# CHAPTER I
## INTRODUCTION

The study will begin in this chapter by discussing the basic framework in the study that has been carried out, which contains many features and components. As for those, they are:

## D.  Background of Study

As the world knows, Indonesia and other countries are fighting for this pandemic era, COVID-19. Before the COVID-19, some diseases that are classified as pandemic have appalled the world, these are SARS, Ebola, Spanish flu, and Hong Kong Flu. Pandemic is an epidemic that is spread over a very wide area (Qiu et al., 2016). While in KBBI, pandemic is defined as an illness or epidemic that is contagious everywhere including a large geographic area. The disease that can be classified as pandemic is an infectious disease that is not only spread in the country of origin, but also in other countries. It can be said that pandemics always affect many aspects of life, such as teaching and the learning process.

The teaching and learning process is one of the most affected activities by the pandemic. Teaching and learning activities are often held in a classroom where the teacher, as an instructor, is giving some instructions to the students. Learning is the process of change (Sequeira, 2012). Change the student's attitude, improve the student's skill, and increase the student's knowledge. While teaching is an activity that helps the learning process. Since the occurrence of the pandemic, the process of teaching and learning has changed. Students and teachers don't conduct the activity in a classroom. The term "distance learning" appears to make education still running well. Buselic (2016) states that Distance learning is a discipline of education which focuses on teaching methods and technology with the purpose of teaching students who are not physically present in a traditional educational setting, classroom.

The character and interests of students are influenced by the psychological conditions experienced by each individual, these conditions trigger a mindset and character that becomes a personality for everyone. Usually a poor psychological state will also have an unfavorable effect such as insecurity. Depression, feeling lonely, and stressed, these things can happen to individuals on different levels for different reasons, but on the contrary if the psychological state is considered good it will have a

positive effect, because humans are a form of biological awareness that requires other people or so-called social beings.

The context of this study is adaptation, it refers to the process by which students determine their interests in learning the English language. It is also related to the psychological condition of individuals, where their interests are how they determine their role in the environment. The talents of a person who can assist grow a community or society at large define an individual's function in an environment. The interest of students who are still maturing certainly has a dynamic pattern that is influenced by various factors such as habits in the learning model, at first the learning model was carried out "face to face," but now it has turned into online or online learning using today's technological sophistication, which may trigger a change in student interest. This context's factors include emotional moods and physical situations such as boredom, an interest to learn more about something new, environmental conditions, the effect of internet media, and so on.

The thing to note is that not all new students experience the psychological factors of online learning. Because each individual's response to developmental tasks and demands at this time is different, not all individuals are able to overcome the challenges at this stage (Putri, 2020, p. 5-6).This surely makes the learning technique one of the most important impacts on students' psychological conditions, because studying at school is one of the many social activities that is the dominating interaction after contact in the home.

The main focus of this research is to find out and describe the psychological factors of online learning on the character and interest development of students who have been through the process of online learning activities for a long time when learning English as a second language. This research is expected to be a reference for teachers and instructors in understanding the psychological condition of students who have long experienced an extraordinary transition period, and will return to normal. This study will explore and examine the interests and characters of students who have undergone online learning activities who are still adapting or adjusting back to offline activities.

As for what is meant by self-adjustment according to Sarwono (1992) is a process that includes mental and behavioral responses which are individual efforts to overcome and master inner needs, tensions, frustration and conflicts so that there is harmony between inner demands. Happening in the environment (Putri et al., 2017).

The psychological state of students when implementing online learning models leads researchers to want to know the impact on interests and characters which of course affect the quality of life and the development of the subject to become a mature person in society and become a guide for teachers in the digital era to be more creative and sensitive to the condition of the students as explained by Ibn Sina that psychologically a subject matter cannot be explained in one way and must be achieved in a way that is in accordance with the psychological development of students (Nata, 2003, p. 74-75). According to Keating (2001), this research concentrates in ethnomethodology which is aimed at describing the forms and functions of verbal and non-verbal communicative behavior in a particular social setting (Hameed, 2017, p. 70).

## E. Identification of Problems

A student's mental state can affect not only personality development activities, but also academic learning outcomes. The online learning activity triggered by the coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the main factors changing patterns of social activity in society and forming new habits that are gradually becoming established in society. Pandemic conditions call for a change in social interaction patterns, in which individuals are required to keep their distance from other individuals, especially in closed rooms, as the COVID-19 virus can spread through the air and has the ability to mutate very quickly, the fact is that the Social Interaction within an individual decreases so rapidly that it causes various effects from small to large, so that people begin to look for other ways to interact even in the remote conditions that we usually call online interaction.

Online activities are very useful for various activities in society, but in reality, people who are social beings still feel mentally uncomfortable. Now that a pandemic has occurred and "social distance" regulations have been established for about two years, some social activities, such as education with specific rules, are beginning to take place offline. Researchers seek to know what elements exist when this phenomena happens in teenagers who are in the process of character development and wish to study more in a formal school setting.

## F. Objectives of Study

This study focuses on the early teens and in the social environment that reflects their personality and interest in the learning environment. This is something that many secondary school teachers and educators ignore. Educators only focus on educational tasks and do not protect the mental health of students who are still in the development and export stages. Therefore, in this study, researchers investigate what happened in relation to a pandemic state, and what happened in their early teens after the pandemic in relation to their personality and learning interests.

## G. Benefit of Study

The goal of this research is to inform instructors and students in formal education about the relevance of students' psychological well-being and its relationship to the development of their character and interest in learning, in this instance studying English. This is because, from the standpoint of cognitive development and moral reasoning, parents and educators should be aware of and build on adolences' growing concepts of justice, human welfare, and human rights, as well as the application of these moral understandings to everyday concerns.

This study focuses on reacting to the psychological impact of the pandemic outbreak, which has been a worry for several years, and tries to enhance the school environment by introducing psychological health awareness for students. It is believed that this study would assist educators pay greater attention to little factors such as students' psychological conditions, which might impact elements of development and information processing in adolence. Character development, also known as "Developmental psychology." This is a scientific study of the systematic psychological changes that occur in humans throughout their lives.

Albert Bandura's book, Self-Efficacy in Changing Societies serves as the foundation for this research. This book examines Bandura's theory, which studies human cognition and behavior, resulting in the psychological factors caused by environmental stimuli.

## H. Research Problem

To tackle the problem systematically, the problem further develops into the following question:

a. What psychological factors influenced character development in a post-pandemic situation?

b. What psychological factors influenced interest in studying English in a post-pandemic situation?

## I. Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope, which is also the subject of this study, is SMPN 3 Trenggalek. The researchers picked this place for reasons related to the research topic, such as the possibility of matching respondents, the density level of the location, and the importance of environmental occurrences. Regarding the availability and approval of the agency that enables doing research within the scope of the institution, so that the researcher's presence is fully acknowledged during the research process.

To ensure that the study is focused, the author limits the topics that will be examined, namely:

1. Character development of students at the age of 13-15 years which includes three main points, namely: cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial development.

2. Psychological factors influencing students' interest to study English.

## J. Significance of Study

The aims of this research are to understand more broadly about the psychological state of students who are being taught, especially when online learning is applied. Researchers try to provide exploration space for teachers and students in the scope of education during a pandemic. This research will give a good understanding about social impact according to psychological state in adolescents.

Both students and faculty members of the Institute of Islamic Kediri of English Studies are expected to be able to theoretically or practically understand the importance of psychological conditions for personality and academic development. Analyzing online learning as the main subject of this study will give rise to a more concrete understanding in academia. In this special opportunity, the author also hopes

to provide new insights into children's academic and personality development, especially in the field of English.

## K. Definition of Key Terms

In this study, there are several key terms that are closely related to the study to be carried out, these key terms refer to the meaning of the use of these words as the main guide for the readers.

- **Psychology**

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2022), Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it influences behavior. It can be said that psychology is the activity of knowing the actions of the soul and the abilities of the soul as a means to recognize human behavior to gain an understanding of the symptoms of the soul and a better understanding of human behavior. As a social science, psychologists aim to understand the behavior of individuals and groups (Fernald 2008, p. 12-15).

- **Psychological State**

Psychological state is a condition that can affect an individual's daily life. Sometimes, a person's psychological condition can be disturbed. This condition is called a psychological disorder or mental disorder (Sendari, 2020).

- **Psychology Factors**

Psychological factors are the strategies that people use to recognize their feelings, acquire and evaluate information, create thoughts and beliefs, and act (Lamb, 2001).

- **Online Learning**

Online learning refers to web-based training, e-learning, distributed learning, internet-based learning, web-based learning, cyber learning, virtual learning, or network-based learning. Online learning is a subset of distance learning, covering a wide range of technology applications and learning processes, including computer-based learning, web-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration (Urdan & Weggen, 2000). In addition, they are a complete course with just-in-time learning and access to content for access (Hall, 2000).

- **Character Development**

    According to the American Psychological Association (APA), character development is the steady development of moral notions, conscience, religious beliefs or viewpoints, and social attitudes as an integral component of personality development. Human character development has a variety of potential and possibilities based on how humans grow in an environment, situations, and numerous social elements.

- **Student Interest**

    In education, student interest refers to a student's proclivity for a certain subject to which he or she may readily relate without difficulty. The learner may acquire an interest in any specific educational material or task. Students' interests in the world of education are so diverse that they cannot be the same for each person; hence, student interest may be quantified as one of the factors of students' ability in a given topic.

- **Post-Pandemic**

    Post-pandemic here refers to student adaptation to learning activities and new changes after a long period of adaptation to the online social environment caused by the pandemic of the COVID 19 virus that has hit the entire global community system.