THE ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE ONLINE LEARNING IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT STATE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 16 PALEMBANG

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Abstract: The purposes of this study were to find out the perceptions of the online learning in the midst of covid-19 pandemic in the state of Junior High School 16 Palembang. The research was qualitative research. The subjects were thirty students of the seventh grade at the state of Junior High School 16 Palembang. Questionnaire, interview, and documentation were used to collect the data. The data were analyzed and interpreted through qualitative procedure. The findings indicated that the students had positive perception about efficient application used in online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the results, it shows that the application used in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic was efficient because the application can be an alternative way to conduct learning activity from home. While in students' perception about the most efficient application, most of them said that the most efficient, comfortable and economical application to use during the pandemic was WhatsApp.

Keywords: *perceptions, online learning, covid-19 pandemic*

In Indonesia, the spread of Covid-19 cases and the danger zones are increasingly raising. The impact of social activities, especially learning activities, has changed. In connection with the development of the spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), the Ministry of Education and Culture issued two circular letters regarding the prevention and treatment of the virus. The first, Circular Letter No. 2 of 2020 concerning Prevention and Handling of COVID-19 within the Ministry of Education and Culture and Circular Letter No. 3 of 2020 concerning prevention of COVID-19 in the education unit. Because the condition of this pandemic has worsened, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued another circular letter following a letter Number 1685 / LL4 / TU / 2020 dated March 16, 2020, concerning Appeals for Anticipation of the spread of Corona Virus 1, and by paying attention to the circular letter issued by the Director-General of Higher Education Number 1 of 2020 concerning prevention of the spread of Covid-19 in tertiary institutions, ministries of education, and culture as well as a circular of ministers of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform No.34 of 2020 dated March 30, 2020, which one point mentions that all services at higher education level were still done online (Kemendikbud, 2020).

There are several methods which are commonly used in learning process, such as lecturing method, discussion method, demonstration method, recitation method, and another

else. Of course, these methods can be done in learning commonly used in Indonesia, like a face to face method and online learning / E-learning. In Indonesia, indeed, in general, still used the face to face method, no exception at the university level. Many teachers are still using this method at the state of Junior High School 16 Palembang, even though the assignment uses online learning media.

According to Mohammadi (2010), online learning is commonly referred to as the intentional use of networked information and communications technology in teaching and learning. Online learning can be defined in this way too: the application of electronic systems such as the internet, computers, multimedia CDs which their aim is to reduce the number of expenses and goings and comings. According to Goyal (2012), online learning can be defined as the science of learning without using paper printed instructional material. Online learning is the use of telecommunication technology to deliver information for education and training. With the progress of information and communication technology development, online learning is emerging as the paradigm of modern education.

Thus, in using online learning some alternative media or applications can be used to support the learning process. A modern learner is someone who is in an environment where content changes fast and learning needs change even faster. Modern learners want answers right away and rely on a wide variety of sources to find the answer. Digital technology has created more ways of learning, more immediacy, and an increased pace of change. Modern learners are inseparable from digital life. They need the internet, text message, social media, and multimedia are natural everyday life activities for them, and they expect the use of technology in their academic lives. There is a connection between the way learners live and the way learners learn (Owens, 2018).

Clark (1983) stated that media as technology and machine are tools that can deliver learning, but they do not have influence towards students' ability if they do not relate to the learning content and context.

It is known that the role of media and applications facilitates the learning net, of course, and balanced with the conditions in each student because of the online learning system. The learning process should be more evenly distributed to students. Moreover, in using online learning some many alternative media or applications can be used to support the learning process. The application can be adjusted with media that is quickly owned, and almost every student has a laptop or smartphone. The existence of such obstacles will inevitably lead to a variety of perceptions from students, especially at the seventh class students of in the state of Junior High School 16 Palembang. Thus, the perception will arise

because the learning system that usually uses the face to face method turns into total online learning. Wilson (1974) proposed the term perception as the action of shaping information we get through our senses. It is a kind of neurological activity that deals with associative learning. Humans perceive something through their sense and interpret their perception through their action and ideas. There will be many perceptions, such as the pros and cons about changing this system from each generation at English Education Department 2020/2021 related to the effectiveness of this system to improve their English skills amid Institutional policies which implement online learning systems during Covid-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the study is to find out what the student's perceptions of an efficient application used in online learning during the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic were and what the most efficient application used by students in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic was.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Method

Sukmadinata (2016:60) stated that qualitative research is to describe and to analyze phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, thoughts of individuals individually or in groups. Several descriptions are used to find the principles and explanations that lead to the conclusion. In addition, Merriam (2009, p. 5) stated that qualitative researchers are interested in understanding how people interpret their experiences, how they construct their worlds, and what meaning they attribute to their experiences. Many qualitative studies are aimed at describing and revealing. The results of this study enrich the literature with a description of situations that are very complex, also provides suggestions for further research. Other studies were more directed at providing explanations according participants' perceptions. The results of these studies can increase the understanding of the readers.

This type of research is a survey, while the method is descriptive analytical. Riduwan (2006) says that survey research is research conducted on both large and small populations, but studied data is data from samples taken from the population.

Descriptive survey method is a research method that takes sample from a population and uses a questionnaire as a collection tool data. In this study, data and information were collected from respondents by using a questionnaire. After the data was obtained, the results were presented descriptively and at the end of the study there was the description about the

facts, nature and relationship between symptoms with explanatory research (explanatory research). The survey was conducted by conducting observation to obtain clear explanation of a particular problem in a research. The research was carried out extensively and sought to find results immediately. In general, this research goes through the stages of preliminary studies, model development and research hypotheses, data collection and processing so that the conclusion can be drawn as a result of analysis interpretation.

Technique of Data Collections

Creswell (2014) explains that the data collection steps in qualitative research include setting the boundaries for the study, collecting information through unstructured or semi structured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, as well as establishing the protocol for recording information. In this research, the researcher used questionnaire, interview, and documentation to collect the data.

Questionnaire

Questionnaire is defined as a document containing questions and other types of items designed to solicit information appropriate to analysis (Babbie, 1990, p. 337). Moreover, Kumar (2011) added that the advantages when the researcher uses questionnaire as follows:

a. It is less expensive

Using questionnaire can save the time, and human and financial resources. The use of questionnaire is comparatively convenient and inexpensive. Particularly when it is administered collectively to a study population, it is an extremely inexpensive method of data collection.

b. It offers greater anonymity

This method offers greater anonymity as there is no face-to - face interaction between respondents and interviewees. In certain cases, where sensitive questions are being posed, it helps to increase the likelihood of accurate information being received.

There are two kinds of questionnaire; close-ended and open-ended questionnaire. Based on the explanation above, this research used closed-ended questionnaire to find out the reaction from the teachers about perception and the efficient application used in online learning as the alternative way of learning in the midst of Covid-19. In close-ended questionnaire, possible answers are mentioned in the questionnaire or schedule and the respondent or investigator ticks the category which best describes the answer of the

respondent (Ary, et al., 2019). The researcher used these following scale categories as the optional answer of the questionnaire:

a. Strongly Disagree

b. Disagree

c. Neutral

d. Agree

e. Strongly Agree

In addition, offline and online questionnaire were provided for the teachers. The researcher used *Google form* for the online questionnaire. The teachers could choose one of the two questionnaires available. Furthermore, the researcher modified questionnaire arranged by Muslem and Juliana (2017). The researcher formulated the statements of questionnaire related to the perceptions of English Education Department Students about efficient application used in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 1 List table of the questionnaire 1

No	Statement	Srongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
1.	I joined and used the online learning applications for learning activities during the Covid-19 pandemic.					
2.	I use a variety of online learning applications					
3.	I think the applications that I use are efficient in learning activities during the Covid-19 pandemic					
4.	The applications that I use are very Enjoyable					
5.	This application that I use support the improvement of my English language skills					
6.	The applications that I use are practical to use in online learning activities during the Covid-19 pandemic.					
7.	The applications that I use are very economical and affordable in internet consumption to use during the online learning process.					

8.	The applications that I use are easy to use during the learning process of English during the Covid-19 pandemic.					
9.	I could use my smartphone or gadget to operate the applications to learn English during Covid-19 pandemic.					
10.	I do not face any difficulties and obstacles in using the applications on the process of learning English during Covid-19 pandemic.					

Interview

Interview was conducted to follow up and give more depth information from the questionnaire. Esterberg (2002) defined interview as "a meeting of two persons to exchange information and idea through question and responses, resulting in communication and joint construction of meaning about a particular topic". Interviews are used to gather data from people about opinions, beliefs, and feelings about situations in their own words. They are used to help understand the experiences people have and the meaning they make of them rather than to test hypotheses. Interviews may provide information that cannot be obtained through observation, or they can be used to verify observations.

An interview has the advantage of supplying large volumes of in-depth data rather quickly. Interviews provide insight on participants' perspectives, the meaning of events for the people involved, information about the site, and perhaps information on unanticipated issues. Interviews allow immediate follow- up and clarification of participants' responses.

There are three kinds of interview; structured (standardized) interview, semi structured interview and unstructured interview. In this study, the researcher used semi structured interview. There was a list of questions for the subject but there was still a possibility to ask other questions which were not provided in the list.

The researcher also would provide both face-to-face and non-face-to-face interview. The reason why the researcher provided non-face-to-face interview was that non-face-to-face interview provides more flexible and comfortable way considering the time, place and schedule. Moreover, with the rapid growth of technology nowadays, it gives impact in qualitative research. Redlith-Amiraf and Higginbottom (2014, p. 4) explained that the most affected area of qualitative research is the collection of data. Furthermore, they stated that

internet interview often include text which can change many aspects of data collection and analysis. For non-face-to-face interview, researcher used WhatsApp application that provides recorded voices, text messages or even a call or video call features to the user. On the other hand, for the face to face interview, the researcher used phone recorder and took some notes to record the participants answer. In formulating the questions, the researcher modified some statements from the questionnaire and add some questions about the students' perceptions of the most efficient application used by students in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic.

The interview questions are:

a. What are applications that you use on online learning during Covid-19 pandemic?

b. How is the efficiency of applications you use in online learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic?

c. How is your English skills improvement after learning using the application that you are currently used on the online learning process during the Covid- 19 pandemic?

d. How do you feel about learning using online applications to support English skills during the Covid-19 pandemic?

e. What is the most efficient application used as learning medium in online learning during Covid-19 pandemic?

f. What is the easiest application and does not face any obstacles when it is used in online learning during Covid-19 pandemic?

g. What is the most economist application that you use on online learning during Covid-19 pandemic?

Documentation

Ary et al. (2019, p. 442) said that documents refer of a wide range of written, physical, and visual materials, including what other authors my term artifacts. Documents may be personal, such as autobiographies, diaries, and letters; official documents such as files, reports, memorandums, or minutes; or popular culture documents such as books, movies, and videos. Furthermore, document analysis may include written or text-based artifacts (textbooks, novels, newspapers, minutes of meetings, logs, announcements, policy statements, newspapers, transcripts, birth certificates, marriage records, budgets, letters, e-mails, etc.) or of unwritten documents (photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, digital pictures, webpages, musical performances, political speeches on television, YouTube videos, virtual

world environments, etc).

In this research, some documents were used such as notes from the interview, pictures and other documents related to the study used to collect the data.

Technique of Analysing Data

Sugiyono (2015, p. 334) stated that data analysis is the process of systematically searching and arranging the interview transcripts, field notes, and other materials that you accumulate to increase your own understanding of them and to enable you to present what you have discovered to others". In short, data analysis is systematically process to analyze data which have been collected.

In this research, the researcher analyzed the data using three concurrent flows including data reduction, data display and drawing conclusion/verification (Miles & Hubberman, 1994).

Data Reduction

Data reduction refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the data that appear in written-up field notes or transcription (Miles & Hubberman, 1994, p. 10). The purpose of data reduction is to simplify the data obtained during data collection in the field.

In this research, the researcher collected the data about students' perceptions and the efficient of application media of online learning through interview and documentation and then transcribed the data. The irrelevant data which were not related to research questions were discharged. After collecting and reducing the data, the researcher displayed those data in the form of descriptive explanation.

Data Display

After reducing the data, the next step is displaying the data. According to Miles and Hubberman (1994, p. 10) data presentation is a collection of organized information that gives the possibility of drawing conclusions. This step was done by presenting a set of information that is structured and possibility of drawing conclusion, because the data obtained during the process of qualitative research usually in form of narrative, thus requiring simplification without reducing its contents.

Conclusion / Verification

Conclusion or verification is the final stage in the data analysis process. In

qualitative research the conclusion characteristic is temporary. It can change if the researcher does not find strong evidence to support the next collecting data. Therefore, "Final" conclusion may not appear until the data collection is over (Miles & Hubberman, 1994, p. 10) However, if the conclusion in the previous data can be evidenced by validity and consistency when the researcher is going back to the field, so the conclusion is credible. In this research, the researcher made conclusion from the data display.

Validity of Research Data

In this research, the researcher used data triangulation to validate the research data. Triangulation is essentially a multi-method conducted by researchers when conducting research, data collection, and analysis Walidin, et al. (2015:139). Furthermore, Cohen, et al. (2007:141) explained that triangulation can be defined as the use of two or more data collection methods in the study of several aspects of human behavior. Walidin, et al. (2015:140) stated that there are two goals of triangulation:

1. First, discuss two methods in one study to get better results than using only one method in a study.

2. Second, the aim is to compare information about the same things obtained from various parties, so that there is a guarantee about the level of data confidence.

Sutopo (2006) as quoted in Walidin etal. (2015:142) explained that there are four kinds of triangulation techniques:

1. Data triangulation, exploring the truth of information certain through various methods and sources of data acquisition.

2. Triangulation investigator, done by using more than one person in data collection and analysis.

3. Methodological triangulation, done by comparing information or data in different ways.

4. Theoretical triangulation, the final result of qualitative research is a formulation of information or a thesis statement. The information is then compared with the perspective of the theory that is relevant to avoid the individual researcher bias over the findings or conclusions produced.

In triangulation, through various perspectives or views, it is expected to get results that are close to the truth. In this study, from the four types of triangulation techniques above the researcher validates the data using the first technique, which is exploring the truth of certain information through various methods and sources of data acquisition. The

researcher compared data collected from questionnaires and interviews.

FINDINGS

After conducting research and analyzing the research about students' perceptions of the online learning in the midst of covid-19 pandemic at the state of Junior High School 16 Palembang, the result of findings indicated that the students have positive perception about efficient application used in online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the results, the respondents said that the application used in online learning during in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic was efficient because the application was a good way or alternative way to do learning activity from home.

While in students' perception on the most efficient application used by students in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, almost all of the respondents said that the most efficient, comfortable and economical application to use during the pandemic was WhatsApp application. They claimed that they chose WhatsApp for several reasons such as it is easy to access on low signals, it does not use too much internet quota, it is economical, it has features that are good enough to support learning, and it is certainly familiar to use.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results, it can be concluded that the application used in online learning during the midst of Covid-19 pandemic was efficient because the application can be an alternative way to conduct learning activity from home. While in students' perception about the most efficient application, most of them said that the most efficient, comfortable and economical application to use during the pandemic was WhatsApp.

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