

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of research background, research problem, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Before graduate from university, students must be able to finish their final work as called as thesis writing. Puspita (2019), states that thesis writing is more difficult than other kinds of writing since it is more academic. Puspita also mentioned that students have to write their final assignment to get a undergraduate degree so they have to do research and write their research into a thesis writing. Usually thesis writing occurs by face-to-face learning so that students and teachers can consult easily also students can ask and get the answers directly to the questions or difficulties they experience.

However, since corona virus come to Indonesia in early 2020, thesis writing course is occurs online. Corona virus spread highly fast and causes dead, government announce to replace face-to-face learning into online learning so students and lecturer cannot meet physically. The Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia issued Circular No. 4 of 2020 which contains the implementation of education policies in the

Emergency Period of Corona Virus Disease. The contents of the command are incorrect students carry out distance learning and give students a significant experience through learning from home. After receipt of news and orders from the Minister of Education and Culture Indonesia, the University of Muhammadiyah Malang then used the method of learning at home to replace face-to-face lessons. All learning activities such as material explanations, presentations, discussions, exams, and collection duties are carried out at the house of their respective students.

Media in online learning is certainly needed so that the learning process is reached. Learning media is needed to be more effective and efficient for students in capturing material using physical or non-physical media learning (Puspitarini & Hanif, 2019). The use of learning media will also reduce student boredom and can increase the spirit of students in learning. There are several types of learning media, one of which is media learning using electronics such as cellphones or computers. Electronic media are widely used by teachers as online learning today, one of which is WhatsApp. The use of these apps is getting more sophisticated, which is usually only used to communicate remotely and exchange information, but now the use of these apps is growing as it is used as a learning media.

In online learning, students are expected to remain productive even though they only learn from home. The considered productive learning of them is writing. In the era of the pandemic, writing is more activity, such as writing tasks or communicating through messages. As Meiranti said (2012), writing is an important activity as they must be able to communicate through writing by expressing feelings, ideas, emotions to be understood by the reader. By writing they can express their feelings and ideas

through writing without having to attend class. So it can be said that writing is a very productive activity among other subjects during online learning so that activities in the classroom that are usually carried out will be replaced by writing activities.

Karnedi (2015) mentioned from an online point of view of Tutorials on Advanced Writing Skills Course called in its article that online writing learning cannot provide opportunities for students to exchange their writing such as offline learning, besides that the online instruction delivered by the teacher will be accepted vary to each student. Based on his research, it is necessary to know from the student's perspective about online learning and what obstacles they experience during online learning. The importance of seeing students' points of view in learning will increase enjoyable learning because it is adjusted to students' abilities. Therefore, this research was conducted to provide information to teachers to find out students' perception also advantage and disadvantages about using WhatsApp in thesis writing course online.

Based on the reasons above the researcher is interested in researching about students' perspectives on using WhatsApp.

1.2 Research Problem

Referring to the phenomena above, the researcher formulates the questions such as;

- a. What are the students' perspectives on using WhatsApp as a learning media in thesis writing online courses?
- b. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using WhatsApp as a learning media in thesis writing online courses?

1.3 Research Purposes

The purposes of this research are

- a. To analyze the students' perspective on using WhatsApp as a learning media in thesis writing online courses.
- b. To find out the advantages and disadvantages of using WhatsApp as a learning media in thesis writing online courses.

1.4 Scope of the Research

The scope of this study is the perception of English Language Education Department students' perspective toward the use of WhatsApp as a learning media in thesis writing. Researcher also will involve 6 semester students of English Language Education Department.

1.5 Research Significance

This research provides answers to students' perspectives on the use of WhatsApp as a learning medium and helps teachers find answers to the needed online learning. The results of this research can be used by readers, schools, universities, and teachers to get input or ideas on online learning strategies so that they can improve the quality of distance learning if necessary, and create more interactive learning designs similar to face-to-face learning using online media. The advantages and disadvantages experienced by students in this study can be used as knowledge by readers so that readers can take advantage of the advantages of using these apps or can provide solutions to prevent the disadvantages of these apps. Moreover, this research is used to see if the sophistication of technology has been used properly and to listen to government recommendations for online learning. Then the data obtained can be used by various parties to continue the study or further research, besides that the data can also be used as a consideration for decisions. In addition, this research will also be useful for platform creators so that they will also get honest reviews from users and can improve the quality of application features so that they can be used according to their needs so that online learning can be done through their platform. Moreover, it can also show the students how to make wise use of the platform for online thesis writing consultations.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- a. Perception: states the physical ability of an individual to understand and be aware of a person's environmental actions Way (2009).
- b. WhatsApp: WhatsApp Messenger is a cross-platform instant messaging application for smartphones for sending text messaging, users can send each other images, video, and audio media messages (Fattah, 2015).
- c. Thesis Writing: A complex process that requires productive skills and contains symbols in writing (Batubara, 2017).
- d. Online learning is learning that uses computer networks and various technologies such as web, email, chat, new groups and texts, and audio and video conferencing which is also used in education around the world (Dhull & Sakshi, 2017).