then replaced with online media. Regarding the decision to study from home, the Ministry of Education and Culture also distributed a circular. One of the things that are included in the circular letter is the instruction to stop conducting learning activities that take place face to face and switch to learning methods that take place online, such as online learning, which can be utilized by a variety of educational institutions.

Under these circumstances, all educators are mandated to switch over to using online learning media as their primary instructional tool. As a consequence of this, all students are required to make intelligent use of their smartphones in order to facilitate the learning process when engaging in online

instruction. Learning through online platforms is one of the most effective methods now available in the educational sector for lowering the risk of COVID-19 transmission and preserving the health of both students and instructors. The exposure to and productive application of technology, as well as an awareness of the issues facing educators in the 21st century, are two examples of the good effects that can result from participation in online learning (Sudarsiman, 2015).

The educational system, the subject matter that will be taught, the way that learning will be carried out, as well as the challenges that will be encountered by educators, students, and those who supply education will all be altered by online learning. In addition to halting the spread of COVID-19, it is anticipated that online learning will prove to be an effective solution for the problem of independent learning. Online learning makes it possible for students to gain access to a broader range of knowledge material via the internet, which in turn fosters student creativity in scientific inquiry and enables the implementation of curriculum policies from 2013 onwards (Darmalaksana et al, 2020).

The situation with the Covid-19 pandemic is like this: online learning is regulated through a Circular of the Ministry of Education and Culture regarding the Implementation of Education in the Covid-19 Emergency Period. There is a policy, namely online learning to provide a very meaningful learning experience, not to be a burden in completing all curricula for graduation. Learning is emphasized on the development of life skills, namely the Covid-19 pandemic and task learning can be implemented. Learning can be implemented through (Kemendikbud, 2020).

In the educational environment, students must also carry out online lectures and private lessons at home. There must be many difficulties experienced by students in online learning during this Covid-19 pandemic. Especially EFL students. EFL stands for 'English as a Foreign Language'. This program helps students over the age of 16 to improve their English language skills. One of them is by choosing to study in an English education study program that teaches students about using English for academic purposes or in the field of teaching English. English education focuses on learning to listen, speak, read, write, and use English in various contexts such as communicating in business, presenting, writing articles, and even performing plays. At the beginning of the lecture, the ability to read, speak, listen, and write will be honed. In addition, it will also examine various works in English, the use of English in business, as well as the development of an English learning curriculum.

Class of 2020 students who entered college at the beginning of the spread of Covid-19 and the beginning online learning are certainly not familiar with the concept of studying at home. Therefore, based on the description of the background above, the researcher is encouraged to want to do the research "Investigating the Problems of EFL Students with Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic" with students from the class of 2020 who will be the objects.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background described above, the formulation of the problem is : What is EFL Students' Problems with Online Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic ?

C. Purpose of the Research

Based on the background described above, this study aims to find out EFL Students' Problems with Online Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic.

D. Contribution of research

Contribution of this research are as follows:

a) For Students

The results of this study can be used as a reference to see what the problems with online learning during covid-19 pandemic.

b) For Lecturers

The results of this study can help lecturers to find out what are the problems with online learning during the covid-19 pandemic experienced by students.

c) Other Researchers

Provide additional information for other researchers who wants to conduct further research in related fields.