

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has been happening for a year. This pandemic have caused many public places need to be closed, including schools. The government makes this decision in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Because schools are closed, both teacher and student do the teaching and learning activity from home. Doing the school activity at home means that teacher and students need a tool to make it possible for them to do school activity at home. Both teachers and students are using the online facilities as the media for teaching and learning. They usually use WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Zoom Meeting, etc. as a facilitation to support teaching and learning activity which is done from home. The situation is really impossible for them to meet face to face and do the teaching and learning activity normally at school. So, both the teachers and students are trying their best to do the school activity as much as they can do.

Bentley et.al (2012) states that the learning system by integrating an internet connection with the teaching and learning process is known as the online learning system. But however, the implementation of online learning is running on a scale which has never been predicted and planned before. Everything happens so sudden so it makes the students and teacher quickly

adapted to the change in learning systems. Online learning is still considered as a new paradigm in teaching and learning activities. It is because, when doing online learning, students and teacher does not need to meet directly to attend the lesson. The learning process just rely on the online application which is connected to the internet connection. This virtual classroom might give an ease to use, because the students and teacher does not need to meet physically. The class can be reached anywhere because the class is being done online.

Doing the online learning from home might give a different experience for the students. Students' perception may have a difference as well. It is because there are several things which change to the learning environment. School is originally the place to study. The students can meet and interact with their friends, teacher, and another school staff at school. But since the learning activity moves to home, the students cannot experience these anymore. Stated by Su et.al (2005) learning interactions has an important role in the learning process to build a good relationship between students to students, and between students to teachers. According to that statement, it is obvious that a learning interactions has to be built in the learning process. But, the problem is, the learning interaction has not been built in online learning. Hence, this might give a different feeling or experience to the students.

This perception changing can be seen obviously through the pre-research interview. The researcher asked some of the participants some

question related to their online learning activity. The participants state that the quick changing of their learning activity makes them have to adapt to the new condition too. The participants point out some differences or a new experience that they have been through when doing online learning. One of the participant says that she feels a little difficulties in following the class in online learning, this is because she is an auditory learners. It means that she will understand the lesson better if she can have her teacher explaining the material directly. Online learning does not provide this flexibility for the classroom interaction. Stated by the participants, when they want to ask something to the teacher, they have to wait for several minute for the teachers to respond because their teacher is not always online all the time.

★ Regarding the interaction, the participants also say that they cannot interact with their friends. During learning at school, the participants will have a break time after some hours of class. On the break time, they will interact with their classmates or the other students from the other classes. The interactions with friend can be just a random talk or some discussion about the previous lesson, or even for the next lesson. However, this kind of interaction cannot be done in online class.

Online learning means that there should be a technology to make the learning activity becomes possible to be done. Online learning always needs an internet connection to connect the students and teacher during the lesson. However, there are also some problem occurred in the use of technology. First, students and teacher need gadget to support the school activity. But

there are some teachers who don't fully understand in operating the gadgets. The teachers also don't understand to use the applications in order to make the learning activity be more vary. Second, to connect to the internet connection means that the user needs an internet package (internet quota). Online learning spend many internet quota which makes the students and teacher spend more money for it. Then, an unstable internet connection is also an obstacle for online learning. None of the teachers and students can guarantee that they will have a good internet connection every day. This condition may randomly occur, especially when they have to do a discussion through Zoom meeting or another video-call meeting.

As stated above by the researcher that the students will have a different experience because their learning environment change. They do their school activity from home. They also are not able to meet their teacher. They cannot even meet their friends and cannot have a social interaction with the teacher or other school staff. All of this new things that they go through, it may give a different experience and perception to the students. The students might face some problem because they are not experiencing the real school or real classroom situation. So, it is important to know the students' thought by the time they are learning from home. Knowing students' perception is really important because it will be good to know how the students feel about a certain things. By having their own perception, the students will be able to give or speak out their opinion or ideas according to their own point of view. So, in this case, because the students are

experiencing a new things to their educational environment, it will be good to know what actually the students feel when they are learning from home.

According to Rakhmat (2000), perception is the experience of object, event, and relationship acquired by resuming information and interpreting message. It gives a meaning toward stimulus-response in resuming information and predicting message which involves attention, hope, motivation, and memory. Moreover, Michotte (2019) develops perception as a phase of the total process of action which allows us to adjust our activities to the world, we live in. In this definition, the students' perception described as the developed opinion after having a certain experience that needs adjustment.

However, this research also focus to know about students' perception towards reading comprehension when they are having online learning at home. As we know, there are four skills in English and reading is one of the skills that need to be comprehend and mastered by the English learner. Reading is really important to be mastered, because by reading, one can gain a new information from the text they read. Pang, et.al (2003) states that reading comprehension is a complex activity. Both perception and thoughts are included in reading. It means that, when one reads, the knowledge that they have had before is also used to support the text that they are reading in order to help them understanding the text better. So, the reader can expect what kind of information they will perceive through the text.

As stated above, to do online learning properly there should be a support from technology. The use of device which capable to connect to the internet is really important in order to support online learning. It means that, by learning reading, the students also need a device to learn reading through online. Using a device to learn reading is really different with the traditional reading. Usually, the teacher used to print out a text and spread them to the students. The students will start reading and try to learn the text through a printed text. But, in online reading, the text is not printed out anymore. Teacher can easily show the text from the screen and everyone can read the text from their own device's screen. The use of internet also makes online reading activity different from traditional reading. Both students and teacher can access to another site of the internet for references, or a word meaning.

In senior high school level, learning reading does not mean the student just need to read. But it also requires the students to understand the text they are reading. There are many factors that might influence the comprehension level of students reading comprehension. So, the learning environment that has changed can also influence the students' reading comprehension.

Based on the explanation above, this research aim to know about how is students' perception towards online reading comprehension in online learning during the pandemic of Covid-19. So, in this study, the researcher conducted a study with the title "An Analysis of Students' Perception towards Online Reading Comprehension in Online Learning during Covid-19 Pandemic".

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study can be identified as:

1. The students have difficulties because of the change in learning environment.
2. The students have difficulties in adapting to the new change in learning system.
3. Online learning make students spend more money in buying internet quota.
4. Unstable internet connection may occur in the middle of the lesson.
5. Online learning unable the students to interact with their teachers and friends.
6. Some teacher still doesn't know how to operate the applications used for online learning.
7. The change in learning media used for learning reading.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the study focused on students' perception towards online reading comprehension in online learning during the time of the pandemic caused by Covid-19.

1.4. Research Question

Based on the limitation of the study above, the researcher formulates the research question as: "how is students' perception towards online reading comprehension in online learning".

1.5. Purpose of the Research

Based on the research question above, this study is conducted to find out students' perception towards online reading comprehension in online learning during the pandemic of Covid-19.

1.6. Signification of the Research

1.6.1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this study will hopefully give useful information and knowledge about the perception from students towards their online reading comprehension during learning from home in the middle of global pandemic caused by COVID-19. The teachers will know how their students' perception about having online learning.

1.6.2. Practically

Practically, by knowing students' perception toward online reading comprehension in online learning, hopefully teachers and school can improve or provide a better accommodation to support leaning reading which is done through online. The result of this study may also be the reference for future researchers who is interested in conducting the study about students' perceptions or another study related with students perception towards online reading comprehension in online learning.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

These following definitions are written to avoid the ambiguity and misinterpretation in this study. The definitions are also made so the readers will have the same perspective with the researcher about the terms used in this study. The definitions are as follow:

1. Students' perception is students' way of thinking or understanding about particular things based on what they know or believe.
2. Online leaning is the use of internet access in order to provide the learning and teaching activity. Online learning can be done virtually so the students and teacher don't have to meet face to face.
3. Reading comprehension is the ability of students to understand a text they are reading.

