

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the research; the statement of the research; the objective of the research; the significance of the research; the scope of the research; and the operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

During this pandemic, many schools still provide learning activities at home or online. Even during the pandemic of COVID-19, learning must continue as well as possible so that children are not left behind in lessons. So online activities must still pay attention to the competencies to be taught. Online learning is not just material that is transferred via internet media, it is also not just assignments and questions sent through social media applications: online learning must be planned, implemented, and evaluated as well as learning that occurs in class. Although all learning from school must be done online or at home, this pandemic has forced schools to carry out online activities because the pandemic COVID-19 is not over yet and teachers must continue to provide material for their students. So, the school is stated to have to carry out learning with an online system or online class to anticipate the pandemic so that it ends quickly. The government implements social distancing to limit interactions between humans and to prevent people from crowding. This is done to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. (Syarifudin, 2020:31).

Online learning is very beneficial for teachers and students during this pandemic. Teachers use technology that is rarely used in offline classroom learning. Structured learning objectives are to use electronic or computer systems to support the learning process. (Michael, 2013:27). Online classes make it easier for students and teachers not to meet face-to-face during a pandemic like this, so it is important that online classes can be used for activities in a pandemic and do not interfere with student learning. The principle in the learning process with

technology is a technique with a distance learning process that is combined. (Chandrawati, 2010).

With the effectiveness of virtual learning platforms and distance learning, students don't need to come to school. Students only need to open their smartphones or laptops at home. It is ensured that the connection will be smooth. Formal and informal learning platforms are required when switching to a distance-enabled virtual learning platform. (Heggart & Yoo, 2018). Using Microsoft Teams is quite easy. Students need to have a smartphone or laptop to make it work smoothly. Then, students log in using the email and password that have been provided by their respective teachers. Students need to choose what classes and subjects are taking place. Microsoft Teams strongly encourages synchronous and asynchronous communication, which is essential for distance learning. (Poston et al., 2020). Therefore, it is said that formal, non-formal, and informal education strongly supports distance education by using Microsoft Teams. (Hai-Jew, 2020).

So, online learning at SMAN 1 Jekulo used Microsoft Teams to make it easier for students and teachers to learn or carry out online class activities. Microsoft Teams is a digital cloud application that can bring together conversations, meetings, files, and applications into a single learning management system. (LMS) (Microsoft, 2018). Microsoft Teams is the heart of collaboration and communication within Office 365, integrating many applications and services all on one platform. The virtual workspace provided by Microsoft Teams offers a plethora of time-saving and efficient features that organizations of all sizes can benefit from. Since Microsoft Teams is such a new application, Microsoft Teams is an effective online learning platform with a digital hub of cloud applications that brings together conversations, meetings, files, and applications into one learning management system. (LMS) (Microsoft, 2018).

Why is reading ability so important for students? because the teacher will know that the student's reading ability is good enough to improve their reading ability. Reading ability is the ability and skill and readiness of a person to understand ideas and what symbols or sounds of language are in a reading text that is adapted to the intent and purpose of the reader to get the desired message or information. by Tri (2014:11). The teacher's reading ability is very important to be explored by the teacher because if there is an error in reading, the teacher can improve the student's reading ability well and increase the student's ability to be perfect in reading.

At SMAN 1 Jekulo, it is necessary to research "The Effectiveness of Using Microsoft Teams as a Media to Enhance Students' Reading Ability in SMAN 1 Jekulo Kudus." So the researchers know how far students' reading skills are in online learning. Besides that, in this study, it is hoped that researchers can add knowledge to students' reading skills for the better.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher determines the statement of the problem as follows:

1. Is there any significant difference in the reading ability of the tenth-grade students of SMAN 1 Jekulo before and after being taught by using Microsoft teams as a learning media?

1.3 Objective of The Research

Based on the statement of the problem above, the researcher determines the objective of the problem as follows:

1. To find out whether there is a significant difference in the reading ability of the tenth-grade students of SMAN 1 Jekulo before and after being taught by using Microsoft Teams as a learning media.

1.4. Significance of the Research

By conducting this research, the researcher expects that this research will be beneficial theoretically and practically as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research can be used as a reference for other researchers who will conduct the same research regarding the problem of increasing students' reading skills by using Microsoft Teams.

2. Practically

- A. For Teacher

The researcher provided input references to teachers in using Microsoft Teams as a learning media.

- B. For Students

This research provided input information on the use of Microsoft Teams to improve students' reading ability.

- C. For Readers

The researcher hopes that this research can expand knowledge about oral communication problems to the readers of the effectiveness of using Microsoft Teams as a media to enhance students' reading ability..

1.5 Scope of The Research

This research will involve students of SMAN 1 Jekulo. The participants of this study will be tenth-grade students from all majors. The effectiveness of using Microsoft Teams as media to improve the reading ability of X grade students of SMAN 1 Jekulo, which was studied by researchers, was a significant difference in the reading ability of X grade of SMAN 1 Jekulo before and after using Microsoft Teams as a learning media. This research will only be conducted for X-grade students majoring in electives to provide strong data from this research.

1.6 Operational Definition

Based on the title of the research, the researcher defines some terms to avoid misunderstanding as follows:

1. Reading Ability

The ability to decode meaning from text. The skills include phonics, word recognition, vocabulary, decoding, and fluency. One has to possess these vital skills for one to be a proficient reader.

2. Microsoft Teams as Media

A collaboration app that helps your teams stay organized and have conversations all in one place.

3. Teaching Media

Teaching media means all tools which may be used by the teacher to deliver teaching material to students in the teaching-learning process to achieve certain learning goals.

4. SMAN 1 Jekulo

One of the educational units with a high school level in Klaling, Kec. Jekulo, Kab. Kudus, Jawa Tengah. In carrying out its activities, SMAN 1 Jekulo Kudus is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture.