CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the research, statement of the research problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope, and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

Today studying English is very important. English is used for international communication so it is used in almost all fields. Therefore English clearly should be given the priority to be studied among other foreign languages. In the global world of communication, English is becoming popular. English It is extensively utilized as a teaching tool in many educational institutions, language centers, and universities, as well as a gateway to all disciplines of knowledge and academic study, a global resource, and the greatest instrument for foreign language learning and teaching (Abdulhafid, 2015:1-2). English plays a significantly greater part in the modern globe. It may be argued that English can usher in a bright future since it helps link individuals in a worldwide society. Although learning a language is difficult and time-consuming, it is worthwhile to do so since it opens up several opportunities (Nishanthi, 2018).

The COVID-19 epidemic has further exacerbated the need of studying English at this time. Currently, the learning system in Indonesia is considered very complicated. The existence of the COVID-19 pandemic has disturbed human activities, especially educational institutions. COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a new kind of coronavirus, Sars-CoV-2, that was originally discovered in Wuhan, China on December 31st, 2019 (Kemenkes, 2020).

Due to the ongoing pandemic situation, the government finally gave a policy to schools to implement distance learning to avoid social interaction. Online learning raises pros and cons among the community. According to Mardiah (2020), The expenses of developing e-learning are higher than those of producing classroom content, particularly when multimedia or highly interactive approaches are utilized. However, the cost of delivering e-learning (including web servers and technical support) is far lower than the cost of classroom facilities, teacher time, participant travel, and lost work time due to class attendance. Not all people feel the positive impact, especially people who live in remote or mountainous areas. Signals are difficult to reach in mountainous areas. So many differences in every aspect faced by everyone such as in education, tourism, economy, and so on. All citizens from urban to remote areas must move to the virtual or digital era and abandon traditional ways to stop the infection from spreading. For example, in the field of education, students are not allowed to go to school (Octaberlina, et.al, 2020).

To deal with problems in learning, teachers are needed who can accompany students and understand the needs of students. There are three roles of teachers. The first is facilitator, which means that the instructor is thought to be able to assist students with their learning. The counselor, on the other hand, focuses on one-on-one encounters. The third is a source, where the teacher is seen as a source of knowledge and expertise (Benson, 2001:171-172). Good teachers have good teaching strategies so that it makes students easy to understand in capturing the material. The learning strategy is a pattern of learning activities that the teacher chooses and uses contextually, according to student characteristics,

school conditions, the surrounding environment, and formulated specific learning objectives (Syahputra, 2014: 129). This method is intended to assist teachers in creating an atmosphere in which students may engage in the teaching and learning process. The teachers must enhance their ability to organize a variety of learning components, such as materials and techniques (Wardani, 2017:2-3). Teachers should encourage pupils since these circumstances do not promote effective and flawless learning, but rather act as a barrier to student progress. If the teacher is unable to solve student development problems, the learning objectives will not be achieved properly (Wardani, 2017: 5). Teachers have a strategic role in shaping student character and intelligence then help students to achieve some goals in the learning process. There are many strategies used in English, therefore teachers are free to choose learning strategies according to their needs. Teachers need to have an effective teaching strategy so that students can understand the material well. According to research has been conducted by Huda (2016:36), with the changing times, instructors should rethink and update their teaching strategies.

Some research has been done on the instructional techniques mentioned above. Mardiah (2020) did a study in order to look into the usage of E-learning as a contemporary trend in English instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings revealed that throughout the pandemic, the E-learning system was seen as the sole relevant teaching-learning technique. However, a number of obstacles must be overcome, including a lack of internet/WIFI connectivity, students' lack of motivation, and low levels of student participation. The emotional dimension appears to be minimized in E-learning systems due to the lack of genuine social and psychological contact between professors and students.

The next study comes from Fitria (2020). It has attempted to investigate

the institution's support for the online learning system and the lecturer's view on utilizing the online learning system in teaching English, which included the institution's support for the online learning system and the lecturer's opinion on using the online learning system. The results showed that there are several applications to support the online learning process including Google Classroom, Zoom, Schoology, Edmodo, Moodle, and WhatsApp. Self-platform, SPADA System, Elena Platform, UCY Learning, English Discoveries, Email, Skype, and BlogSpot were among the other replies. These findings suggest that the online learning system can aid lecturers and students in the teaching and learning process.

The next study was conducted by Atmojo & Nugroho (2020), He looked into how EFL teachers conduct online EFL learning and the problems they face. EFL teachers have created a series of online learning exercises based on the research findings. From learning management systems to supplementary resources, a variety of apps and platforms are employed. Many students, instructors, and parents, on the other hand, are critical of online learning. As a result of the lack of preparation and planning, online learning does not go smoothly.

This study differs from prior studies in a few ways. The researcher attempts to study the teacher's strategies in teaching English at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo during the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the element of being research and the subject. This is one of the favorite junior high schools in Pagerwojo sub-district which is located on the slopes of the mountains. This location makes students experience several obstacles in participating in online learning. In this case, the teacher is challenged to convey the material properly so that students can keep enthusiastic in study English although in a pandemic situation.

Based on the phenomenon, the researcher believes that to achieve the goals of learning, teachers need the appropriate strategy to overcome various problems in this pandemic situation. Additionally, the strategy used in teaching English amid a pandemic was different than before. Therefore, the researcher should carry out to examine of the issue entitled "The Analysis of Teachers' Strategies in Teaching English during the COVID-19 at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo".

B. Statement of the Research Question

The researcher formulates the problem into the following research questions based on the background of study: "What strategies are implemented by teachers in teaching English during theCOVID-19 pandemic at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo?"

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the problem described above, the objective of this research is: "To find out the strategies are implemented by teachers in teaching English during the COVID-19 pandemic at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo".

D. Significant of the Research

First, this research may be utilized as a resource for other researchers involved in researching English teaching strategies at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second, teachers could apply this study as a resource for learning how to teach English strategies in a pandemic situation. They can apply several strategies from the research results so that they can improve students' understanding of learning English even with distance learning. The researcher thinks that by employing the appropriate strategy, students would find learning English enjoyable and comfortable. That way students will be more enthusiastic in

learning without having to be forced.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this study, it was limited to the teachers of SMPN 1 Pagerwojo. These limitations are focused on research problems that discuss teacher strategies in teaching English during the COVID-19 pandemic.

F. Definition of Key Terms

This research is entitled "The Analysis of Teachers' Strategies in Teaching English during the COVID-19 Pandemic at SMPN 1 Pagerwojo". To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher defines specific key terms as follow:

1. Strategy

According to Brown (1994:192), strategies are approaches to a problem or activity, modes of operation for achieving a specific goal, or deliberate plans for managing and manipulating specific data. Based on the definition above, the researcher stated strategy is a plan that is designed to accomplish a set of goals.

2. Teaching English

Teaching English is the process of teaching the English language to people or speakers of other languages.

3. COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 (coronavirus illness 2019) is a disease caused by a recombinant coronavirus, Sars-CoV-2, that was first reported on December 31st, 2019 in Wuhan, China (Kemenkes, 2020).

It can be characterized as a pandemic due to the rapid increase in the number of cases and had spread out to the whole of the world.