

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Currently, the world has been facing Coronavirus disease or COVID-19 which is caused by a newly discovered of a deadly virus called coronavirus. This virus was detected first in Wuhan, China in December 2019.¹ Due to the spreading speed that is fast and deadly enough, on 11 March 2020, WHO declared this disease as a pandemic.² As of September 30, 2020, more than 33 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in over 200 countries, resulting more than 1 million deaths and more than 25 million people have recovered.³ In Indonesia, the first case was recorded to have infected 2 people on March 2, 2020.⁴ As of September 30, 2020, there were more than 280,000 positive cases of COVID-19 have been recorded, resulting more than 10,000 deaths and more than 214,000 people have recovered.⁵ Due to its fast speed of spreading, the Indonesian Government has implemented various policies to prevent the spreading of COVID-19, such as COVID-19 pandemic response by implementing various programme.

The COVID-19 outbreak affected various aspects of life, starting from social, economic, cultural and so on. It also affected

¹ "WHO | Novel Coronavirus—China," World Health Organization, January 12, 2020, <https://www.who.int/csr/don/12-january-2020-novel-coronavirus-china/en/>

² "WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19—11 March 2020," World Health Organization, March 11, 2020, <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>

³ "COVID_19 Coronavirus Pandemic," World meter, has been accessed in September 30, 2020, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

⁴ "Situasi Terkini Perkembangan Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) 2 Maret 2020," Infeksi Emerging, March 2, 2020, <https://covid19.kemkes.go.id/situasi-infeksi-emerging/info-coronavirus/situasi-terkini-perkembangan-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-2-maret-2020/#.X3Skp2gzblU>

⁵ "Situasi COVID-19 Kondisi 30 September 2020," Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, has been accessed in September 30, 2020, <https://www.kemkes.go.id/index.php>

the education world. A lots of local governments, supported by Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia, have implemented policies to close schools and colleges to prevent the spread of COVID-19. More than 6,000 schools ranging from early childhood education to secondary education and colleges are closed starting from the end of March.⁶ Due to this condition, learning process that initially carried out face-to-face in the classroom has changed to online learning or study from home.

As a response, Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia issued a regulation on guidelines for implementing curriculum in emergency situations as an adjustment to teaching and learning policies during the COVID-19 outbreak. These guidelines are summarized in the circular letter of Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia Number 719 / P / 2020 about the Guidelines of Implementing Curriculum for Educational Unit in Particular Condition of COVID-19 Pandemic. There is a point which explains that educational units are given 3 curriculum options to be applied in this COVID-19 outbreak.⁷ The first option is to stick to the previously implemented curriculum, namely Curriculum 13 or K13. The second option is to use the special curriculum which is consists the simplification of basic competencies and core competencies set by the Head of the Research and Development and Bookkeeping or “*Kepala Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan dan Perbukuan (KaBalitbang)*.” Details of this curriculum are listed in the attachment to the circular letter of the Head of the Research and Development and Bookkeeping Number 018 / H / KR / 2020 regarding the Core Competencies and Basic Competencies of Curriculum 2013 for Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Secondary Education of High Schools in Particular Condition of COVID-19 Pandemic. Last, educational units are allowed to simplify the

⁶ “6 Ribuan Sekolah Ditutup Akibat Pandemi Corona Covid-19,” *Liputan6.com*, May 20, 2020, <https://www.liputan6.com/news/read/4259413/6-ribuan-sekolah-ditutup-akibat-pandemi-corona-covid-19>

⁷ A Copy of the attachment to the circular letter of Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia, “Number 719 / P / 2020, the Guidelines of Implementing Curriculum for Educational Unit in the Particular Condition,” (August 4, 2020).

curriculum by themselves then it will be applied to their schools. In addition, the educational units also do not have to require all curriculum achievements completely for class promotion or graduation in this COVID-19 pandemic.⁸

This policy gives a big impact on learning activities, as well as English learning. English learning that was initially carried out in the classroom by using social interaction in the classroom, has changed to be conducted via online. Various things such as conducting forum group discussions, practicing conversations with friends, doing role playing, and any other activities cannot be used in the learning process.

Instead, the English learning is conducted online from home right now. Online learning is a remote learning which the materials can be accessed by students from anywhere, especially from home.⁹ This learning process can also be conducted through various media or platforms such as applications, websites, or social media.¹⁰ Utilizing technology in learning can give some benefits and make the learning process become easier. This is also in line with the circular letter of Minister of Education and Culture Number 302 / E.E2 / KR / 2020 relating to the COVID-19 pandemic where educational units should organize education programs from home (Study From Home).

Responding to this policy, many schools conducted learning processes via online, and so English learning. English teachers have been preparing several strategies to teach English language skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is evidenced by a research which was conducted by Tari Putri Utami in early 2020. Tari Putri

⁸ A Copy of the attachment to the circular letter of Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia, "Number 719 / P / 2020, the Guidelines of Implementing Curriculum for Educational Unit in the Particular Condition," (August 4, 2020).

⁹ Henny Mardiah, "The Use of E-Learning to Teach English in the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic," *English Teaching and Linguistics Journal* 1, no. 2 (2020): 51, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.30596/etlij.v1i2.4894>.

¹⁰ Gunawan, Ni Made Yeni Suranti, and Fathoroni, "Variations of Models and Learning Platforms for Prospective Teachers during the COVID-19 Pandemic Period," *Indonesian Journal of Teacher Education* 1, no. 2 (2020): 69, <https://journal.publication-center.com/index.php/ijte/article/view/95>.

Utami conducted a research about English teachers' strategies on English E-learning classes during COVID-19 pandemic. This research was conducted at MTs Sudirman Getasan in Salatiga. The results show that the English teacher uses several different strategies in online learning which is adapted to the material in order to attract students' attention and become easier to understand.¹¹

Based on the interview with the Principal of a private high school namely MA Ma'ahid Kudus, responding to this policy the school also chose to apply the curriculum during COVID-19 which is set by the Head of the Research and Development and Bookkeeping in its learning process.¹² English learning is also have been carried out using various learning models that are integrated with various online media.¹³ This learning models were developed by the English teacher by considering various learning strategies that students can do from home. From the description before, the researcher is interested to study further about the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus. It is hoped that this research can provide knowledge in the learning process of studying English in COVID-19 pandemic or any other situation. It is also hoped that this research can be used as a reference and practical steps for English teaching in the COVID-19 pandemic or any the situation.

B. Research Focus and Scope

In the study "**ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING USING WHATSAPP AND SCHOOL WEB PORTAL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EXPLORING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ON PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN KUDUS, INDONESIA**", the research focused on exploring English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web

¹¹ Tari Putri Utami, "An Analysis of Teachers' Strategies on English E-Learning Classes during Covid-19 Pandemic (A Qualitative Research at MTs Sudirman Getasan in the Academic Year 2019/2020)" (Graduating Paper, IAIN Salatiga, 2020), 72-73.

¹² Abdul Aziz, Whatsapp chat, October 4, 2020.

¹³ Nor Said, Whatsapp chat, 8 October, 2020.

Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background of the problem above, the formulation of the problems to be discussed in this study are:

1. How is the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus?
2. What are the problems faced in the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus?
3. What are the solutions to solve the problems faced in the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus?

D. Research Objectives

The objectives of the research is to:

1. To describe how is the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus.
2. To describe the problems faced in the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus.
3. To describe the solutions to solve the problem faced in the implementation of English language learning using WhatsApp and School Web Portal during COVID-19 Pandemic on a private high school in Kudus.

E. Research Significances

The writer hopes this research can give some benefits in the education world, especially in English teaching. There are two kinds of benefit in this research, they are:

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to contribute to the development in education world, especially in the

implementation of English language learning in emergency situation.

2. Practically

For teachers, it is hoped that this research can provide knowledge in the learning process of studying English in COVID-19 pandemic or any other situation. It is also hoped this research can be used as a reference and practical steps for English teaching in the COVID-19 pandemic or any the situation. For schools, it is also expected to give new information for people who play a role in English education, especially in studying English.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In this section the writer defines keywords or phrases used in the study to clarify concepts and avoid misinterpretation. These followings are the terms.

1. COVID-19 outbreak: the sudden start of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Curriculum during COVID-19 Pandemic: a simplification of basic and core competencies from curriculum 2013 set by the Head of the Research and Development and Bookkeeping or *Kepala Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan dan Perbukuan* and the Director General of Vocational Education or *Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Vokasi* as response to the circular letter of the Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia Number 719 / P / 2020 about the Guidelines of Implementing Curriculum for Educational Unit in Particular Condition of COVID-19 Pandemic.

G. Organisation of Thesis

The writer arranges this study into five chapters. These followings are how it is organized.

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, the limitation of the research, problems of the research, objectives of the research, benefits and organization of the study.

CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter includes the theoretical review related to the research, previous research and framework of thinking.

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explain research type design, setting of research, subject of research, source of data, data collection, checking validity, and data analysis technique.

CHAPTER IV : FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explain the findings and discussion of the research.

CHAPTER V : CLOSING

This is the end part of the report. This chapter consists of conclusion and recommendation.

