CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background of the research, formulation of the research question, the objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Research

Indonesia as a developing country needs to improve the conditions of its human resources to increase the welfare of its country. The quality of productive human resources can be improved through the implementation of education. Education is a very important thing to create intelligent and skilled students and competence to be developed amid society.

Education is a system that helps the students' learning process and has a series of plans designed to support the teaching and learning process. Education is also very important because it greatly affects the performance and activeness of students in the learning activities. Active learning itself is defined as learning that has to do with the activeness of students when it comes to managing the information obtained from the teacher and being able to develop the material obtained (Mulyasa, 2006: 191).

Education consists of several components and one of the most important is the teacher. Teachers play a major role in determining the success of students, especially in the learning process. Gurney (2007) explained that the quality of

learning carried out by the teacher is an activity that is by the characteristics of students and the occurrence of a learning process for students. Therefore, the teacher is the component that has the most influence on the creation of processes and quality educational outcomes. Furthermore, according to Isjoni (2007), the teacher is not the only one who carries out the transfer of knowledge, as well as educators are obliged to carry out value transfer and at the same time as a coach who can transfer skills, as well as being able to be a supervisor who provides direction and guides students in learning. The teacher in a very broad sense is not limited to giving teaching materials but reaches both ethics and aesthetic behavior in dealing with the challenges of life in society.

Learning at this time requires a teacher to provide more variations in teaching, such as variations in using learning strategies because learning strategies are very influential in the learning process and can also improve student learning outcomes. Breen dan Candlelin (2001: 9) added the importance of learning strategies in teaching language. In this case, it is explained that strategies that have a communicative nature will be more effective to be applied in teaching and learning English, especially for the lower secondary level. Thus, learning strategies play an important role in helping teachers and students in the teaching and learning process.

The concept of learning a foreign language is an acquisition process that aims to achieve communication skills. In his book entitled Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition, Krashen (1982) emphasizes that acquisition is an unconscious process. Language acquisition occurs when the learner continues to communicate naturally, not focused on linguistic rules. Furthermore, a person's

language ability will develop gradually from easy to more complex through formal processes and conditioning, such as learning in classes, courses, etc. by knowing the rules of language, synonyms, and learning contextually. The correction occurs by doing exercises and habituation. Those will be useful for students as sensors of their utterances before producing words. Thus, the essence of learning a language is the learner's ability to communicate the target language and the acquisition of excellent communication.

There are several methods of teaching English, including the grammar-translation method, the direct method, and other methods that can be a solution for teaching English face-to-face. Larsen-Freeman (2000: 177) on English Teaching Techniques and Methods explained that although there are several alternative techniques/methods in teaching English, it does not require a teacher to apply all available methods. Instead, the teacher is required to be more creative in applying existing techniques/methods in the English teaching and learning process.

The covid-19 pandemic that has hit the world including Indonesia, has affected various aspects of life including education. To sustain the world of education, the government supports physical distancing. The Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) has complied with the policy through Circular Letter (SE) Number 4 Years 2020 on the implementation of educational policies during the emergency period of deployment covid-19, in this case, point 2 which states the process of learning from home implemented with the following conditions: a. Learning from home through online/distance learning is implemented to provide a meaningful learning experience for students, without the burdened of completing all curriculum achievements to progress to the next

level grade and graduation; b. A study from home can be focused on life skills education, related to the covid-19 pandemic; c. Learning from home activities and tasks may be different for each student, depending on their respective interests and conditions, including considering the gap in access/facilities for learning at home; d. Evidence or the product of learning activities from home is given feedback that is qualitative and useful from the teacher, without being asked for grades or quantitative values.

Based on the circular letter, every school is obliged to carry out online learning. Teachers as important elements in the learning process required to undertake a massive migration that has never happened before from face-to-face learning to online learning. Based on the results of the preliminary observation that the researcher did at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol, the researcher can conclude that this has an impact on English teachers in carrying out learning, especially English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol when they first carry out online learning. Over time, various problems have emerged in online learning, starting from the limited internet network, limited learning media and the monotony of learning models, difficulties in delivering material and collecting student assignments, as well as challenges that come from the diversity of student characters.

In carrying out online learning, English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol use learning media in the form of WhatsApp and Google Classroom applications. Learning English using these two applications still often raises other learning problems due to the limited internet connection which is sometimes smooth but sometimes slow, besides that the collection of assignments

is also constrained by the character of students who are lazy to take online learning. The monotonous online learning model only uploading and accessing material and collecting assignments makes students lazier so that teachers are required to collect more and remind students of their assignments and choose learning materials that match the level of student understanding.

Jaelani (2020) explained that online learning expects students able to follow the learning process maximally. Online learning has become a challenge for the world of education. The important aspect of improving online learning skills should be improved including the training program for teachers in the use of information technology and communication. According to Azzahra (2020), to support online learning, teachers are not enough only have basic technology skills such as using computers and connected to the internet, but also know to use the device recordings and software, as well as methods for delivering materials without face-to-face interaction but through interesting learning videos. The skill will be required when going to use the online learning platform. More importantly, training and execution scenarios in the field are necessary to minimize.

The research that examines online learning can be traced through the study by Hendrastomo (2020) entitled *Dilema dan Tantangan Pembelajaran Daring*. A more specific study discusses online learning during the covid-19 pandemic reviewed by Handayani, Salmiah R, and Sukardi. However, the study reviewed by Handayani (2020) focuses on profit, utilization, and online learning solutions. The study reviewed by Salmiah R. (2020) focused on the constraints faced by students in online learning. And studies reviewed by Sukardi (2020) are focused on

learning reports during the covid-19 pandemic. While this research also examines online learning but the novelty of this research is more focused on describing the problems of English teachers and practical solutions to implementing online learning.

Based on the background of the research described above, the researcher chose the problems related to online learning by conducting research entitled **"The Challenges Faced By English Teachers of SMPN 2 Sumbergempol in The Implementation of Online Learning"**

B. Formulation of Research Questions

Based on the background of research stated above, the formulation of the research problems are:

1. What are the English teachers' problems in implementing online learning at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol?
2. What are the practical solutions for English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol in implementing online learning?

C. The Objectives of the Research

Related to the formulation of the research questions stated above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To find out the problems of English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol in implementing online learning.

2. To find out practical solutions for English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol in implementing online learning.

D. Significance of The Research

This research will be theoretically and practically contributed as follows:

1. Theoretically

a. In terms of science, the results of this research are expected to contribute experiences to the development of science in acquiring new theories in solving problems related to English teachers' problems and practical solutions for teachers in implementing online learning.

b. The results of this research are expected to provide academic reference material as library materials in conducting further research.

2. Practically

a. For the head of the education office

The results of this research are expected to be used as a decision-maker policy to provide teacher training in improving the quality of teachers in the implementation of online learning.

b. For the school principal

The results of this research are expected to provide input for teachers so that the implementation of the online learning process can be in accordance with the expected result.

c. For teachers

The results of this research are expected to be used as a reference for developing skills in the implementation of online learning so that able to make students more active and motivated in their studies.

d. For other researchers

The results of this research are expected to be used as a reference guide in reveal the problems faced by teachers in implementing online learning.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Research

This research focused on the problems of English teachers at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol in online learning as well as practical solutions in implementing online learning. Therefore, the researcher determined the scope that provides information that is in accordance with the problem of the teachers' problems in online learning. To avoid the spread of the problem to be studied, then the researcher limits the subject of research, including the school principal of SMPN 2 Sumbergempol who provides policy aspects in the implementation of online learning, and English teachers who present various information about the problems faced, and students who follow the online learning process. In the case of settings, this research was conducted at SMPN 2 Sumbergempol. The researcher conducted this research by conducting direct observations at the research location for approximately a week in January 2022.

F. Definition of Key terms

 a. Teacher

According to Djamarah (2015: 280), a teacher is someone who gives knowledge to students or professionals who can enable students to plan, analyze and conclude the problem at hand. In addition, the teacher is someone who can carry out educational actions in an educational situation to achieve educational goals or an adult who is honest, physically and mentally healthy, virtuous, skilled, skilled, fair, open, and loving (Yusuf, 2000: 54)

 b. Online learning

According to Rusman (2012: 293), online learning is learning activities that use the help of the internet. Furthermore, according to Ghiradini (2011), Online learning provides effective learning methods, such as practice in the presence of related feedback, incorporating collaboration activities with independent learning, and personalized learning based on the needs of students who use simulations and games.

 c. Covid-19

According to WHO (2020), coronavirus disease 2019 is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered coronavirus. Most people who are infected with the Covid-19 virus will experience the disease with mild to moderate breathing and resolves without requiring special treatment. 'CO' is taken from corona, 'VI' virus, and 'D' disease (disease). Previously, the disease was called the '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.'