

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter present the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definitions.

1.1 Background of the Research

Now the whole world is facing a global problem of the COVID-19 virus outbreak which attacks almost all countries in the world. Some standards have been established by the World Health Organization (WHO), such as always wear a mask, washed hands frequently, physical distancing and social distancing. The last standard has created to be difficult choices for each country to implement because large-scale social distancing hampers activities in all sectors of life. And to overcome the spread of this virus, governments in various countries have established policies to close all transportation access and even closed schools and universities. Even though schools and universities were closed, learning continued through online learning. This certainly becomes a problem for teachers and lecturers as they have to prepare equipment, media, and materials for online learning materials.

Since the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo declared the Covid-19 Virus or Corona virus to be a national pandemic, the governments in Indonesia decided to implement the new rules such as WFH (work from home) for teachers and employees, and SFH (Study from home) for students and the higher students. The decision to undertake the distance learning or online learning was made after *Surat Edaran Nomor 4 Tahun 2020 tentang Pelaksanaan Pendidikan Dalam Masa Darurat Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19)* determined by the Indonesian Minister of Education, Nadiem Anwar Makarim. Therefore teachers are required to be active and creative in using learning media or platforms that are suitable for their students to learn during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the many online learning media, video conferencing is one of the media that is often used by teachers, lecturers, or other teaching staff to be used as online learning media. Video conferencing is asynchronous channel of

communication that supports the transformation of interactive voice, video, and data between two or more groups of people (Gough, 2006; Wiesemes & Wang, 2010). Smith (2003), also describe video conferencing as a system where two or more participants in different locations can interact while both seeing and hearing each other in real-time with the help of specialized equipment and a high-speed Internet connection. Therefore, Educational video conferencing provides teachers with more flexibility as they can convey ideas and subject matter without the boundaries of distance (Ropp& Bett; 2012).

One of the most widely used video conferencing software or platform is Zoom Cloud Meeting. Zoom Cloud Meeting is a collaborative, cloud-based videoconferencing service offering features including online meetings, group messaging services, and secure recording of sessions (Zoom Video Communications Inc., 2016). This is a video-conferencing platform that can be used by more than 10.000 users with features that support the online learning and online seminars or webinars. So it will be the user-friendly platform to use for online learning, online presentations, and online seminars during Covid-19 pandemic as it is today. Therefore, this research aims to explore the perception of 6th semester English Education Department students of Universitas Muria Kudus toward the online class through Zoom Cloud Meeting during Covid-19 Pandemic.

1.2 Statements of The Problem

Based on the background of the research above, this paper contains the problem that formulated as follow:

How is the perception of 6th semester English Education Department students of Univeritas Muria Kudus toward the online class through Zoom Cloud Meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic?

1.3 Objectives of The Research

Based on the research of the problem mentioned, the purpose of this paper is to know about the perceptions of 6th Semester English Education Department students of Universitas Muria Kudus toward the online class through Zoom Cloud Meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4 Significance of The Research

The result of the research is expected to be beneficial theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is expected that this research can be used as one of the references by the future researchers who will conduct the research related to classroom management especially for conducting online classes for distance learning.

Practically, I hope that this research can give information to the teachers or lecturers about online classes for distance learning so that they can reflecting the teaching style, improve the students' motivation and always be ready to face all conditions such as a global pandemic from the COVID-19 virus that occurs as it is today.

1.5 Scope of The Research

This research is focused on the perception of 6th semester EED students when they have online classes using Zoom Cloud Meeting as a video-conference platform. The participants of this research are the 6th semester EED students of English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus that used Zoom Cloud Meeting as their online learning platform during Covid-19 pandemic.

1.6 Operational Definition

Avoiding misunderstanding, some terms are defined as follow:

1. Perception

Perception is the act of compiling, recognizing, and interpreting sensory information to provide an overview and understanding of the environment.

2. 6th Semester English Education Department students

The higher students who taken English Education Department as their major in the University for six semesters (or 3 years).

3. Online class

The online class is a class or course that conducted over the internet. It can be from a website, platform, video-conference, virtual meeting, etc.

4. Zoom Cloud Meeting

Zoom is a cloud-based video communications app that allows you to set up virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, screen-sharing, and other collaborative capabilities.

5. COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as a coronavirus pandemic, it is a global pandemic of the global coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which is caused by coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) respiratory Syndrome. The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak as the Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

