CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses six sub-chapter includes the Background of the research, Statement of the problem, Objective of the research, Significance of the research, scope of the research, and Operational definition.

1.1. Background of the research

In the pandemic era, almost all activities are carried out on a limited basis, including lecturing and learning activities. They were carried out online both synchronous and asynchronous. The learning was carried out using several platforms like zoom, google meet, Learning Management System (LMS), etc. Lecturing is a discourse given before an audience or class especially for instruction. In lecturing, lecturers and students often exchange ideas and discuss. The benefits and objectives of lecturing are to get a new knowledge and being an open mind person. Intellectual abilities will be developing during the student's lecture period.

Communication is important in lecturing. Communication means delivering messages directly or speaking to deliver something such as the material. The lecturer as the material presenter required to have skill of communication. In the book A first Look of Communication Theory is explained, communication is a relational process of forming and interpreting messages whose purpose is to obtain a response (Griffin, Ledbetter, Sparks, 2019: 6). In the book explains that communication also has five specific aspects that form communication to occur effectively. Among others are; message, message formation, message interpretation, relational process, message that gets a response.

As a tool of communication among the members of a society, language is influenced by the very society where it functions. Language accuracy is the one of important aspect that communication going on. With the accuracy of the language itself, it makes communication even more improved. The use of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, which are part of language accuracy is very important. In lecturing, this makes the students know more about various kinds of

accuracy in the language itself. And it makes the lecturer become more qualified in teaching.

In addition to language accuracy, fluently for delivering the message is also one of the important aspects of communication, especially in lecturing. The term fluency which is defined as the ability to use the language quickly and confidently without too much hesitations or too many unnatural pauses to cause barriers in communication (Bailey, 2003; Byrne, 1986). According to Shahini and Shahamirian (2017), one of the major characteristics of communicative competence is fluency. Fluency is considered as an important indicator for progressing in language learning (Chambers, 1997) and it becomes one of the conditions which ensure the success in communication (Gorkaltseva, Gozhin, & Nagel, 2015). Richards (2005) points out that fluency is the use of naturally occurring language when a speaker engages and maintains in meaningful communication. Therefore, the aspect of fluency is to delivering the ideas and speak fluently with confidence, and there is no pause in the main delivery when delivering materials in a lecturing.In Universitas Muria Kudus, has implemented online learning in the last 2 years ago, including at EED. This is a transition from what is normally done. Of course, adaptation and evaluation are mainly done by the lecturer. It is a response to workforce demands, that higher education has a very vital role in building human resources (Mutohhar et.al., 2020). Communication in speaking that uses language accuracy and also fluency is certainly needed in online learning class. Make preparations in teaching, of course, it will make better communication in learning including preparation of material, and understood the material. This certainly gives students a comfortable feeling, and of course, the class becomes active.

In this research, the researcher focused on college freshmen perception toward lecturer's communication skill on language accuracy and fluency aspect in online learning. This research took place at Universitas Muria Kudus and participated by freshmen in English Education Department (EED) in 2021/2022 academic year, who had joined online English learning. The researcher was used freshmen to collect data because they are more objective and natural. They are unaffected by their surroundings.

1.2 Statement of problem

The statement of problem from this research are:

    a. How is the freshmen's perception in lecturer communication skill toward language accuracy aspect in online learning?

    b. How is freshmen's perception in lecturer communication skill toward fluency aspect in online learning?

1.3 Objective of the research

        The objective of the research is:

    a. To describe the freshmen's perception in lecturer communication skill toward language accuracy of the lecturers in online learning.

    b. To describe freshmen's perception in lecturer communication skill toward fluency of the lecturers in online learning.

1.4 Significance of research

a. Theoretical significance

      This study contributes to the study of English learning, especially in communication, especially online learning.

b. Practical Significance

    1. Lecturers

       How to communicate in learning, especially in online learning.

    2. College freshmen.

       Provide information and explanations about how lecturers communicate in online learning.

    3. Next researcher

       Provides references and views on the research being conducted.

1.5 Scope of the research

        In this research, the researcher focused on the freshmen perception toward lecturer's communication skill on language accuracy and fluency aspect in online learning at EED of Universitas Muria Kudus. Perceptions means that the Freshmen 's perception based on their perspective towards Online Learning to helps and contribute their learn English. The research focused on language accuracy, and fluency aspect in lecturing. The researcher took the subject from freshmen at EED of Universitas Muria Kudus in the academic period of 2021/2022.

1.6 Operational definition

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

1. Freshmen

   Student who has just studied at university and is currently undergoing basic training or enrolled in the first year.

2. Perception

   It's a way for someone to see something and give it meaning.

3. Online learning

   Online learning is a way to get a learning session on internet.

4. Language accuracy of communication in online learning

   Language accuracy is an aspect of communication, including grammar, pronunciation, and the use of vocabulary when speaking.

5. Fluency of communication in online learning

   Fluency is an aspect of communication that focuses on talk with minimum pauses, ability to use the language quickly, confidently, expressing ideas in new ways; humor, puns, metaphors, and so on.