

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter discusses about the research background, statement of the research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope, and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Research Background

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has changed and affected many sectors including education. As the spread of Covid-19 has arisen, many governments all over the world decided to close the school to order to stop the spread of Covid-19. Schools and higher education institutions across the globe have been shut down, impacting the learning of over 90% of the world's student population (Hasan and Khan, 2020). Further, this condition requires teachers to shift face-to-face learning to distance learning or online learning. In the previous study, Rahayu (2020) found that shifting face-to-face learning to online learning has raised positive perception, still, online learning remains a problem.

The Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Nadiem Makarim, then stated a policy regarding the Circular Letter No. 4. 2020, Concerning The Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency Time of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Spreading. It is mentioned that the teaching and learning system has to be implemented through an electronic device (PC, laptop, smartphone) that is connected to an internet network connection or online. (Harnani, 2020). This condition has led teachers to conduct distance learning and shift face-to-face learning to online learning.

Online learning may have been a solution to continue the education system in Indonesia during the pandemic Covid-19. Supported by expert, Stern (2019), online learning is the newest and most popular form of distance education today. It emphasizes the internet-based courses synchronously and asynchronously.

In the previous pandemic era, the use of online learning has significantly increased. Regardless of the fact that online learning has benefits and challenges, teachers play important roles to ensure that students are well-educated and well-prepared through online learning during the pandemic Covid-19.

During the pandemic, conducting online learning is the safest option to stop the spread of Covid-19. It can be conducted through various platforms synchronously and asynchronously. The synchronous model is delivered at a specific-organized time using video conference. Meanwhile, the asynchronous model is delivered to the students in a more flexible way to access the materials and courses anytime. The teachers should be able to perceive a life-changing in education. During online learning, teachers are encouraged to conduct the appropriate strategies and prepare the materials needed. Further, teachers are encouraged to master certain internet-based learning platforms to support the teaching and learning process.

Conducting online learning without adequate preparation related to the materials and platforms used will certainly impact the learning process. According to Feldman and Zucker (2002), the online teaching-learning process is one of the new percepts through the internet. It provides the students flexible time and place and permits the students to study at their own pace. In addition, online learning provides students with synchronous learning to have real-time interaction between the students and the teacher. Through asynchronous learning, the students can access and learn the materials anytime.

Besides, conducting online learning during the pandemic becomes a new challenge for teachers, especially in MTsN 1 Kota Blitar. During the pandemic, the teachers of MTsN 1 Kota Blitar use various platforms to conduct online learning. *Whatsapp Group* is mostly used to ensure the technological network and device factors. Technological networks and devices are vital parts to provide effective-online learning.

According to Windiarti, et. all (2019), the teachers' unfamiliarity with utilizing e-learning, time management, students' motivation, internet quota fee, and network falter are the challenges in conducting online learning. In addition, the teachers should be able to prepare materials, effective strategies, and activities, and choose applicable-online learning platforms.

Covid-19 has triggered various perceptions on the use of online learning during the pandemic. Sri Haryati (2020) found that online learning is positively helpful to achieve learning objectives. Meanwhile, Retno and Yanti (2020) found that online learning has a positive perception of its usefulness and ease during the pandemic Covid-19. Further, Nasir and Laili (2021) found that online learning was negatively perceived. 68% of teachers perceived that their workload during online learning was harder than during face-to-face learning.

Considering both sides' perceptions on the implementation of online learning during the pandemic, the researcher is interested to conduct research dealing with "*The English Teachers' Perceptions Toward Online Teaching and Learning during the Pandemic Covid-19 at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.*" This research is conducted to fill in the gap from all the previous research. Further, this research tries to discover new areas and convey English teachers' perceptions during conducting online teaching and learning at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.

B. Research Problem

1. How are the English teachers' perceptions toward online teaching and learning during the pandemic Covid-19 at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar?

C. Research Objectives

1. To investigate the English teachers' perceptions toward online teaching and learning during the pandemic Covid-19 at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.

D. Significance of the Research

The researcher expects that this research can provide useful information and contribution to:

1. The English Teachers of MTsN 1 Kota Blitar

This research is expected to provide detailed, specific, and comprehensive information about the teachers' perception of conducting online teaching and learning during the Pandemic Covid-19. Further, the perceptions then will be feedback for the teachers and MTsN 1 Kota Blitar to evaluate and improve the online teaching and learning process during the pandemic Covid-19.

2. Pre-Service Teachers

This research is expected to provide a general overview and information for pre-service teachers. Pre-service teachers are expected to adapt to every condition and situation. Further, it is expected to provide an overview of the pre-service teachers to be adaptive, creative, and innovative to a new changing of the education system.

3. The Next Researchers

This research is expected to provide detailed and specific information for the next researcher interested in a similar area. Through this research, the next researcher is expected to obtain materials and data basis for conducting further research.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

This research is set to investigate and find out the English teachers' perceptions toward online teaching and learning during the pandemic Covid-19 at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar. In this research, the scope of the research was the English teachers only. The researcher points the English teachers who teach students in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade (all grades) as the research subject. Further, the limitation of the research is how to obtain the data through questionnaires and interviews only. Both techniques are set to

collect the data and data source. Then, the data will be analyzed to discuss about how the result of teachers' perception toward online teaching and learning during the pandemic Covid-19 at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In this research, the researcher provided some explanation of the important terms that are frequently used to avoid misunderstanding, as follows:

1. Pandemic Covid-19

Pandemic Covid-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus, found in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. This deadly virus is (now: 2020-2022) to be a pandemic that affects many countries globally (WHO, 2020). <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse>.

2. Perceptions

Perceptions are broadly interpreted as a form of thinking about something that forms a certain pattern of attitudes. Perceptions are defined as a process in which individuals interpret and organize their sensory impressions to give meaning or impressions to the environment (Robbins and Judge, 2009).

3. Online Teaching and Learning

Online teaching and learning are faculty-delivered instruction via the Internet. Online instruction includes real-time interactions (synchronous) and non-real-time (asynchronous) interactions at any time and anywhere. (Feldman and Zucker, 2002).