CHALLENGES OF ONLINE LEARNING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS PERCEIVED BY STUDENTS OF ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

A Thesis by

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SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

PALEMBANG

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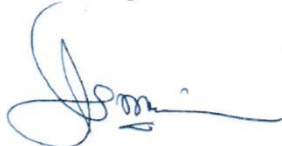FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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Certified that Thesis entitled "Challenges of Online Learning Due to COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by Students of English Education Study Program Sriwijaya University" is my work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Palembang, 28 July 2021

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

First of all, I would like to say thanks to Allah SWT. My beloved family.My father (Hartono), my mother (Yulis Setiawati, S.P), my little brother (Dicky Pangestu Ramadhan) and my supportive partner (M.Ridho Dzalil) who always be there for me, support me, and cheers me up. Thank you so much for being supportive, caring and helping me through this hard time.

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Palembang, 28 July 2021

Anjas Hariawati

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has led to the closure of educational activities. For the continuation of the educational services, the government present alternative educational activities for the students which is online learning. Even online learning is not a new learning system but still the students found some challenges through the implementation of online learning. This descriptive quantitative research aimed to explore the challenges of university students facing in online learning due to this COVID-19 Pandemic. The participants of this study were 178 students which from the second, fourth, sixth, to eight semester students of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University. The data were collected by using a questionnaire which was adapted from the study of Aboagye et al (2020). The questionnaire was divided into three section: 1) demographic information of the respondents', 2) the students' use of online learning, 3) online learning challenges. Demographic information of the respondents consist of name, semester, campus and area of living. Based on the result, there were 125 students from Inderalaya Campus and 53 students from Palembang Campus. There were 128 students living in urban area, and the rest 50 students living in rural area. Based on the result about the students use of online learning showed that most of the students accessed online learning 5-6 hours in a day with the percentage of 32.6% (58 students). Most of the students used Zoom as the learning platform with the percentage of 88.8% (158 students). The writer used descpritvive statistics: mean, standar deviation and percentage in the result of the questionnaire to determine the most important challenges. The results showed that the three main important challenges in online learning facing by students of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University due to this pandemic is: 1) accessibility issues, 2) learner intention, 3) social issues. The most important challenges in accessibility issues is the cost of the internet bundle which too high, this determine from the biggest mean (4.11). In learner intention, the most important challenges is the students lack of motivation in online learning, determine from the biggest mean (3.70) and the last the most important challenges in social issues is the environment of online learning which makes learner feel isolated which dtermine from the biggest mean (3.67).

Keywords: Online Learning, Education in COVID-19 Pandemic, Challenges

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter present (1) background of the study, (2) research questions of the study, (3) research objectives of the study, (4) significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has influenced and affected all aspects of life. One of which is the education aspect. The United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have been recognized that the coronavirus pandemic outbreak has impacted the education system in the world (UNESCO, 2020). Wajdi et al (2020) stated that coronavirus (COVID-19) is a pandemic disease that influenced the education system of diverse income level countries. Indonesia is not an exception, the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has issued some challenge for educational institutions in Indonesia. To prevent the spread of coronavirus in the educational area, the government issues policies such as social distancing, physical distancing, large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) to prevent the increasing number of coronavirus diseases (COVID-19). This condition requires people to stay at home, study, work, and worship at home. The result of this policy made the education sector like schools and colleges remote the face-to-face learning system to online learning which can be carried out from home.

Starting from March 2020, the Indonesian government issued a policy to switch face-to face learning to online learning. According to Siemens et al (2015) online learning (often used alternately with e-learning) refers to a form of distance education that implicates the use of technology as the mediator during the learning process, and the teaching is fully delivered through the internet. Online education implies that

students are physically distant from the instructors and required delivery methods (Wang Shannon & Rose, 2013; Wilde & Hsu 2019). From the explanation above it can be concluded that online learning refers to a form of a learning system that held through physically distant and fully delivered through the internet by using technology and the internet as the platform during the teaching and learning process.

Following the Minister of Education and Culture, Nadiem Makarim, Circular Letter Number 4 of 2020 concerning the implementation of education policies in the emergency period of the spread coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recommends carrying out the learning process from home through online learning. Both the teacher and the students need to adapt to this situation. Through the process of the sudden transition from face-to-face to online learning, certainly, it will be posted some challenges especially for the students as the main subject in learning activities.

According to Rannastu et.al (2020), online learning necessitates the students to be independent learner, when the students' study at home certainly the students often find challenges during the learning process such as self-regulated issues. Zimmerman & MartinezPons (1998) stated that self-regulated issues are a process of interpreting the stimulus by the five senses become an understanding, then this perceptions will encourage the students to be able to organize and manage themselves in the learning process. Therefore, the students necessary need a skill about how to learn appropriately, and thought effectively, so that the students able to achieve the learning goals. This ability is known as self-regulated. Students often faced selfregulated issues during the learning activities. Self-regulated issues that the students often faced one of which is the low intention to study while study online learning at home.

Furthermore, Wan Hassan et al (2020) stated that these self-regulated issues could be more complicated if the students do not have adequate information and

communication technology (ICT) skills. Al- Balas et al (2020) implied that in terms of the internal challenges from the student themselves, there are also other challenges related to online learning system which faced by online learning students, such as poor internet coverage or limited internet data package are also typical obstacles felt by online learning students, especially for those who are from developing countries with limited internet connectivity. Moreover, the impact for the students if the students are not capable enough to face those challenges, result may affect negatively students learning outcomes. Certainly, this will decrease the student achievements and decrease the performance of their learning progress.

Up to those experts' opinions above, online learning posed some challenges, especially for the students. A study conducted by Patricia (2020) entitled "College Students' Use and Acceptance of Emergency Online Learning Due to COVID-19", mentioned that there are three terms of challenges related to online learning that students faced due to this COVID -19 pandemic. The three terms of challenges are considered, situational and environmental challenges, online educational challenges, and emotional challenges. Situational and environmental challenges include concentration difficulties studying at home, stress balancing life, financial hardship, lack of social interaction, sudden life change. And then, online educational challenges include online learning was difficult, lack of supporting academic resources, the workload increased, being distracted during class, unfamiliar online technology. The last is emotional challenges which are considered as lack of motivation and negative emotions or this challenge possibility can be called self-regulated issues. Moreover, this study found that the students considered that the quality of the learning process decreased after the sudden transition of face-to-face learning to online learning.

Another study conducted by Zainuddin (2020) entitled "Online Learning Challenges in Central Pandemic Virus Corona in STAI Muhammadiyah Tulungagung",

revealed that the students of STIA Muhammadiyah Tulungagung feeling difficulty in facing some challenges in online learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In his study, the researcher mentioned the challenges that the students faced are: online lectures from each students house make the student more extra in arranging and manage to do the lectures schedule with the activity that might be their parents ask them to do when the online lectures take place some students are following the online lectures while doing some work from their parents and this will be less effective. Besides that, the difficulty of financial because the use of the internet quota increased after carrying out online learning. Then, some of the students who live in small villages feeling difficult when the internet sometimes cannot be covered by the network. Another problem is when some of the students do not participate because some of them cannot use the media because of technical problems. Last, sometimes several lectures give the assignment and the deadline simultaneously, it makes the students confused to complete the assignments.

In conclusion, the researcher would like to obtain university students' perceptions of challenges in online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The difference between the studies with the previous study is, some of the previous research was conducted before the COVID-19 pandemic situation then the object of the research, and the variable are more complicated. Meanwhile, this research conduct in the pandemic situation and only focused on the student point of view of the challenges. Based on this situation, the research is important to be conducted to know the challenges faced by the university students during emergency online learning in this pandemic situation so that the students still can learn effectively even in this emergency situation.

Therefore the researcher would like to conduct a study entitled "Challenges of Online Learning Due to COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by English Education Study

Program of Sriwijaya University". The students that are chosen for this research are the English Education Students of Sriwijaya University start from the 2nd, 4th, 6th, till 8th-semester students. These students are chosen because the English Education Students of Sriwijaya University start from the 2nd, 4th, 6th, till 8th-semester students have had a chance to experience learning face to face then since this pandemic situation, these students are currently switch their face to face learning system to online learning, from this situation the students can differentiate between those different learning situations. This research is useful to identify the challenges faced by the students and find the solution for the obstacle that the students faced. This will help the students to be able to achieve their learning outcomes and increase their learning performance so that the students can learn effectively and successfully even in emergency online learning through this pandemic.

1.2 Research Question of the Study

What are the perceptions' of English education study program of Sriwijaya university students regarding the challenges in online learning due to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

1.3 Research Objectives of the Study

To find out the peceptions' of English education study program of Sriwijaya university students' perceptions' regarding the challenges in online learning due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

1.4 Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is aimed to contribute a useful result for students and lecturers and future researchers. First, the writer expects it could help the students to overcome the obstacle that the students faced in online learning so that the students can study effectively and successfully achieved their learning outcome. Second, the writer hopes this study can be a motivation for the lecturers in evaluating the online learning system to develop a better online learning system so that the students can achieve the learning goals. Last, the writer hopes the institutions could use this study as a reference and source for students who are interested in this topic

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