

**ONLINE ENGLISH TEACHING AND
LEARNING PROCESS THROUGH
WHATSAPP APPLICATION AT
SMK AL FURQON BANTARKAWUNG
IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the online English teaching and learning process through WhatsApp application at SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung in the academic year 2020/2021 during Covid-19 pandemic. This is descriptive qualitative research in which the data are taken from observation, interview, and documentation. The techniques of data analysis are data reduction, data display, and conclusion. Based on the result of the

research, the writers find out that online English teaching and learning through WhatsApp application at SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung in 2020/2021 during Covid-19 pandemic is not enjoyable learning activity for all students. The students do not enjoy the online English learning because they cannot easily understand about the short material explanation and only in written form on WhatsApp. Meanwhile, the students enjoy the online English learning because they can join online English learning while doing something else, the teacher is friendly, and they can learn English anytime and anywhere. The English teacher uses problem-based learning, which purposes to make the students able to think critically and find other references related to the material by themselves.

Keywords: English Teaching and Learning, Online Learning, WhatsApp, SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung, Covid-19 Pandemic

A. Introduction

According to Fauziati (2008: 181), learning English becomes an important role as a national development in educational field, especially in Indonesia. English is used as a subject in school start from junior high school, senior high school, and universities. Realizing the importance of English, schools will find out an effort to improve the students' English ability.

SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung is one of vocational high schools which provides a program to make students improve their ability in English, namely English club. It is facilitated by the school as an effort to improve and encourage the student's interest in English. In addition, many companies demand new employees should be able in English.

Their English skill will be a most consideration as a comparison for company to recruit new employees. For that reason, the teacher's role is really needed in teaching and learning process to facilitate students to get English knowledge well (Aflah and Eka, 2018: 77).

In fact, the world is facing a serious problem since the end of 2019. The problem is Coronavirus disease pandemic that causes almost all sectors forced to be closed, included education sector. It is known as Covid-19 pandemic which came from Wuhan, China. The transmission of this virus is very fast and most countries in the world are also exposed to this virus. Indonesia is one of the countries that has been exposed to the virus since early of March 2020. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Culture published several circular letters which contain online learning from home by using e-learning system and internet help (Arifa, 2020: 13).

Schools are closed but learning activity should be continued. As the effort to obey the government policy about online learning in Covid-19 pandemic, SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung absolutely applies online learning since mid of March in 2020. Online learning in this school has been conducted for almost sixteen months and it will be continued until this pandemic stops. The duration of each subject is same as the teaching and learning process in the classroom is about 90 minutes. The teacher uses online platform to teach the students. In this case, the English teacher uses WhatsApp application in online English teaching and learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic.

WhatsApp application is not only used for communication tool but it also uses as learning media. Teacher and students can conduct teaching and learning process through WhatsApp group. Teacher

can share learning materials and assignments for students in the form of text, document, photo, audio or even video. In this case, the English teacher prefers to deliver the material in written form by texting the explanation on WhatsApp group.

B. Literature Review

As we know, in learning English there are four skills that will be transformed. According to Sadiku (2015: 29), the four necessities in language or generally known four skills which are listening, speaking, writing, and reading have different important role in any language learning. In learning each skill, it will take time and effort to understand one by one.

In English teaching and learning process, the teacher can use a method during learning activity. The method can be Grammar Translation Method (GTM), Direct Method (DM), Total Physical Response (TPR), Audiolingual Method (ALM), Situational Language Teaching, Community Language Learning (CLL), etc.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic English teaching and learning process is done through online. Online learning connects between learners and their learning resource or instructor who is physically separated or even distant but can communicate, interact, or collaborate each other (directly or synchronously and indirectly or asynchronously), Abidin, et al (2020: 65).

Aly (2004: 3) states that online learning has some benefits for both learners and instructors. For learners, online learning knows have no time zones, location, and distance are not a matter. Learners can use internet help to access relevant learning materials, and can communicate with instructor in the field which they are studying. Online learning is flexible,

learners can join online class while working on the job or in their own space.

For the instructor, tutoring can be done anytime and anywhere. Online materials can be updated, and learners are able to see the changes at once. When learners are able to access materials on the internet, it is easier for instructors to direct them to appropriate information based on their needs.

C. Method of Investigation

Bogdan and Taylor (in Arifin 2012: 140) deliver that qualitative research is a research procedure that makes descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behaviors, and this approach is directed at the individual's background as a whole. Moreover, the source of data in this study is obtained from the process of online English teaching and learning process through WhatsApp application, the person consisted of the head master, the English teacher, and fifteen students of SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung, and the documents.

The writers take three steps as techniques of data collection. Those are: observation, interview and documentation. According to Sugiyono (2013: 239), in qualitative research, observation and interview methods can be used together, which means that the observer can conduct an observation while conduct interview and vice versa. Furthermore, the writers use triangulation to analyze the data. Miles and Huberman (in Arifin, 2012: 172) state that there are some steps of activity in internalizing qualitative data. Those are: data reduction, data display, and conclusions or verification.

D. Findings and Discussion

Based on the analysis from the observation and the interview, the writers find several elements in online English teaching and learning process, as follows:

1. The Method

Method is a need in teaching and learning process to deliver the material. The writers find that the English teacher of SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung uses Problem Based Learning in online English teaching and learning. Problem based learning is a method that can encourage the students to be more active and maximum their ability to think critically. This method aims for students to be independent in finding the solution from the problem they faced by themselves. For instance, the teacher gives the material and task without any explanation widely it expects that students find out the answer by themselves by looking for other references which are related to the task.

2. Teaching Four English Skills

As we know, in learning English there are four skills. Those are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The English teacher of SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung does not focus on each skill but makes a lot of practices in reading and writing skills. Most of the English materials are related to these two skills. Students automatically read the English material on online learning application and they write the material in their book. These are the ways to teach the students to get used to reading and writing in English context.

3. The Obstacles and Needs

The learning process does not always run smoothly. There must be obstacles that arise in the

process. Especially in English learning, in the classroom the students still have difficulty to understand English material, further now the learning process is done online where the students and the teacher do not interact directly. The teachers prove they have the limitation in media used so they cannot explain the material freely and detail. Some students have difficulty in understanding the short material explanation presented by the teacher. According to the students the delivery of the material indirectly is not effective and the explanation of the material provided is few and not in detail. In online learning, there are also several factors that become obstacles in the learning process, such as bad signal, no internet quota, and no supporting smartphone.

In addition, in online learning process both students and teacher have some needs to proper running of online English learning. The teacher and students need good signal, having internet quota, and supporting smartphone. During the online learning, the teacher wants the students to always participate from the beginning until the end of the class. Then, the students need the explanation about the material directly which can be done if the teacher makes a video when explaining the material.

4. The Perception towards Online Learning Application

Online application has become common place and used in everyday life. Since the covid-19 pandemic, face-to-face learning has been replaced with online learning using several online applications. This is the best solution in conducting learning process during Covid-19 pandemic. The

most commonly use in online learning process is WhatsApp. It has good and positive perceptions from the teacher and the students of SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung.

Those perceptions are about the use of WhatsApp for teaching and learning process. It depends on the students' need because it does not take much of internet quota and it is daily using application to chat one another. It is easy and simple to use for both teacher and students. It makes teaching and learning process keep going in this Covid-19 pandemic and replace the learning process in the classroom. The teacher can share the material through that application in some forms such as text, link Youtube or link Google, picture, videos, word documents and PDF. Then, sometimes the teacher can explain the material through voice note feature on WhatsApp.

E. Conclusion

English teaching and learning process is commonly hard to join by students. Moreover, in the current situation English learning process is conducted through online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This study describes the process of online English teaching and learning is not effective for some students of SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung. Furthermore, the teacher and the students say that they do not enjoy the online English learning. The teacher teaches and gives English material in simple and brief explanation on WhatsApp group. A brief explanation and only in the form of writing make the students cannot understand easily. It can be replaced with a more detailed explanation through voice note or a simple video in explaining the material. It helps the students to understand more about the material.

Besides, the teacher also always provides many examples that are related to the material at that time. The teacher provides questions to make students practice a lot. The teacher will quickly answer the student who have question about the material.

In addition, the student's involvement is the important thing to make the online learning process run well. The interaction during online learning process makes the teacher knows whether the students understand or not about the material given.

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