

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, formulation of the research problem, the purpose of the study, formulation of hypothesis, signification of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

The Covid-19 outbreak has hit all over the world. To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, WHO has appealed to stop events where large numbers of people gather. This is a challenge for educational institutions ranging from elementary schools to universities. For this reason, the government has banned all schools from carrying out face-to-face learning and has been ordered to conduct online learning through the Ministry of Education and Culture.

To carry out the learning process can use digital technology. This allows students and teachers to carry out learning even though they are in different places. Therefore, at this time, the most commonly used tool that can help in the learning process is a smartphone. The most often used as a tool for online learning is a smartphone because it provides features for interaction between teachers and students. In addition, smartphones can also allow students to participate outside of learning hours such as accessing

material from teachers outside of class hours so that it can be done anywhere and anytime.

However, there are some disadvantages of online learning, such as weak internet signal and high quota fees. This poses challenges for online learning, especially for those living in rural areas. Therefore, most of them use the WhatsApp application to support the implementation of learning because the WhatsApp application can be used well even though the signal around us is weak, and the quota required is also not so much.

WhatsApp has become a social networking “communication portal” that is rapidly changing the way people communicate (Susilo, 2014:10). With the social network gaining popularity, WhatsApp has emerged as a tool that can be used for educational purposes. Currently WhatsApp is used to teach or to share information and links for language learning. This is in accordance with Jasrial's (2019:155) opinion that the very useful medium for language teaching is the WhatsApp application, especially in English. WhatsApp is an application on a smartphone that can be used to send private or group messages. This can allow students to express their thoughts and opinions through the features provided by WhatsApp. Students can also discuss freely with friends or with the teacher and students can express their responses and the teacher can respond to student questions and responses.

Discussion technique is a learning strategy, structured and focused to ensure that learning is ongoing, encouraging students to think about

concepts that have been blurred, this is a learning strategy that organizes students in groups (Karina, 2017). This technique carried out by the teacher is to provide a topic or learning material or a problem to students. The teacher invites students to express opinions, propose and deny other opinions and all of them are converging on a solution to the given problem.

The benefits obtained from discussing are many, such as increased interaction between students, student motivation, cooperative learning, and progress in student grades (Harizaj, 2015:234). With these various benefits, it is also possible for students to get a variety of new vocabulary in English. Argawati (2014:78) argues that in groups, students will have the opportunity to use English among themselves and practice with each other with their friends. Practicing talking to their friends will increase their confidence in pronouncing a few words without worrying about whether they said some of the words wrong or not. In addition, studying in groups will improve their vocabulary mastery.

Vocabulary is a series of words used to express ideas or sequences of meaning used for general communication (Hasan & Subekti 2017:56). This proves that vocabulary is an important aspect in learning English. In the early stages of learning English, we will be introduced to vocabulary, because vocabulary may be easy for young children to understand and learn because there are almost no rules or certain formulas that children need to learn like when learning grammar. Vocabulary is the first step to make it

easier for children to understand and apply English in education and to communicate. So, as a beginner language learner, learning vocabulary is the first step in learning English.

Several relevant previous studies can be a reference for the researcher. The first relevant research was conducted by Ainiyah (2020). In this study, the researcher experimented using WhatsApp as a media for learning vocabulary, the result was that there were differences in students' vocabulary mastery scores before and after being taught using WhatsApp. The second research was conducted by Heriefendi (2019). The results of this study also show that the use of WhatsApp significantly affects students' vocabulary mastery compared to traditional methods. In addition, using WhatsApp as a learning tool has been a positive experience for most of the participants as it has increased their motivation to learn. The third relevant research was conducted by Utami (2020). The purpose of this previous study was to find out empirical evidence of student achievement in writing descriptive texts using WhatsApp in Blended Learning on students' writing skills. As a result, students who wrote descriptive texts using WhatsApp in Blended Learning were more effective than those who did not. The fourth relevant research was conducted by Fadryon (2020). The purpose of this previous study was to determine students' reading comprehension in learning to read and to find out how WhatsApp social media supports their Reading Skills. As a result, students experienced an increase in reading

comprehension, as evidenced by the total score of students experiencing an increase after being given treatment using WhatsApp social media.

In previous studies, researchers examined the effectiveness of using WhatsApp as a teaching media using vocabulary material and the effectiveness of WhatsApp groups as instructional media on students' vocabulary mastery and motivation. Several previous studies examined the effect of using WhatsApp in blended learning on students' ability in writing descriptive text and the effect of using WhatsApp towards students' reading comprehension. However, this research is very different from previous studies. In this study, researchers conducted an update by examining the effectiveness of WhatsApp group chat on vocabulary mastery through the chat discussion method, because group chat discussions are often used by teachers to teach, and may affect students' vocabulary mastery. The material taught also does not only include vocabulary, but the researchers teach daily subject matter that is in accordance with the school curriculum.

Based on the description of the background, the researchers will conduct a study entitled; "The Effectiveness of Group Chat Discussion on WhatsApp toward The Seventh Graders' Vocabulary Mastery at SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung". The subjects of this study were seventh-grade students of SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung and the aim was to determine the effectiveness of group chat discussions on WhatsApp toward the seventh graders' vocabulary mastery.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

The formulation of the research problem is: Is there any effect of using group chat discussion on WhatsApp toward the seventh graders' vocabulary mastery at SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the above formulation, the purpose of this study is to find evidence of whether group chat discussions on WhatsApp are effective or not on the vocabulary mastery of 7th-grade students at SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Two kinds of hypotheses will be used in this research:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no significant effect of the application of group chat discussions on WhatsApp on students' vocabulary mastery in seventh-grade students of SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung.

2. Alternative hypothesis (Ha)

There is a significant effect of the application of group chat discussions on WhatsApp on students' vocabulary mastery in seventh-grade students of SMPN 2 Pakel Tulungagung.

E. Signification of the Study

Researchers hope that the results of this research can be useful for education and contribute to:

1. For the English Teacher

The results of this study are expected to provide information to English teachers on the effectiveness of using group chat discussions on WhatsApp in teaching English especially on vocabulary mastery, so that they can teach students effectively in a fun way.

2. For the Other Researcher

The research results are expected to be used as a reference in conducting further research in the same field. Then, it can be used as a comparison with other similar studies.

F. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the use of group chat discussions on WhatsApp in learning English. The researcher limits that this learning is only studying daily learning materials that are in accordance with the school curriculum by discussing them in group chats. Researchers focus on conveying student ideas, conversations with teachers, and conversations with other friends in group chats using English.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. WhatsApp

WhatsApp is an application that is used to send messages through the internet network that is already popular all over the world. WhatsApp can be used by everyone who has a smartphone, laptop, and other devices that have an internet network.

2. Group Discussion

Group discussion is a teaching and learning activity that focuses on the interaction between other members in a group. Discussion is a natural activity for someone to solve a problem. Discussion technique is a learning strategy, structured and focused to ensure that learning is ongoing, encouraging students to think about concepts that have been blurred, this is a learning strategy that organizes students in groups (Karina, 2017).

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a series of words used to express ideas or sequences of meaning used for general communication (Hasan & Subekti, 2017:56). Vocabulary is a person's knowledge of words and their meanings, or it can also be referred to as a list of words compiled and their definitions. (Alizadeh, 2016:22).