CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, limitation of the research, and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

Learning is a process of behavior change thanks to experience and practice. This means that the purpose of the activity is a change in behavior, whether it involves knowledge, skills, or attitudes even covering all aspects of the organism or person (Djamarah and Zain, 2010). Indonesia has implemented compulsory education for 12 years, starting from Elementary School, Junior High School, and Senior High Schools. Even parents often put their children in the playgroup first. It is to prepare their children before entering elementary school. This is related to Suprijono (2010) which stated learning is the process of gaining knowledge.

Sudjana (2010) explained that learning is a process marked by a change in a person. Changes in the results of the learning process can be shown in various forms such as the addition of knowledge, understanding, attitudes and behavior, skills, habits, and other aspects of changes that exist in individuals who learn. This has been applied in Indonesia which has implemented curriculum 13 which covers various aspects, such as spiritual, social, knowledge, and skills aspects.

Learning does not have to be at school. We can study at home by homeschooling. Even outside school hours, we can learn by observing the environment around us. Even now it has also been implemented online-based learning or can be called e-learning.

Ardiansyah (2013) stated E-learning is a learning system that is used as a means is as a teaching and learning process carried out without having to face to face directly between educators and students. In the sense that we do not attend class by going to school or building, even at home we can access E-learning. The other word is the opposite of a face-to-face class, which is an online class.

As we know, in 2020 there were a lot of disasters and disasters that hit both in the country and abroad. And currently what is still happening in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Not only Indonesia but from various countries as well. One of them is China, the country where the virus was found from.

That is what makes us, who are still among students or even lecturers even inevitably have to run activities through online classes. Especially the student teachers of English Education Department Muria Kudus University who joined Applied Linguistics class in academic years 2019/2020.

E-learning is a process of distance learning by combining the principles in the process of learning with technology (Chandrawati, 2010). It might make it easier for students to learn. Make students feel enthusiastic, and make it easier for students to find learning resources on the internet from home by using technology.

Developing technology makes it easy for us to access, such as the many online learning applications available. The applications support in doing online learning as well as adequate technology. Such as Zoom, Whatsapp, Skype, and others. However, we still encounter problems that occur in online learning.

Based on the interview with the students in English Education Department who joined the Applied Linguistics class of Muria Kudus University, the researcher found out that the problem may face the other students. They are like the student teachers feel so bored to learn it. It can also the lecturer only use the WhatsApp group for discussion so that the students less enthusiastic to join. The students can't understand well about the material that already delivered by the lecturer because it is not facing class, so the students hard to receive the material. Also, the students may have some problems with their internet access.

Based on that problem that may happen to students, it is important to investigate the students' problems. So, the researcher interested in concluding research entitled "Students' Problems in Learning Applied Linguistics through Online Class during Covid-19 Pandemic in English Education Department of Muria Kudus University"

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher would like to make the statement of the problem. The researcher determines the statements of the problems as follow:

1. How are the problems faced by the students in learning applied linguistics through online class during COVID-19 pandemic in English Education Department of Muria Kudus University?"

2. How do the students overcome the problems in learning applied linguistics through online class during COVID-19 pandemic in English Education Department of Muria Kudus University?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the problem above, objective of the research is:

1. To know the problems faced by the students in learning applied linguistics through online class during COVID-19 pandemic in English Education Department of MuriaKudus University.

2. To know the way students overcome the problems in learning applied linguistics through an online class during COVID-19 pandemic in English Education Department of Muria Kudus University.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The expected significances of the research are as follows:

1. Theoretically

   a. The researcher hopes this research can be used as a reference for the other future research.

   b. The result of this research can add knowledge and provide information for a descriptive study on learning Applied Linguistics through an online class

2. Practically

   a. The research is expected to give some information about the student teachers' problems in learning applied linguistics trough online class.

  b. The result of this research can be used as a reference for the teacher to solve the problem in learning applied linguistics through an online class.

1.5 Limitation of the Research

Based on the objective of the research, the researcher took one class and focuses on students who study Applied Linguistics in the 8th semester academic year 2019/2020 in the English Education Department of Muria Kudus University. The researcher limits the problem into 3, they are personal problems, class participation problems, and emotional problems.

1.6 Operational Definition

Based on the title of the research, there are some terms as follows:

1. Problem is circumstance keeping something from being accomplished.
2. Learning Applied Linguistics is a subject learned about language issues that happened in the real world.
3. Online Class is a course that happened over the internet without having face-to-face directly between teacher and student.
4. Covid-19 Pandemic is outbreaks that occur globally, including infectious diseases caused by the newly discovered coronavirus.