

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the context of the study, the focus of the study, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of a key term.

A. Context of Study

English is a language that is widely used by people from various countries to make it easier for them to communicate and interact. What's more, in the era of globalization, English plays a key role in many fields including economy, politics, culture, communication, and education. In response to this, English is very important in Indonesia to be mastered.

English is one of the compulsory subjects that must be taught in junior high schools as implied in government regulation no. 19/2005 article 6 paragraph 1 concerning the scope of subjects at every level of education in the curriculum.

English teaching-learning in junior or senior high schools in Indonesia has been done when Indonesia was still under Dutch occupation. After Indonesia got its freedom, the policy was continued by the Indonesian Government, that policy showed that the Government realize the importance of the English language and assume it needs to teach for children in high schools. This is reflected among others in the decision of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 096/1967 on December 12th, 1967

about the function and purpose of teaching English in high schools.

The main content of the decision of the Minister above among others is that:

1. The English language is the first foreign language that teaching in high school.
2. The purpose of English language pursuit is the communicative ability of students.
3. English language skill that is developed includes four skills: reading, listening, writing, and speaking.

On March 9 2020 the Minister of Education and Culture issued circular letter number 3 of 2020 concerning Corona Virus avoidance in education. The point of the letter is to ask for ensuring the availability of handwashing facilities with soap, enforce healthy living behaviors, ensure education units clean rooms and environments regularly, give permission to the students who are sick to stay at home, and remind them to avoid direct physical distance. Until March 15 2020 the President of Republic Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo conveyed an appeal in the press conference at Bogor Palace regarding stopping the face-to-face learning process at school, which was replaced by Online. Ir. H. Joko Widodo also hopes that the teacher should be active to obey the role of making students continue to study at home to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Corona Virus is a virus which is found in Wuhan Chinese in December 2019. Covid-19 attacks the respiratory system of humans and animals. Symptoms of people who are affected by the coronavirus are influenza, cough, septic throat, fever, respiratory problems, and sluggishness. Therefore, since Covid-19 entered Indonesia and many

residents have been infected with the coronavirus, the government has appealed to the community to do the physical distance. The government also did a lockdown to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The emergence of the Covid-19 virus in Indonesia has led to an increase in the number of people who have been positively affected by Covid-19. With the virus, the government has issued a policy to implement the process of learning from home activities at various levels of education. With schools closed, students cannot interact directly with their friends and teachers. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, schools must implement online learning.

Online learning is an educational innovation that involves information technology in the process of learning activities. In its application, online learning is carried out through a web network. This learning method is effective and is considered the best solution for students to keep learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The online education system has been implemented for approximately the last 2 years since the Covid-19 pandemic hit. But whether this system runs smoothly without a hitch. Of course not, this online learning system is a new policy, especially in Indonesia. As a new policy, of course there are many things that are still lacking and there are obstacles that were previously unanticipated. An example is the difficulty in understanding the material presented by the teacher during the learning process. This is due to the limitations of the media used and the difficulty

of the internet network which causes students to not be able to follow the learning process smoothly. To overcome this problem, the teacher can provide material or learning topics given before starting the learning activities. That way, students can learn the material first and when they experience problems while the learning process is in progress, they will not be left behind.

In addition, the application of online learning causes a shift in roles between teachers and parents. In the learning process, the teacher usually becomes a mentor and teacher for students who are carrying out the process of learning activities. Whereas in online learning, teachers cannot carry out that role again. The role of the teacher will be transferred to the parents. In this case, parents not only act as supervisors when students are studying at home, but parents must also be ready to guide and teach children when they have difficulties in learning.

It can be seen that with the Covid-19 pandemic, it is emphasized that the education system in Indonesia must be able to accept these changes quickly. If teachers and students do not quickly adapt to these changes, it is certain that students will be left behind, learning materials cannot be well received by students, and student learning outcomes will decrease drastically.

The development of the current Covid-19 case as it improves, this affects the policy of the learning system. In July 2021, Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim emphasized that all schools must have

opened face-to-face learning. Face-to-face education must follow the Guidelines for the Implementation of Learning in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Religion. These guidelines include health protocols that need to be carried out before and after learning takes place, such as disinfecting infrastructure and the environment of the education unit. In addition to implementing an appropriate health protocol system, a learning mechanism is also needed to achieve student understanding due to a lack of understanding during online learning. In addition, a transition system from online learning to face-to-face learning is also needed. This is done to adapt students who are still dependent on online learning.

Teaching and learning strategies are a very important component in teaching this based on Mujiono`s explanation who said that learning strategies are outlines of direction to act in an effort to achieve predetermined targets. Associated with learning, strategies can be interpreted as general patterns of teacher and student activities in realizing learning activities to achieve the goals that have been outlined. The teaching strategy is a procedure used by the teacher that serves as a way to achieve a goal. In achieving these goals, the role of teachers is very influential on the success of students in learning activities. (Wassid and Sunendar 2013:25). Teachers must have innovative strategies that can be used in teaching English to students, especially junior high school students who are mostly just starting to learn English.

In this study, researcher conducted an interview of several MTsN teachers in Trenggalek. The first is MTsN 1 Trenggalek which is located in Trenggalek sub-district, then the second is MTsN 2 Trenggalek which is located in Kampak sub-district, the third is MTsN 3 Trenggalek is located in Munjungan sub-district, the fourth is MTsN 4 Trenggalek is located in Watulimo sub-district, and the last is MTsN 5 Trenggalek which is located in Panggul District. Researcher chose these schools because they are schools that participate in implementing the policies instructed by the Minister of Education.

Based on the explanation above, researcher is interested in observing and knowing what strategies teachers use in teaching English post the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the researcher tried to examine it with a study entitled “*Teachers’ Strategies in Teaching English Post the Covid-19 Pandemic in MTsNs in Trenggalek*”.

B. Research Question

Based on the context of the study on the previous page, the research problem will be:

1. What are teachers’ strategies in teaching English post the Covid-19 pandemic in MTsNs in Trenggalek?
2. How are the students’ responses toward the teachers’ strategies in teaching English post the Covid-19 Pandemic?

3. How is the implication of the teachers' strategies toward the students' English competence?

C. Purposes of Study

Based on the focus of the study, the study will intend to:

1. To describe teachers' strategies in teaching English post the Covid-19 pandemic in MTsNs in Trenggalek.
2. To describe the students' responses toward the teachers' strategies in teaching English post the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. To describe the implication of the teachers' strategies toward the students' English competence.

D. Significance of Study

1. Theoretically

This research is theoretically expected to make a good contribution to English teachers as a reference in making new strategies that will be used in English learning activities, for the community it is hoped that it will be able to provide wider information about educational information during the pandemic, and it is hoped that this research can be used as a reference for future researchers.

2. Practically

This study is expected can give inspiration and able to become a reference for readers and other writers, especially for the students of the

English Department at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung who are interested in analyzing the teachers' strategies in English classes. They will know the kinds of teachers' strategies which from this strategy can provide facilities or assistance to students toward the achievement of learning objectives. Hopefully, this study can be useful for the researcher as a reference for doing similar research with a distinct object.

E. Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope of this research there are five English teachers and some students at MTsNs in Trenggalek. This study will focus on teacher strategies in teaching English during Covid-19 and students' responses to these strategies. And also, to know how is the implication of the teachers' strategies toward the students' English competence.

F. Definition of Key Term

1. Teaching strategy

A strategy is a plan, method, or series of activities designed to achieve a particular educational goal. Teaching strategy is a learning activity that must be done by teachers and students so that learning objectives can be achieved effectively and efficiently or learning procedures that are used together to produce learning outcomes for students.

2. Teaching English

English is the most spoken language in the world. Teaching English is an activity to teach English with four skills taught, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

3. English Competence

This is an ability that a person has in using English both in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.