

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

In the midst of corona virus or Covid-19 pandemic, many higher education and school has forced to close and enforce at-home distance learning. All elements of life have changed since the pandemic, which has spread to countries all over the world. As a result, the Indonesian government has taken a variety of steps to ameliorate the effects, including Physical Distancing (also known as Social Distancing) and a health and sanitation campaign (washing hands frequently, wearing a face mask while going out). Due of the difficulty of keeping the pandemic from spreading further, world leaders have devised incredibly strict laws to break the COVID-19 line of transmission. Furthermore, many countries, including Indonesia, have decided to close schools and institutions. This emergency erupted abruptly, forcing governments around the world, including Indonesia, to make a difficult decision: to close schools in order to decrease direct contact with people and preserve lives.

According to the Minister of Education and Culture's Circular (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2020), many educational policies, such as online learning or distant learning, have been developed to combat the development of COVID-19. Classes must be converted into online versions by the teachers. Teaching English and other subjects in schools is increasingly fraught with difficulties. One of the principles throughout the transmission of the COVID-19 is that all levels of education would be taught and learnt from home using online learning. The similarities between Indonesia and other countries throughout the world must be carefully. Schools must compel students to use internet resources. However, using technology does not come without drawbacks; there are a variety of challenges that restrict the efficacy of online learning.

Technology has influenced many aspects of our life, including schooling. It significantly improves the teaching approach and strategy known as e-learning or online learning, in which students are assisted and supported via the use of technology. Using technology in the classroom implies combining learning and teaching methods in creative ways. E-learning is defined by Ruth and Richard (2008) as "a study given via computer, including CD-ROM, internet, or intranet, that is meant to assist and achieve learning objectives." Learning has become more natural as a result of online learning. As long as we have an internet connection, we can do anything anywhere and at any time. As a result, there is now a teaching strategy known as blended learning, which combines traditional teaching methodologies with online learning.

This research is motivated by previous research. Based on research conducted by Hidayah et al., (2021), Khaerunnisa (2020), concluded that blended learning has some difficulties that teachers face such as the understanding of the technology itself, internet networks that are not stable in their area, and also supported by Raes et al., (2020), the teachers also face the problem in the teaching-learning process that different from face to face learning.

The role of motivation, interest and understanding in the material of learning are very necessary. As said by Trisniawati (2021), concluded students' motivation, enthusiasm and low interest have a big deal in teacher's challenges in teaching English using blended learning. Suciati (2021) in her research also concluded the low understanding in giving learning material in blended learning impacted students lack of understanding.

The different between this research and the previous research is this research is in terms of the object, and the location which is located in a *3T* area (teringgal, terdepan, terluar) or remote area that is difficult to reach.

Based on the explanation above, it makes researchers moved to investigate what is English teachers' difficulties in teaching during blended learning, especially during the covid-19 pandemic. Because this was a new method of teaching in Class, the researcher wanted to learn about the obstacles

that teachers faced when using blended learning. The researcher anticipates that this study made a unique contribution. Based on the background, the researcher considers that necessary to conduct the research with the title “English teachers’ difficulties in online teaching during the covid-19 pandemic to the teachers of SMP N 3 Jawai in the Academic Year of 2021/2022”

B. Research Question

This descriptive research attempted to explore with English teachers of SMPN 3 Jawai. Thus, the researcher addressed two questions on this topic:

1. What are the English teachers’ difficulties in blended learning during Covid-19 pandemic?
2. Which difficulties the most faced by the English teachers in blended learning during Covid-19?

C. Research Purposes

According to the question of research, the purposes of this research are to explore teachers' of SMPN 3 Jawai about:

1. English teachers’ difficulties in blended learning during Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The difficulties the most faced by English teachers’ in blended learning during Covid-19 pandemic.

D. Significance of the Research

The present research would benefit in the following aspects:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher believes that this research will adding more understanding about the English teachers’ difficulties in online teaching. As known that the information about this study is still new because of the situation cause by the Covid-19.

2. Practical Benefit

a. To English Teachers

The researcher expect that this study will be useful for English teachers to know and understand their difficulties in blended teaching. The findings of this study will be critical in ensuring that teachers grasp the difficulties of blended learning and how to overcome the challenges. Teachers with this understanding could implement a mixed learning method in their classrooms.

b. To Students

This research will also give benefit for the student, because through this research their teachers will know their difficulties in blended learning and can make it batter.

c. To Researcher

This research is hoped can be the reference for other researchers or people to know the difficulties of the teachers' in blended learning.

E. Scope of Research

In order to focus on this research, the researcher specified the scope of research to avoid misinterpretation. The scope of this research here consists of two important things, they are variable and terminology.

1. Research Variable

A variable is a property or attribute of a person or an organization that can be measured or observed that differs among the persons or organizations being studied. (Creswell, 2014:50). A variable is a characteristic of a person, thing, or phenomenon that allows it to adopt certain values. The variable is used to characterize or measure the problem under investigation, as well as the elements thought to impact (or cause) the problem (Habermann et al., 2013). So, it can be concluded that the variable is anything that will be studied by the researcher. In this research, the researcher will use “teachers’ difficulties in hybrid learning at SMP N 3 Jawai” as the variable.

2. Terminology

a. English Teachers' Difficulties

Implementing new thing in education will make the educators face some obstacles like the teacher who confused how to implement blended learning in teaching and also get difficulties in applying it in the process of teaching and learning.

b. Blended Learning

Blended learning, according to Gina and Lyanne, is a purposeful and methodical technique that blends time management and learning modes. It communicates with relevant information and advanced technologies. Blended learning blends the advantages of online and in-person learning.

c. Covid-19 Pandemic

Coronavirus is an infectious disease that first appeared in Wuhan, China in 2019. The World Health Organization later coded it as "COVID-19," which stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019. Coronaviruses are enclosed viruses that have nonsegmented, single-stranded, positive-sense RNA genomes. There is little information on how the human coronavirus (HCoV) travels from one individual to another. Researchers believe that the viruses are transmitted by mucus in the respiratory system.

Coronavirus is still considered one of the worst global pandemics in decades. The global response to the Coronavirus pandemic differed by country, although most countries backed the school shutdown plan as a means of reducing COVID-19 spread, especially in Indonesia.