

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the Research Background, Research Problems, Research Objectives, Scope and Limitations, Research Significance, and Definitions of Key Terms.

1.1 Research Background

Perception is a process that involves receiving, recognizing, and interpreting information obtained through the five senses. According to Slameto (2003), perception is formed through three main principles: relative, selective, and organized. These principles explain that each individual's perception can vary depending on their experiences, needs, and conditions. In education, student perception is essential in understanding a learning system's effectiveness of a learning system

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly changed the education system, including implementing online learning. According to Salma (2021), online learning is a teaching and learning process without direct face-to-face meetings via the internet network. This model provides flexibility in time and place but presents several challenges, such as limited access to technology and internet connections. In the context of learning English, these challenges become more complex because this course requires direct interaction to improve speaking, listening, and understanding language context skills in absolute terms (Irsyad,2022).

As the pandemic ends, face-to-face learning is being re-implemented in various educational institutions, including the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM). However, the transition from online to face-to-face learning presents new challenges. Students must re-adjust to the face-to-face system while some online learning methods are still being implemented. According to Munandar (2021), online learning during the pandemic positively impacts students' digital literacy and reduces learning motivation due to the lack of social interaction.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze UMM students' perceptions of online learning in English classes post-pandemic. It will evaluate the benefits and constraints felt by students

during the transition period and provide insights for the development of more effective learning methods in the post-pandemic era.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the explanation above, researchers will analyze this research problem based on the following questions:

1. What are UMM students' perceptions of online learning in English classes post-pandemic?
2. What are students' main challenges in transitioning from online to face-to-face learning?

2.3 Research Objective

Based on the research problems discussed above, this research aims to determine how UMM students perceive online learning in English classes post-pandemic and what can be done during this period.

2.4 Scope and Limitation

This research aims to determine students' perceptions of post-pandemic online learning in English classes and what can be done during that time. This research will only discuss students' perceptions at the Muhammadiyah University of Malang. The number of students who will be studied is 100 from the beginning to the end of all majors who have experience with online learning and what they can do at that time.

2.5 Research Significance

This study has important significance both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study enriches the analysis of students' perceptions of online learning, especially in the context of English language learning in the post-pandemic era. By knowing students' perceptions, this study can provide an in-depth understanding of how online learning systems affect students' learning effectiveness, motivation, and academic outcomes. These findings

can also be a reference for further research on developing more adaptive and innovative learning models.

In practice, this research benefits several parties. For students, it helps them reflect on their online learning experiences and provides insights into overcoming challenges faced in the learning process, both online and face-to-face. For lecturers, the results of this study can be used as input to design more effective learning strategies, such as a combination of online and face-to-face methods to improve student interaction and understanding.

In addition, this research is also helpful for educational institutions, such as the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM), to improve online learning facilities, including providing adequate infrastructure, internet access, and technology training for lecturers. For the government, the findings of this study can be used as material for evaluating education policies, especially in supporting online learning by providing internet quota subsidies or increasing technology access in areas with minimal facilities.

Thus, this research is expected to provide an understanding of student perceptions and offer concrete solutions to improve the quality of education in the post-pandemic era.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

Perception is how a person receives, recognizes, and interprets information obtained through the five senses to understand the environment. Perception also includes how people give meaning to things around them based on their experiences and conditions. This study's perception refers to UMM students' perspectives on online learning in post-pandemic English classes.

Online learning is a teaching and learning process carried out via the Internet without direct meetings between teachers and students. In this study, online learning refers to the use of platforms such as Zoom or Google Meet for the English learning process during and after the pandemic.

Post-pandemic refers to the period after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, when activities, including education, begin to return to normal, although some elements of online learning remain.

UMM students are individuals studying at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang. This research aims to identify their perceptions of online learning in English classes post-pandemic.

