CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter present the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

As an international language, English is important to learn because of the many benefits students will get if they can master English. Nasr (1972) stated that by learning English, students can have the knowledge to understand English and the ability to communicate with others using English. Furthermore, in this era, English is widely used in the fields of education and technology. English is also useful for doing business with foreigners in many countries so that students who can master English have an influence on the development of a country.

In Indonesia, English is not considered a first or second language, but as a foreign language because it is not used in everyday communication. Even so, the government still considers English as a subject that students must master. This is evidenced by making English one of the subjects taught to students at all levels, from elementary up to University and it is also included in the subject matter that students must pass on the National Examination at the junior and senior high school levels. This shows that learning English in Indonesia is mostly done in schools.

However, since the pandemic of the Coronavirus disease has attacked a lot of countries include Indonesia, it has many impacts on the world of education, one of

which is the cessation of face-to-face learning in schools. In Indonesia, the number of positive patients with Covid-19 has reached over 300,000 starts from March to October 2020. This very aggressive spread has caused all human activities stop temporarily to break the transmission rate of Covid-19. Therefore the Minister of Education and Culture, Nadiem Anwar Makarim, takes firm action published in Circular Number 4 of 2020, one of which was to oblige all school institutions to conduct online learning. Students learning activities and assignments can adapt to the different interests and conditions of students, such as gaps in access or learning facilities at home.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, technology plays an important role in the continuity of online learning for teachers and students, one of which is for the achievement of distance learning goals. The use of e-learning in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 is the right method to replace conventional learning that cannot be done during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Prestiadi (2020), the use of e-learning as a distance learning strategy during the Covid-19 pandemic was effective because it can improve students' abilities if teachers can use various online media to provide easy and interesting learning. Besides, e-learning also makes learning time more flexible and makes it easier for students to do and collect assignments. On the other hand, Krishnapatria (2020) found that not all students were satisfied in using e-learning during the Covid-19 pandemic because there many obstacles and challenges in the learning process such as the cost of the internet, the lack of digital literacy between lecturers students which made it

difficult for students to understand the material, and students felt the outcome of the implementation of e-learning still needed to be improved.

Currently, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia is making an innovation to support the online learning process, namely E-Learning Madrasah. E-learning Madrasah is a free application to support the learning process at Madrasah and can be used at all levels of the Islamic school. E-learning Madrasah has 6 access roles including madrasah administrators, subject teachers, counseling teachers, homeroom teachers, Madrasah principals, and students that can be accessed in elearning.kemenag.go.id. The purpose of implementing this e-learning Madrasah for teachers and students is to get information and carry out the online learning process to be more structured, interactive, and interesting.

The use of e-learning Madrasah is a new thing at the Islamic School, and each student has different perceptions on this platform. One of a islamic school that is applied e-learning Madrasah is MAN 1 Kota Kediri. MAN 1 Kota Kediri is follows technological advances and is active in various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. It means MAN 1 Kota Kediri is a school that follows current technology developments and is familiar with social media platforms.

Based on these reasons, the researcher is interested to conduct a study about Students' Perception towards the use of E-learning Madrasah to Support EFL Learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic in MAN 1 Kota Kediri.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the researcher states the problem of the study as follows:

1. What are the students' perception towards the use of e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic?

2. What are the challenges in using e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic?

C. Objective of the Study

Considering the problems of the study above, this study is directed to get the description about:

1. Students' perception towards the use of e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic.

2. The challenges of using e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic.

D. Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes this study can give information about students' perception and challenges towards the use of E-Learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic. The result of this study expected to give a positive contribution for:

1. Teacher

   This research can help the teacher to know what things should be improved, and it is also can help the teacher understand every problem from the student

2. Students

    This research can help the students to express their feeling so far while studying using e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning at their school.

3. Further researcher

    The researcher hope this result of this study will provide information which useful for the further researcher and find other aspects of e-learning Madrasah to be researched.

E. Scope and Limitation

1. Scope

    The scope of this study is focuses on the students' perception towards the use of e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning. This study also focuses in the challenges of using of e-learning Madrasah to support EFL learning during Covid-19 Pandemic.

2. Limitation

    Questionnaire can provide descriptive answers but has limitations in providing in-depth understanding of the research being carried out. Thus, this limitation is overcome by also providing open-ended questions in the questionnaire so that students who are participants can give more complete answers.

F. **Definition of Key Terms**

1. Perception

   Perception is a person's response to environmental stimuli that can be influenced by mental conditions, perceived experiences, motivation, and other factors (Slavin, 2006).

2. English as Foreign Language

   English as a foreign language is generally used in countries where students study English at schools or institutions as tourists or business people in the target language country (Harmer, 2007)

3. E-Learning

   E-learning is the use of information and communication technology to allow access to online learning / teaching resources (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014).

4. E-Learning Madrasah

   E-learning Madrasah is a free application under the auspices of The Ministry of Religious Affairs to support the learning process at madrasah and can be used at all levels of the madrasah.

5. Covid-19 Pandemic

   Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered coronavirus. The spread of this virus can occur through droplets of saliva or nasal discharge when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This pandemic first appeared in the city of Wuhan, China and began to plague Indonesia in March 2020.