CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

The world recently gets a serious disease, it was very interfering many various levels by levels society, institution, etc. In some cases, especially in education, it impacts so hard that the student couldn't even study well, forced them to studying at their own home. The very dangerous diseases called Corona Virus, it came from the city of Wuhan, China, and began to spreading rapidly and wider to many countries such as America and also several European countries (GÜZEL, YILDIZ, ESENTAŞ, & Zerengök, 2020). Moreover, based on Özdemir (2020) who stated that this virus was caused by several workers who previously contracted with pneumonia in a traditional fish market in Wuhan, China. The Corona Virus is still included in the family of viruses that attack animals or humans, some of these types of viruses that can infect are 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU (Abdul, Shmmon, Sameera Ali, Mumtaz, & Shruti, 2020). The phenomena indicate that this disease/virus has a critical potential to affect people globally, despite any layers of society. We can decrease it slowly keep up and enrolling in any specific health protocols that has been design by the government. Considering the impact and the spread of this viruses, Indonesia is affected by this virus spread because its rapidly moving and contaminating any human step by step, region by region, and then country by country as the time flies.

Various countries have felt the impact of this pandemic, including Indonesia. Joko Widodo as the head of state immediately conveyed this information to all Indonesian citizens in early March (Batubara, 2021). In addition, Rulandari (2020) also said that a new policy had been released by Nadiem Makariem as the Minister of Education and Culture namely Circular Letter Number 15 of 2020 about Guidelines for Organizing Learning from Home during the Emergency Period of the Spread of Covid-19. Following the release of this Circular Letter, all levels of education in Indonesia from

kindergartens until universities were required to manage and implement the learning that could support distance learning or online learning. This type of learning model required technology-based learning in order to avoid the spread of the virus at that time (Batubara, 2021). Therefore, online learning was believed to be the best solution for the education world that had to be continued no matter what happened. This learning model has two forms, namely synchronous learning and asynchronous learning model that needs to be supported by various social media in its implementation such as the Zoom application, Google meet, Youtube and also Whatsapp, in which all these applications had to be mastered by educators and students at that time (Murad, Hassan, Heryadi, Wijanarko, & Titan, 2020). Social media has coexisted with our lives and has become part of our daily activities. Therefore, the students are familiar with the presence of social media in their lives, especially WhatsApp. This application does not require any tools that are quite up-to-date to operate, only require a smart phone and internet connection and that is more than enough to use it (Maske, Kamble, Kataria, Leena, & Dhankar, 2018). The students who used WhatsApp as a learning tool in distance learning found out that this application was very helpful in online learning due to the efficiency of the application both in quota consumption for mobile data package users and it did not have much effect on users while using Wi-Fi or mobile data, in which the application was fairly easy and fast (Agustin Mawarni et al., 2020).

In 2021 WhatsApp had become part of online learning due to its simplicity. It could be useful for students to carry out teaching and learning activities both synchronous learning and asynchronous one. Besides, WhatsApp was believed to build good communication and relationships between students and teachers despite the distance between each other (O'Keeffe, 2016) as cited in (Stone & Logan, 2018). In short, it was fairly said that the best application to assist online learning during the pandemic was Whatsapp.

This research was conducted in SMA NEGERI 1 TEJAKULA. SMA Negeri 1 Tejakula was chosen as the research location because it was based on the finding that in 2021 this school used Whatsapp in online learning for the first time and it was a new experience for its students. In addition, the researcher

also wanted to reveal students' perceptions of online learning through WhatsApp and also their perceptions of the shortcomings of online learning through WhatsApp.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the identification of problems are as follows:

1. What are the students' perceptions on the usefullness of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic?

2. What are the students' perceptions on the ease of use of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic?

1.3 Limitation of the Study

The Limitation of this study is this research only collect the student perception of online learning through whatsapp during pandemic at SMA NEGERI 1 TEJAKULA from grade XII. So, it doesn't cover any perception that cames from other grades such as grade X and XI, also this studies not provides other learning, communication or other platform that be able to provide learning activities during pandemic via online.

1.4 Research Problems

This research analyzed the students' perceptions on online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic. Two main research problems were identified as follows:

1.) What are the students' perceptions on the usefulness of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic?

2.) What are the student's perceptions on the ease of use of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic?

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study could be described as follows:

1.) To describe and identify the student's perceptions on the usefulness of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.) To explore the student's perceptions on the ease of use of online learning through WhatsApp during the Covid-19 pandemic.

By identifying the student's perceptions in conducting online English learning through Whatsapp during the Covid-19 pandemic, this research can be used as a reference for future researchers and other education institutions. In addition, this research can give suggestions on what should be maintained and what should not be related to the implementation process of online English learning through Whatsapp at SMA Negeri 1 Tejakula, so that the online English learning can be more effective during the Covid-19 pandemic and after the pandemic when using online learning English through Whatsapp.

1.7 Theoretical Signifiance

The theoretical significance of this study is can provide the teacher the information about the student perception of usefulness and ease of use on online learning through whatsapp in pandemic and this research also can be used as references for someone to who wants to do a research about student perception on whatsapp through online learning.

1.8 Research Significance

This research is expected to be useful for the English teachers, students, public and the future researchers who want to develop the online English learning through Whatsapp.

1.) For English Teachers

The results of this research provide the teacher an overview of the student perception of online learning through whatsapp during pandemic,

and also help the teacher to improve their teaching methods in online learning through whatsapp itself.

2.) For Students

The student can improve their learning skills while learning online through whatsapp during pandemic, also it can encourage the student to be more cooperative in solving the issues that occurred during the online learning process. By doing so, it must help the students to receive the learning materials and understand it effectively, while also improving their English.

3.) Researcher

The results of this study for other researchers provide important information about students' perceptions of online learning through WhatsApp and its drawbacks, besides that this research is expected to be a reference for other researchers' research or a formulation of researcher's ideas in the future.