

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the research background, problem identification, research questions, research objectives, and research significances are presented in sequence. They are described as follows.

1.1 Research Background

Education seems no longer a foreign thing that everyone has heard of. In this increasingly advanced era, education is certainly very important to be achieved. Nowadays, it is very easy for someone to get an education. The existence of government policies makes it easy for someone to achieve their life goals. Even so, not a few people try to pursue higher education in other countries so that they can develop their abilities deeper and also learn many things besides academics, for example being able to study other cultures and learn to adapt to other places. In this case, we can know that education is very important.

Education has a very important role in human survival. It should be noted because education can shape a person's personality, character, and then develop the strengths or potentials possessed by humans so that they can be useful not only for themselves but also for others. UU no. 20 of 2003 states that education has a definition as an effort made consciously and also planned to create an atmosphere and learning process that can invite students to actively develop their potential. Another definition of education is also conveyed by Ahmad D. Marimba and Mahmud as cited in Ainun (2020), in which they stated that education is a direction for the body and spirit to form a better character as real behavior that can provide benefits for student life in society. As we know that education also has a very important function. The functions of education itself are shaping

and developing human characters to educate the nation's life (Ainun, 2020). The purpose of education itself is to develop the ability or potential of students to be able to become useful, faithful, and fearful of God, be independent, and become democratic citizens. Another goal of education was also conveyed by UNESCO as a world organization of education. According to UNESCO, there are 4 educational goals, namely: 1) Learning to know. 2) Learning to do. 3) Learning to be and 4) Learning to live together. Because of this, it makes education a very important and mandatory thing because a good education can guarantee one's survival. Someone with high education, broad insight, and adequate abilities will certainly make it easier for them to find work or build their career. To be able to optimize this, the goals of national education must be related to the goals of the institution where the education is carried out.

However, it is unfortunate that In early 2020, all activities outside the home must be stopped. Many people have lost their jobs and students are also unable to fulfill their obligation to study and meet with their friends because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Covid-19 is a virus that came from China where everyone exposed to this virus will experience dizziness, flu, fever, cough, and shortness of breath. There were not a few people who have died because of this Coronavirus. This certainly makes people especially in Indonesia feel anxious and also panic, so the government decided to stop all activities that require someone to leave the house and meet many people. Many companies and airports have been closed to prevent other people from entering Indonesian territory and spreading the virus. The most affected aspect of life in this situation is education because teaching and learning activities in every school had to be stopped due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This of course also affects language learning techniques, especially learning English. Everyone knows that learning English requires practice and the right theory so that students can use utterances in which is are

grammatically acceptable, but this cannot go according to the learning plan due to the Covid19 pandemic which makes it difficult for students to interact with their friends.

As we know, this pandemic has spread throughout the world, one of which is the territory of Indonesia. In February 2020, the government officially stopped all activities outside the home such as trading, working in offices, and school learning activities with the aim of no transmission of the coronavirus and avoid increasing casualties. The government has also issued health protocols that must be implemented by the public to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus, such as diligently washing hands, wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and also maintaining distance. The result of this pandemic is that all work or activities outside the home are stopped and replaced with Work From Home (WFH) where all activities that are usually carried out outside the home must be done at home such as office workers, buying and selling transaction activities and also teaching and learning activities.

The rapid development of technology from year to year enables people to work and study during the Covid-19 pandemic. In general, technology is defined as a means commonly used in the scientific field. Besides, technology is also defined as a branch of science related to engineering and applied knowledge. Judging from this definition, the application of technology certainly also affects the field of education. Concerning knowledge, technology is an important element currently running side by side with education, and this cannot be separated. Technological developments that are increasingly prevalent and also always experience an increase in users every day make technology something that must be mastered by everyone. The government also always advises the community to be able to open up insights into technology because this is very important for survival, especially for the continuity of education and business. With technology that plays a major role in the world of education, it will certainly make it easier for students or

teachers to do their jobs. In addition, with the assistance of technology, it will make students and teachers have an open view regarding positive new things that they can learn and then apply in their daily lives, especially in the teaching and learning system, one of which is the teaching and learning system in language learning. Graddol (in Shyamlee & Phil, 2012) says that technology is a significant tool to drive social and language change, this is because this technology can help students to stay connected and learn languages, especially learning English. The existence of this technology can also make students and teachers able to interact using English through several selected media.

Grab and Stoller (as cited in Ahmadi, 2017) states that language is one of the elements that affect communication activities, both communication in everyday life or internationally. In learning languages, especially English, students can learn all parts of English language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In this case, the existence of technology has a very important role for students to learn English. Using this technology can facilitate students in learning English because technology provides many options that can make teaching and learning activities more interesting and also fun for students such as videos, radio, and also English learning applications such as Duolingo, Bahaso, and others. In addition, students or teachers can streamline their language communication by learning through other social media such as Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and other social media that can connect people from different countries. Through this social media, they can learn to establish communication with outsiders or just looking for information related to education and other learning tools which are of course useful for them. Shyamlee & Phil (2012) said that the use of technology in the teaching and learning process of language is not only fun for students, but the use of this technology can help students to develop language skills and build their

self-confidence, in addition to learning directly about multimedia through the learning media they use.

During this pandemic, the existence of technology certainly has a very big role because technology can keep people connected and also help people in all fields without having to leave the house. One of the fields that are closely related and dependent on the existence of technology in education. During this pandemic, conventional learning is certainly not supported by the government, therefore the government emphasizes that teaching and learning activities are carried out online by utilizing technology and learning media that are already available. There are lots of platforms that can be used to carry out online learning activities including Zoom meetings, Google Meet, WhatsApp, Google Classroom, and others. For learning activities to run smoothly, we must first adjust the conditions and situations we are in with the platform to be used so that there are no obstacles in its application. One of the media or learning platforms that are widely used especially at Tejakula village is Google Classroom.

According to Fitriningtyas *et al* (2019), Google Classroom is a web-based learning platform that is very widely used to manage online classes not only for high school but also for higher education. Martinez-Mones *et al* (as cited in Alim *et al*, 2017) said that Google Classroom is an Internet-based service designed to make it easier for teachers and students to send assignments without having to use paper (paperless). It says paperless because this platform has many features that can make it easier for students to access material or assignments given by the teacher. Students can easily download all the subject matter provided by the teacher through Google Classroom and can study it anywhere without having to print it in the form of a book, as well as the teacher, all student learning results sent through Google Classroom can be downloaded and then checked easily anytime and anywhere. Crawford (as cited in Fitriningtyas *et al*, 2019)

said that Google Classroom can facilitate collaborative learning. Donal Yates (as cited in Sukmawati & Nensia, 2019) also conveyed a similar understanding of Google Classroom who said that Google Classroom is a mixed learning platform that can simplify learning activities such as assignment creation and teacher assessments of students without having to use paper.

Google Classroom has been used since 2014. But, Google Classroom was rarely used due to conventional teaching and learning activities. However, during this pandemic, most schools began to use the Google Classroom as one of the platforms to carry out teaching and learning activities. One school that uses google classroom as a teaching and learning platform is SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula which is one of the junior high schools in the Tejakula sub-district. SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula choose to use google classroom because after conducting several experiments using other platforms, Google Classroom was deemed more suitable for implementation at SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula considering the internet network connection was not very good. If you are forced to use other platforms such as Zoom Meeting, teaching and learning activities will not run smoothly due to network disturbances, while Google Classroom can be used without requiring a strong network. In addition, the school decided to use Google Classroom for several reasons such as the following, 1) seen from the use of Google Classroom mobile data it is much more efficient than other platforms, 2) this platform is easy to download and apply, 3) Internet network connection in the village of Bondalem is not very good. supports using a virtual meeting system which basically requires a good connection and is also smooth. 4) so that teachers can easily manage online classes and make it easier for teachers when giving assignments and assessments.

With the application of Google Classroom as a learning media, the online learning process will run well, besides that students can also study independently at home

by studying the material provided by the teacher and sending assignments on time via Google Classroom which can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Teachers can also monitor student attendance through online absences distributed through Google Classroom and recorded student notes when submitting assignments. While the important role of Google Classroom regarding the English Teaching and Learning Process, namely,

- 1) The existence of a feature that is directly connected to YouTube can make it easier for teachers to share links to English learning materials or English videos to help students get additional information or additional material that can help them improve their English speaking skills.
- 2) There is a comment feature that can provide space for students and teachers to communicate in their English, so even though they are online, they can still interact and in addition, through this comment feature, the teacher can provide feedback or corrections to students who make mistakes spelling or inappropriate sentence structure.

The reason why the researcher took the title "The Use Of Google Classroom In Teaching And Learning Process On 9 Grade Students At Smp Negeri 4 Tejakula" was because based on the results of interviews conducted by researcher with the Head of SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula said that from its function, Google Classroom had more features. which can be utilized compared to other platforms. With Google Classroom, it can help teachers and students manage the online classes they create so that it will make it easier for students to access the latest material and teachers can also easily check students' latest assignments. In addition, some teachers already know the platform through their children who are in college, most of whom use the Google Classroom platform.

Meanwhile, the reason the researcher choose to research SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula is that SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula is one of the schools affected by the Covid-19 pandemic where all students are required to study from home, besides that internet access

in Tejakula village is also quite possible to be able to implement it. online learning and will carry out online learning activities using the Google Classroom platform, and because this is the first experience of implementing online learning activities using Google Classroom is also a reason for researcher to research SMP N 4 Tejakula to find out how students and teachers view the use of Google Classroom.

1.2 Problem Identification

Based on the observation that have been done, the problem identification can be identified as follows :

1. Few students does not have smartphone as a supporting facility.
2. Many students are often late in sending assignments to Google Classroom or difficult in downloading the material files due to connections that are not always good.
3. Google Classroom is still considered a new learning media for both teachers and students so they need time to learn to use Google Classroom.
4. Teachers and students have not been able to implement Google Classroom optimally.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the research background above, the research questions can be identified as follows :

1. How is Google Classroom is used in the teaching and learning process in the 9th-grade students at SMP N 4 Tejakula?
2. How do the 9th-grade students perceive the use of Google Classroom in the teaching and learning process at SMP N 4 Tejakula?

1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, the objectives to be achieved in this study are as follows :

1. To find out how How Google Classroom is used in the teaching and learning process on 9th-grade students at SMP N 4 Tejakula.
2. To find out the 9th-grade students perceive the use of Google Classroom in the teaching and learning process at SMP N 4 Tejakula.

1.5 Research Significances

Based on the research objectives to be achieved, this research is expected to have benefits that are not only felt by teachers and students at SMP Negeri 4 Tejakula but also by everyone in the world of education, either directly or indirectly. The benefits of this research include:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to be used as a reference in developing learning and teaching media so that in the future this research can be a reference to carry out further research using the same learning and teaching media but applied in different places or situations.

1.5.2 Practical Significances

This research is carried out with the hope that it can provide many benefits to its readers. The practical benefits of research can be felt by researcher, teachers, and students as follows:

a. For Researcher

Increase experience and knowledge about internet-based learning media considering that in this period there is a lot of learning media that can be used.

b. For Teacher

Provide advice to teachers to apply existing internet-based media in online teaching and learning activities, so that they can develop innovations in learning.

c. For Students

By using Google Classroom as learning media, students can easily to accept and submitting the task in any form of file and can make students trained to learn English through the existing media or technology.

