

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research that describes the reason why the writer conducted the study. It also contains the problem of the study, objectives of the study, scope and limitation of the study, the significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the study

Language is a means of communication, without language we cannot know the meaning of what the other person is talking about. This is the importance of language as a means of communication. Amberg and Vause (2009, p. 2) also state that a language is a communication tool, and in a social context communication almost always occurs.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language as well as a global language that must be mastered to support various aspects of life, one of which is learning in the world of education. In Indonesia itself, face-to-face learning is prioritized. However, due to the existence of the Covid-19 virus, the learning process is carried out online. The Directorate General of Disease Prevention and Control (2020) states that Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a new type of virus that has never been identified in humans. Coronaviruses are zoonotic (can be transmitted between animals or humans). The Covid-19 pandemic first appeared in the city of Wuhan, China at the end of December 2019 and began to plague Indonesia in early March 2020.

Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarim issued Circular Letter Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education in Coronavirus (Covid-19) Emergency Situations. One of the contents of the letter emphasized that it is hoped that online distance learning can provide a new experience for students and it is also hoped that students do not feel overwhelmed by curriculum achievement.

According to Ardiansyah (2013), e-learning is a learning process that does not need to be done face-to-face so that e-learning is believed to be the best choice during the Covid-19 outbreak. Some of the advantages are, according to Suartama (2014), the material provided during e-learning can be accessed anytime and from anywhere and can also be enriched with material from various sources. Then according to Rusman (2012, p. 299) learning is carried out individually, so learners can learn according to their own characteristics and steps through web-based learning so that it is hoped that learning using e-learning can train students' independence.

However, learning through e-learning is still relatively new and requires adaptation. Students' views also different, therefore researchers want to know whether students during the Covid-19 pandemic were still learning well or not through the e-learning system. Then the researchers conducted research entitled *Students' Perception Towards English E-Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic*.

B. Research Problem

Based on the research background above, the researcher formulation the research question is:

“What are students’ perceptions toward English e-learning during Covid-19 pandemic?”

C. Research Objective

Based on the research problem above, the objective of the study is:

“To investigate students’ perceptions toward English e-learning during Covid-19 pandemic.”

D. The Scope and Limitation of the Study

In conducting research, the scope and limitations of the research are students' perceptions of English e-learning during the covid-19 pandemic. This research is focused on semester I students of IAIN Kediri for the semester batch 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

E. The Significances of the Study

The result from this research is expected that the findings of this study can support and complement previous theories related to the use of e-learning for learning English.

For students, e-learning can be used as a learning medium for learning English during the Covid-19 pandemic. Students can use e-

learning to learn English material even though in a distance way without face to face directly in the classroom so that the subject matter is not left behind.

For lecturers, it is hoped that this research can provide inspiration or ideas to teaching English through e-learning. Lecturers can use e-learning as an alternative medium for teaching English without having to face to face directly in the classroom. Then from the perception of students the lecturers can know the extent of student understanding of the material delivered through e-learning, whether there are obstacles or not.

F. Definition of The Key Terms

In order to avoid misinterpretation, the following key terms used in this research will be defined:

1. Perception

Perception is a sensing process, namely the process of receiving a stimulus by an individual through the senses or also called a sensory process. However, this process doesn't stop, but the stimulus is continued and the next process is a perceptual process. Therefore, the perceptual process cannot be separated from the sensing process, which is a preliminary process of the perceptual process (Walgito, 2010).

2. E-learning

According to Rusman (2012, p. 293), e-learning is all learning activities that use the help of electronic technology. Through e-learning, students' understanding of a material does not depend on the teacher/instructor but can be obtained from electronic media.

3. Covid-19 Pandemic

In early 2020, the world was shocked by the outbreak of a new pneumonia that started in Wuhan, Hubei Province which then spread rapidly to more than 190 countries and territories. This outbreak is named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) which is caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The policies taken by many countries including Indonesia by closing all educational activities have made the government and related institutions have to present an alternative educational process for students and students who cannot carry out the educational process at educational institutions.