

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN LEARNING ENGLISH BY USING ONLINE LEARNING APP AT SMK ISLAM BATU

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to identify and describe students' experiences in using online learning applications at SMK Islam Batu. Online learning provides many events and incidents so that they can gain experience and knowledge from the online classes they take part in. Their experiences and perceptions about online learning have advantages and disadvantages in conducting online class activities and using applications. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The subjects of this study are 5 students of X-2 students from information and communication technology department in SMK Islam Batu. Interview was used as the instruments for collecting data. Furthermore, the questions are adapted from reference journals from Prabawati (2021) by adjusting the questions that will be used for interviews according to the problems that will be studied by researchers. For the analysis data, researcher used three main stages, there are data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Based on the results, this study reveals two kinds of results from the problems that have been examined. The use of online applications has various benefits, students can study anywhere and anytime, and learning with applications can save time, more practical, and flexible. Students also get new and fun experiences. On the other hand, the obstacles are that they feel unable to adapt to the online learning system. The main cause is inadequate internet network and limited internet quota.

Keywords: Online learning, Online learning application, Experience.

INTRODUCTION

The year of 2020 was a very difficult year for all people throughout the world. Now Indonesia is still hit by a pandemic due to the Covid-19 virus. Indonesia is experiencing difficulties, and the government is urging people to stay at home and not crowd. The year of 2020 was a very difficult year for all people throughout the world. Now Indonesia is still hit by a pandemic due to the Covid-19 virus. Indonesia is experiencing difficulties, and the government is urging people to stay at home and not

crowd.

The existence of Covid-19 has had an impact on almost all countries, with education being one of them. Starting with a face-to-face learning system and progressing to an online learning policy. According to Syarifudin and Albitar (2020), online learning can now be used for distance learning during a natural disaster or when faced with social distancing. The existence of Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the implementation of learning activities in the classroom, such that learning is now done through online applications.

Learning is a process in which educators and students communicate with one another through the use of a learning tool. Learning is an activity in which we impart knowledge, abilities, and skills to others in order for them to be useful in the present and future. According to Andiani and Fitri (2021), learning is training, or a method of assisting students in learning. The learning process is a lifelong process that humans can engage in at any time and from any location. Online learning, also known as online learning, is a virtual activity that is carried out using the internet and online applications, and is currently used as a substitute for learning in school or face-to-face.

According to Andiani and Fitri (In Rahman 2019), E-learning necessitates supporting facilities and infrastructure, such as mobile phones, laptops, and adequate internet networks, in order for learning to take place and be of higher quality. Applications that can help the online learning process run smoothly are currently in demand. This learning is accomplished through the use of a variety of tools and software that aid in the current online learning process, including Zoom Meeting, Google Meet, Google Classroom, Edmodo, and class Whats App groups.

There are previous studies on this topic. First, Famularsih (2020) had conducted the research on second semester students of English Department in one of Universities in Salatiga. The design was qualitative research. She reveals that most of students considered the utilization of online learning application in English learning effective and efficient, but they had lack of interaction between lecturer and students in the emergency situation. Then, Pratiwi (2021) who had conducted her research in SMA Negeri 10 Jambi at eleventh graders. The researcher findings on her study, Google Classroom is the primary platform for learning, supported by WhatsApp and YouTube. Google Classroom features include paperless submission, easy to see assessment, the confidentiality of student assignments, real-

time notification, a lack of motivation, reading that is not monitored, and a lack of interaction. Then, Prabawati (2021) had conducted the research at eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 9 Gowa. The researcher reveals that the teacher used Google classroom, Youtube, Google form, and Whats App for online learning english, and the researcher find some positive and negative perception toward online media app used when learning English.

According to those previous studies, the research above provides the same findings about the advantages and disadvantages experienced by students in using learning applications in learning English class. But, everyone has a different perceptive about the topic, so the researcher examined the perceptions of SMK Islam Batu students in using applications when learning English, there are Whats app groups, Zoom meetings, and Google Classroom, also researcher conducted research at ten grades in SMK Islam Batu. The reason why researcher chose Vocational High School rather than Senior High School others because researcher find that the learning system in Vocational High School focuses on practical learning rather than theoretical learning, so that students can carry out practical training in the field using the ability and knowledge they have. In the current era of globalization, English is preferred. Even though learning English at SMK is not the main subject like at SMA, learning English at SMK is very important for students to equip themselves to have the ability to communicate according to their program of expertise, whether it is oral or written by mastering basic English knowledge and skills to support the achievement of expertise program competencies. And the researcher examined at SMK Islam Batu because these school was still difficult to reach and did not meet adequate quality school, so researcher conducts a perception using app media is to know how their experiences and the obstacles also benefits using it.

The researcher problems of this study can be stated as follows:

1. What are the benefits of using online learning applications for students of SMK Islam Batu?
2. What are the obstacles faced by students of SMK Islam Batu in using online learning applications?

METHOD

This research used qualitative design. According to the theory, this study was conducted in a descriptive qualitative design because it was aimed at describing students experiences, so the researcher thinks that was compatible design to get the data. According to Creswell (In Pratiwi, 2021), qualitative research is concerned with the comprehension of phenomena that generate data in the form of written words from people. This study used qualitative research to collected some responses and deeper data from various perspectives of students about students' learning experiences when using applications in learning English. The researcher attempted to obtain descriptions of students' experiences or perspectives from students in the tenth grade at SMK Islam Batu.

Subject

The subjects of this study were 5 students from information and communication technology department. The researcher only chose 5 participants from 20 students according to the recommendation from their class leader in class X-2 with the criteria of 5 students being active in class, excelling in mastering the skills and practice of majors, of the 5 participants having also answered all interviews given by the researcher because participants understand the problem being researched by researchers.

Instrument and Data Collection

The researcher used semi-structured interviews. Interviews were conducted by researcher with 5 participants with 4 questions according to the problem studied by researcher which was carried out in an online system using the Whats App group application by providing answers that were recorded using the voice note technique. Researcher compiled 4 questions and adapted them from journal references from Prabawati (2021) by adjusting the references to previous questions that would be used for interviews according to problems related to the use of learning applications (Whats App, Zoom Meeting, and Google Classroom) which have been used by SMK Islam Batu students so far during learning English in online classes.

Data Analysis

According to Nurhasanah 2020 (In Miles, Huberman & Saldana: 2014) data analysis techniques are divided into three main stages, there are data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

- The initial step taken by the researcher was that the researcher reduced the results of the data by selecting, categorizing and simplifying the results of the same answers from the participants so that conclusions could be drawn from the results of the data. The researcher listened to the results of the interview answers in the form of recordings on the Whats App group voice note, compiled and presented the results of student answers according to the questions in descriptive form, re-read and listened to the

audio recording again.

- The researcher carried out the process of presenting the data in the form of a text description after being translated into English, which was in table form so that researchers could easily organize the results of the answers from all participants.
- The final step is the conclusion, after carrying out the steps above the researcher draws conclusions from the results of the participants' interview answers and concludes from the participants' answers.

FINDINGS

The data of this research were collected on 28th-29th of July 2022. There were 5 participants involved in this research. The participants were 5 students at SMK Islam Batu.

1. The application that are always students of SMK Islam Batu used in online class

- P1: based on the result of the first participant's answer, the participant said Whats app, Google Classroom and Zoom Meeting. The participants can master Whats app and Zoom Meeting applications because they are more convenient and easy to use when learning online.
- P2 & P3: the participants said Whats app and Zoom Meeting always used by teachers in teaching, to give teacher assignments using the Whats app application and to explain the teacher's subject matter using the Zoom Meeting application.
- P4: whats app, Zoom Meeting, and Google Classroom is the application used in online learning. And the participant said that she like use Whats app application because she can master it.
- P5: the last participants' answer, Whats app, Zoom Meeting, and Google Classroom used by teachers in teaching in accordance with the uses and benefits of the application.

From the participants statements above, applications that are always used by teachers in teaching are Whats App which is used to provide information and interact with students regarding the learning to be carried out, Zoom Meetings are used to communicate in explaining material and make presentations when needed, and Google Classroom is used to collect assignments that have been done.

2. The applications media (Whats App, Zoom Meeting, Google Classroom) can help in online class

Based on the result of the first interview of participant's answer. All the participants answered the question with the word "help", which is that the media app can very helpful and makes it easier for participants to carry out the online learning process during the covid 19 pandemic.

3. The advantages of using application while online learning

- P1: based on the result of the first participant's answer, the participant said that the advantages using application while online learning can study at any time and easy to use it.
- P2: the advantages using applications while online learning can make flexible and saving time.
- P3: the third participant had the same opinion with Participant 1, but the participant 3 said that using application while online learning can study at any time and also anywhere.
- P4: using application while learning can make relax and have a lot of time.
- P5: can learn all the time, and the applications are all useful.

From the statements above, the advantages of using applications that are can learn anywhere, anytime, and can also saving time to be more flexible.

4. The obstacles of using application in online learning

- P1: the obstacle in online learning always bed in the network.
- P2&P3: the participants have problems in learning devices and signals.
- P4: the obstacles that occurs when online learning is limited quota and network.
- P5: the obstacles poor network, limited quota, and lack of communication with others.

From the answer of the interview question, it can be concluded that the obstacles experienced by participants in online learning are inadequate networks, limited internet quota, and lack of interaction with others.

DISCUSSION

The researcher said that there are several application platforms that are often used by participants, such as Whats app, Zoom Meeting, and Google Classroom. Each application has different uses in supporting online learning. Whats app application is a platform that is usually used daily in learning activities, Whats app can make it easier for teachers and students to chat with each other regarding learning. Zoom Meeting is a platform used for teachers and students to conduct online meetings, so that when delivering material the teacher can explain in detail using a face that can be displayed on the screen and a voice that can be heard clearly. And Google Classroom is a platform that teachers use to provide assignment instructions and where to collect them which is useful for students. Learning media are tools, methods, and techniques used to improve communication and interaction between teachers and students during the learning process (Riduan, 2021).

The students' responses about the apps media can help participants in understanding when online learning. A media platform with various applications that can support online teaching and learning activities. In this case, the applications used as a learning tool by the teacher from Whats App, Zoom Meeting, and Google Classroom is that it speeds up the work for both teachers and students because it is carried out in an organized manner with their respective parts of using the application. In the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world of education, as well as teachers and students, are making greater use of the government's online learning system, so that teachers and students can easily learn anytime and anywhere without limitation by space, time, and place flexibility (Hariyati, 2020)

The advantages of using online applications for online learning can do it at any time and from any location, also students have a lot of free time and get new and enjoyable experiences because they can learn personally. According to Ermawati (2020), learning media are educational tools that can be used as an intermediary in the learning process to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching objectives.

The factors that caused participants to have difficulty using online learning applications was the lack of online learning support facilities, the main cause being the network and internet quota. Furthermore, many of the participants stated feel a lack of interaction and communication, both with the teacher and their classmates. According to Sena, (2022), there are several disadvantages to using online learning media, including students' lack of motivation in online learning, a lack of personnel to know and have internet skills, and a lack of interaction between teacher and students, which can slow down learning activities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and the discussion from the previous chapter, this study reveals two kinds of results. The first is about the benefits of using online learning applications for students of SMK Islam Batu. Based on the findings of the researcher, using online applications for online learning has various benefits, as students being can learn anywhere and anytime, the use of learning applications can save time, be more practical, and more flexible. Students also get new and enjoyable experiences.

The second is about the obstacles faced by students of SMK Islam Batu in using online learning applications. Based on the findings, students feel unable to adapt to online learning systems, compared to face-to-face learning in schools. At the beginning of online learning, which was carried out for almost 2 years, the factors that researchers found that caused students to find it difficult and not fluent in online learning was the lack of online learning support facilities using online applications. The cause is an inadequate internet network and limited internet quota.

SUGGESTIONS

- For English Teacher: it is recommended that English teachers should be creative in selecting learning media that corresponds to the material to be taught. English teachers are expected to use other creative media in the teaching and learning process to create a comfortable learning environment for students.
- For future research: it is recommended that the online learning process and the use of application

media be greatly expanded and detailed. The researchers conducted research at SMK Islam Batu. For future researchers are expected to be able for conduct research in several places by further developing specific skills in learning English according to this topics.

Malang, 30th of January 2023
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NPP.140105197532133

