

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the research, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research and operational definitions.

1.1 Background of the Research

Coronavirus Disease or COVID-19 is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. COVID-19 outbreak has affected almost all people in the world. World Health Organization (2020) warned that people should stay safe by taking some simple prevention, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, cleaning hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue. Therefore it is affected by all aspects such as education, work, economy, etc. Some agendas are canceled and people have limitations in doing daily activities. So it should take ways to make the activity run as well as possible especially in education. An extended pandemic, which affects the health, income, and well-being of individuals and communities, is likely to strain the psychological reserves of all, including students and teachers. As such impact becomes proximal to every student and teacher, this may impact their motivation and functioning. An alternative modality of education could be continued during the Pandemic, change it virtually impossible for systems and institutions to achieve the same goals (UNESCO, 2020). In another word, the teaching and learning process that is face-to-face should be changed into an online learning. So students should study from home (SFH) or do distance learning.

Long-distance learning is done at any level of school. So technology is needed to make the learning run well like traditional classroom or face-to-face learning. Distance learning is an interactive effort to study to use the network internet and computer as learning facilities (Octaberlina & Muslimin, 2020: 35).

It has a different atmosphere where teacher and students do not meet directly. Before they do the teaching and learning process in the classroom which has many interactions, and now they learn from far places or it can be from home. By using technologies, it allows students to become more independent in the classroom (Kuning, 2019). The electronic educational resource, Zoom has helped to introduce a lot of innovations into foreign language instruction. Zoom is a cloud based service that give Meetings and Webinars. It also provides content sharing and video conferencing capability (Nadezhda, 2020: 458).

Zoom paltform as tools in academic speaking class, speaking is the most important skill to deliver meaning orally. Speaking concerns in language performing. It is for expressing the feeling clearly (Asysyifa et al., 2019). Speaking in academic context, is not easy because students have to speak in a new language with high self-confidence and formal, explicit, hedged, and responsible (Imaniah, 2018:44). Using Zoom as media in academic speaking because Zoom is the leader in modern trendy video communications, with an easy, dependable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, collaboration, chat, and it can be accessed through mobile devices, desktops, telephones and area systems (Nadezhda, 2020: 458).

To obey the rule in decreasing the spread of COVID-19, students in Universitas Muria Kudus do distance learning or online learning. So to support the teaching and learning, they use some technologies. In the English Education Department, mostly students and lecturer use Zoom platform as media for teaching and learning process.

Therefore, the researcher is eager to investigate students' perception on Zoom platform used in academic speaking class.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research in the preceding discussion, the statement of the problem can be stated "How is students' perception on Zoom platform used in academic speaking class?"

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research based on the statement of the problem is to describe students' perception on Zoom platform used in academic speaking class, in the English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus Academic Year 2020/2021.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The results of this research are expected to provide benefits for all people who related to this research, both theoretical and practical as follows:

1. Theoretically

The result of this research is expected to be used as a reference for further research and also can be used as a reference and knowledge for other researchers.

2. Practically

The researcher expects that this research can be useful for English Education Department lecturers in academic course, the college students, and the readers.

a. For the lecturer

The researcher expects this research can motivate the lecturers to use technology and various ways in the online teaching and learning process.

b. For college students.

The researcher expects college students to be more spirit in joining academic speaking class by using Zoom platform.

c. For the readers

The result of this research can give more knowledge to readers about students' perception on Zoom platform used in academic speaking class.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The researcher focuses on students' perception and Zoom platform used in academic speaking class. The researcher conducts the research in Universitas Muria Kudus. And the subject of the research is English Education Department students in fourth semester academic year 2020/2021.

1.6 Operational Definition

Based on the title of the research, the researcher clarifies the operational definition of each terminology as follow:

1. Students' perception is thought in the classroom about learning process.
2. Zoom platform is a cloud-based service that gives Meetings, Webinars and provides content sharing and video conferencing capability.
3. Academic speaking is speaking in academic context that is formal, explicit, hedged, and responsible.

