

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of study

Before the turn of the new year 2020, the world was shocked by the discovery of a deadly virus called Covid-19. Coronavirus disease 2019 or Covid-19 is an infectious disease that causes severe acute respiratory disease and is highly contagious.¹ The Covid-19 virus was first discovered in the Chinese city of Wuhan at the end of the year, to be precise in December 2019. The days continued to go on for patients infected by this virus to increase, until 11 March 2020 WHO (World Health Organization) declared Covid-19 a pandemic outbreak. Until now the Covid-19 patient continues to increase. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the activities of life that are not as usual, all agencies or institutions that have resulted in the closure of all the people in the effort to minimize the increasing number of cases of this coronavirus. April 23, 2020, was informed that more than 210 countries and several regions were affected by the covid-19 virus. On Monday 2 March 2020, 556,335 cases were reported to have died with 167 countries that have been infected. Covid-19 in Indonesia has recorded 75,699 positive people,

¹ Weissleder, R, Lee, H, Ko, J., & Pittet, M. J. (2020). COVID-19 diagnostics in context. *Science translational medicine*, 12(546).

35,638 recovered and 3,606 died. From data above shows that Covid 19 is a virus that is extraordinarily deadly and has an impact not only in terms of health but impacts from various fields such as the economic, socio-cultural, and science and technology fields. Than that Covid-19 has had an impact on the industrial revolution today. In addition to Covid-19 also has an impact on the education sector, where the government encourages calls to fight Covid-19 by avoiding activities that cause crowds called "Social Distancing", limiting activities by working at home (WFH) and carrying out all kinds of activities. through an online psychology distancing system.²

The spread of the Corona Virus (Covid19) has spread to almost all elements of society in the world, including in Indonesia. in Indonesia covid-19 is a challenge for the education system. There needs to be a new renewal for the Indonesian education system in the learning model and learning process.³ Government policies that apply to social distancing have a profound impact on Indonesian education, especially in the learning process. The application of social distancing as a government rule in breaking the Covid-19 chain is carried out until it is truly conducive, during this pandemic, educational institutions are closed but the learning process is still

² Giatman, M., Siswati, S., & Basri, I. Y. (2020). Online learning quality control in the pandemic Covid-19 era in Indonesia. *Journal of Nonformal Education*, 6(2), 168-175.

³ Wargadinata, W., Maimunah, I., Eva, D., & Rofiq, Z. (2020). Student's responses on learning in the early COVID-19 pandemic. *Tadris: Journal of Education and Teacher Training*, 5(1), 141-153.

being carried out (Sun et al., 2020). During the pandemic, the learning process was carried out using an online system. Then in this online system, all elements of education such as teachers and students are required to facilitate the online learning process so that learning becomes active as usual. Teachers as the main element in education must be able to adapt to online learning to make the learning process enjoyable.⁴ In Indonesia, almost all educational institutions are carried out using an online system, some schools and universities carry out distance learning in the effort to prevent and break the chain of Covid-19 including at the State Islamic University of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin. Lecturers and students conduct online lessons by utilizing learning media through the application.

Media as online learning has many names in the academic field, including cyber media, digital media, virtual media, e-media, network media, and new media. With the development of technology and information, some people have made several innovations and ways to make it easier for people to carry out their daily lives in this pandemic. Starting from sending messages, sending assignments, communicating, ordering travel tickets, all of that is done with an online system. Online learning is education that is carried out via an internet network called E-Learning. According to Fitriyadi

⁴ Suryaman, M., Cahyono, Y., Muliensyah, D., Bustani, O., Suryani, P., Fahlevi, M., ... & Munthe, A. P. (2020). COVID-19 pandemic and home online learning system: Does it affect the quality of pharmacy school learning?. *Syst. Rev. Pharm*, 11, 524-530.

there are several benefits of ICT for education, namely: it serves as an entry point for long-term learning; making changes in the role of teachers in teaching and learning and therefore the role of scholars in learning; offers open access to interactive materials and data over the network; eliminating time and area constraints in the learning environment; supporting the organization and management of learning and education and open opportunities for relationships between academics and between students. Moreover, they are used to planning project-based learning activities. Therefore, during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak when all schools were forced to close and students were advised to stay at home, they hardly faced adjustment problems. However, the worst thing was. academics lack the resources to interact in online learning and many students still do not understand and do not have easy access to online learning, therefore they are encouraged to use gadgets.⁵

Online learning in general is using technology and internet devices, Dependence on technology and networks and the provision of multiple online learning tools is a big challenge for an institutional institution including academics such as teachers and students when answering questions posted in Research Gate, by John R. Yamamoto-Wilson, a retired professor

⁵ Sujarwo, S., Sukmawati, S., Akhiruddin, A., Ridwan, R., & Siradjuddin, S. S. S. (2020). An Analysis of University Students' Perspective on Online Learning in the Midst of Covid-19 Pandemic. *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran*, 53(2), 125-137.

from Sophia University, on the effects of Covid-19 and online learning states that students who are still using outdated technology will find it difficult when the learning process takes place students who are still using outdated technological devices it will be difficult when students are encouraged to meet technical requirements in online learning.⁶

Researcher know that in doing online learning it is necessary to use media or applications that support online learning. This application should make it easier for students and instructors to carry out the learning process, including at the Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Islamic State University, majoring in English Language Studies, students do online learning using applications such as Whatsapp, Zoom, Google Classroom, Google meet, but some of these applications have problems. which vary, including financial constraints such as requiring more internet packages, signal interference, and others. The existence of these obstacles will undoubtedly lead to several perceptions from students of the English Teaching Department. Therefore, from the description above, the researcher is interested in examining the title of the thesis "An Analysis of Students' Perceptions on The Efficient Application Used in Online Learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic".

⁶ Adedoyin, O. B., & Soykan, E. (2020). Covid-19 pandemic and online learning: the challenges and opportunities. *Interactive Learning Environments*, 1-13.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problems above, the following problems can be identified:

1. Students experience problems in using applications such as internet network disruptions or interference with application devices used in online learning
2. In the online learning process, many students complain that learning is not conducive
3. Students find it difficult because of inadequate equipment, the equipment depends on the economic condition of the student
4. Many students complain about the high cost of internet packages in online learning

C. Focus of the Research

Based on the problem identification above, the researcher limit the problem and focus on perceptions, namely the perceptions of students, especially sixth semesters students majoring in English Education at the Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin State Islamic University about " An Analysis of Students' Perceptions on The Efficient Application Used in Online Learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic".

D. Research Question

Based on the research background, the researcher formulated several statements of the following problems:

1. What are the student's perceptions of an efficient application used in online learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic?
2. What is the most efficient application used by students in online learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic?

E. Objective of the Research

From some of the problem formulations above, the researcher formulates several objectives of the problem:

1. To find out students' perceptions on the efficient applications in online learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic
2. To find out what applications are most efficiently used in online learning in the era of Covid-19 pandemic.

F. Significant of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research can contribute to everyone. Researcher hope that this research can provide benefits for students, lecturers, and other researchers. The benefits of this research are listed below:

a. For Researcher

By conducting this research, researcher can improve their abilities about student perceptions, especially the perceptions of students majoring in English education about efficient applications used in online learning in era pandemic Covid-19

b. For Students Majoring in English Education

This research, can provide information to students about the efficient use of applications in online learning, and can recommend efficient applications to their friends.

c. For Further Researcher

This study also provides information to future researchers who wish to research similar topics to be used as material or reference in conducting further research.

G. Previous Study

Researcher have found three literature reviews as reference materials for writing a thesis, as follows:

The first research is *“Is the online learning good in the midst of Covid-19 Pandemic? The case of EFL learners”*. The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of students about online learning at in the

midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study uses a qualitative method. The respondent of this study were students of the UKI Toraja English study program. The instrument used was a semi-structured interview. The results showed that students' perceptions of online learning showed good things in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They consider online learning to be very helpful in the midst of a pandemic. The study doesn't just report that online learning is doing well amid COVID-19 pandemic but also highlighted the availability of internet access, financial problems, and the implementation of online learning. They expect the condition of students in financial terms so that lecturers take advantage of the facilities in the form of a free Messenger application in Online Learning System.⁷

The second, “*Students’ Perception on the Use Application of Online Learning Platform in EFL Learning*”. The purpose of this study was to determine students' perceptions about the use of online learning platforms in EFL classes. This research uses mixed methods, namely quantitative and qualitative, with instruments using questionnaires and interviews. This study involved 40 respondents from junior and senior high school students. The

⁷ Allo, M. D. (2020). Is the online learning good in the midst of Covid-19 Pandemic? The case of EFL learners. *Jurnal Sinestesia*, 10(1), 1-10.

results of this study indicate that some students agree that platforms in online learning can help them improve their English.⁸

The Third, "*Students' Perception and Motivation Toward English E-Learning During Pandemic Covid19*". This study aims to determine students' perceptions and motivation towards online learning during the tenth grade pandemic at SMA N 1 Suruh. In his research, she uses descriptive research methods with qualitative and quantitative techniques and uses questionnaires and interviews to measure the research data. The results of the study found that E-learning gets a positive perception because it is flexible and effective. While its flexibility makes some students motivated but some are lazy to do it and choose to postpone assignments.⁹

The fourth, "*Students' Perception on the use of Whatsapp Application in Teaching of English*" This thesis discusses students' perceptions about the use of WhatsApp application in teaching English to eighth grade students of Madrasah Tsanawiyah Nurul Hidayah Bhakti Idaman Tanjab Timur Jambi. This thesis, this study aims to determine students' perceptions about the use of the WhatsApp application as an online learning medium. This study uses quantitative and qualitative research

⁸ Cakrawati, L. M. (2017). Students'perceptions On The Use Of Online Learning Platforms In Efl Classroom. *ELT Tech: Journal of English Language Teaching and Technology*, 1(1), 22-30.

⁹ Mulyani, Sri, (2020). *Student's Perception and Motivation Toward English E-Learning During Pandemic Covid19*. Thesis. Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, English Language Education, State Institut for Islamic Studies Salatiga, Salatiga

methods using interview instruments. Based on the results of this study, she found that students' perceptions of the use of the WhatsApp application in learning English were that students who thought that learning English through the WhatsApp application did not provide maximum results. Some students said it was difficult to understand the teaching materials provided by the teacher. Once the WhatsApp application is less able to help in the teaching and learning process of English lessons. The results of this study indicate that the application media is less effective in being used as an online learning medium, therefore the researcher chooses this thesis to be a reference in writing a thesis regarding students' perceptions about efficient media used in online learning.¹⁰

From previous studies, there are several similarities and differences, including the similarities between this research and the previous studies, namely that most of the researchers above examined descriptions of online learning and the use of learning application. However, the difference between this study and previous research is that previous researchers directly refer to the use of applications such as the use of the WhatsApp application and previous research refers to the effectiveness of English learning applications with an online system, and the time of the above research was

¹⁰ Mardiah, Sihatul. (2020). *"Students' Perception on the use of Whatsapp Application in Teaching of English"*. Thesis, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, English Language Education, State Islamic University Sultan Thaha Saifuddin, Jambi

not used during the pandemic. Then in this study trying to find out what applications are most efficiently used in online learning and want to know the efficient criteria according to students, it can be said that this research is more general in nature, and this research was carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic, so that the only way is the learning process continues, namely by implementing an online learning system using applications.