

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Education takes an important role to the population. It provides knowledge for the people. Generally, education takes place in educational institution which conducts the teaching and learning process. However, education in some countries including Indonesia has encountered changes due to Covid-19 (Argaheni, 2020). The change occurs in the teaching and learning activities. The educational institutions do not conduct teaching and learning activities as usual (Onyema, 2020). The learning process is designed as online learning. The students are also expected to access online learning platforms to add learning resource. In addition, teacher and students use technology and learning application to do communication in the learning process (Karuniasih, 2022).

During online learning, activities conducted are slightly different compared to offline learning. Online learning activities refer to the instruction designed by teachers and implemented to create an effective and engaging classroom (Aini et al., 2020). In online environment, the set of learning activities in a subject delivered through network giving access and exchange of knowledge (Atmojo & Nugroho, 2020) The online learning activities could be in the form of forum, discussions, game, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and augmented reality (Ubu et al., 2021).

This new learning environment certainly very shocking especially for students. Students who were not ready will obviously face some challenges in the learning process. The results of the previous studies showed that the students encountered some challenges in the online learning process. The challenges can be seen from three aspects, namely: technological, pedagogical, and social challenges. On the technological challenge, students face difficulty on the Internet connection. On the pedagogical challenge, there is a lack of student feedback and evaluation. On the social challenge, there is a lack of comfortable learning environment at home and support from parents (Ferri et al., 2020). Moreover, students also have a lack of ICT knowledge (Aini et al., 2020). Therefore, students faced some challenges in online English learning. Low English proficiency students lacked online learning skills and experiences in self-directed learning so they may not be ready for learning English online (Kuama & Intharaksa, 2016).

This difficulty certainly has a direct effect on the online learning process. If students cannot overcome their challenges independently, they will not be able to follow the learning process (Kusnayati et al., 2020). Challenges such as internet connection are always the reason students did not submit assignments or are late in submitting assignments (Yusuf & Ahmad, 2020). There are also students who do not attend the zoom class just because of an unstable internet connection. Another problem was also stated by Lestyanawati and Widyantoro (2020) who identified that economical background also becomes challenge during online learning. Considering some challenges above, this study aims at analyzing students' challenges including the factors of students' challenges and technical challenges found in online English learning during Covid-19.

Preliminary observations were conducted in SMP N 4 Kintamani during online learning practice. The learning and instruction during online learning were delivered by teachers asynchronously through WhatsApp. The synchronous learning was rarely conducted because according to the teachers the students when learning with other platform such as Zoom, often missed the class. During the learning process, it was found that students faced challenges in accessing learning material due to technical problems. Most of the students live in remote area where internet facilities are still limited. Of course, this greatly affects the students' online learning process. Teachers also confirmed that they made several adjustments to help students learn during online learning by giving opportunity for students to come to school and use school's facilities such as WiFi and computer. Looking at the current online learning phenomenon, this study aims to identify students' learning experiences during the pandemic and the challenges faced when learning online.

1.2 Problem Identification

During a pandemic, all students study online. Learning is carried out using various platforms that support learning such as WhatsApp, Zoom, and Google Classroom. However, the implementation of online learning has not been carried out optimally. There are several problems faced by students in online learning. This problem needs to be explored more deeply so that a clearer picture is found of the problems faced by students in online learning.

1.3 Research Question

1. What are the students' online learning activities during Covid-19 pandemic at SMPN 4 Kintamani?

2. What are the challenges faced by students in English learning during Covid-19 pandemic at SMPN 4 Kintamani?

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To analyze the students' online learning activities during Covid-19 pandemic at SMPN 4 Kintamani.

2. To analyze the challenges in online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic at SMPN 4 Kintamani.

1.5 Research Significance

1) Theoretical significance:

Theoretical significance of the study is to convey information related with the students' online learning activities and challenges encountered by the students in online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic.

2) Practical significance:

1) This study is expected to give insight and new perspective so that EFL students would be able to adapt and cope the challenges in online English learning during covid-19 pandemic.

2) This study is expected to give insight and new perspective so that EFL teacher would be able to design learning and teaching process by considering students' challenges.

3) This study is expected to give insight and new perspective so that future researcher would be able to utilize as a reference for the next similar study.

1.6 Research Scope

The present study focuses on activities and challenges encountered by students in online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic.

