

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some aspects dealing with the background, the problem, the objective research, focus on the research, definition of key terms, benefits of the research, scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing is not an easy skill to be achieved. Writing is a complex activity that requires the students' effort. The information should be conveyed clearly to avoid misunderstanding of the readers. The students are expected to know or master writing skill. In reality, writing has been seen as boring, tiring, and difficult subject for students. The student tends to be lazy to write due to its complexity. Rozimela (2016, p.150) says writing is a kind of stressful activity for EFL students. As we know that writing deals with ideas, organization and structure.

According to MacMillan dictionary (2009), EFL refers to the English language taught to the people who need to learn it for their studies or career and who do not live in an English speaking country. In Indonesia, as well as many other countries, English has been taught and used as a foreign language. In today's era, multilingualism has become more than just important. Knowing a foreign language aside from our native language has evolved to be extremely beneficial. The knowledge of foreign language enhances cognitive and analytical

abilities. The necessity of language competence has increased due to the growing interest in students to learn foreign language.

In recent years, technology has been used to assist and enhance language learning. Some technology tools enable teachers to adapt classroom activities and homework assignment, to enhance learning experience. Thus, technology play a crucial role in supporting and enhancing language learning, the effectiveness of any technological tool depends on the knowledge and expertise of the qualified language teacher who manage and facilitate the language learning environment.

The new era presents new challenges and responsibilities for students and teacher. Especially for now, over 1.2 billion children in 186 countries are out of classroom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Corona virus Disease (Covid-19) is a new type of infectious disease that has never been identified in humans. Most of the people that infected with the Covid-19 will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness. Within the Covid-19 pandemic widespread in Indonesia, all activities must be administered from home because the government implements lockdown and distance learning at 4 May 2020 to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Therefore schools cannot be done in a traditional way or face to face interaction. In this case, technology becomes the real core educational tool. Utilizing network and information technology for the developments of learning systems in school with online learning models is the way that can be used.

Concerning to online learning, Khan (1997) defined online learning as the delivery of instruction to a remote audience using the web as an intermediary. Online learning meets the needs of the students that can not participate in

traditional classroom settings. Based on previous research by Rida Afrilyasanti, Bambang Yudi, Utari Praba Astuti (2017) Online Learning model are used in conjunction with traditional classroom in order to convey the instructions that will be used when students turn to online learning. The researchers focused on the flipped classroom method that combines traditional classes and online classes in the EFL class. Meanwhile, in this study, the researcher was more specific to students' perceptions and the challenges faced by teachers using the full online learning method. The difference is at that time the students have sufficient preparation, both in the use of tools or applications as well as instructions on how to use and how to do their work. At this time, the students are unplanned and move to online learning with no training and little preparation.

With the changes that occur suddenly and without sufficient preparation, it is important to know how students' perspectives on online learning and what are the challenge that faced by the teacher. Some previous interview by Kompas TV relating to the effectiveness of online learning from the perspective of educators show that online learning is not as effective as conventional teaching and learning process. The curriculum target can not achieved properly and there are some materials that do require to be taught directly. Also, the technological and economic capabilities of every students are different and this can affect the success and failure of online learning. Some of the students were absent due to financial problem. Online learning system has become a new thing that requires adaptation. Although it has many flaws and unpreparedness, online learning is the best choice for education in the midst of Covid-19 outbreak.

However, in Indonesia, not all students are familiar with the online learning system. Students perceptions of this learning system will also vary. The students perspective on the implementation of online learning are important for research to know how students perceive their competence after following the online learning model in their teaching and learning activities. Online learning are actually not new in Indonesia. Both the teacher and the students were familiar with the concept of online learning. However, the changing of learning method to online is certainly a challenge for both.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher attempts to exploring online learning model of EFL writing classroom. Students may have different perception toward online learning depend on the sensation and interpretation which are processed in their brains. These theories of perception are used in this research because the students perceptions toward online learning are influenced by sensation and interpretation and it can affect the students performance in language learning. With the changes that occur suddenly and without sufficient preparation, it is important to know how students' perspectives on online learning and what are the challenge that faced by the teacher. By knowing students perception, the teacher can understand students better and considering using an online learning model to teach English so that both students and teacher are adequately prepared.

1.2 Problem of the research

Based on the background of the research above, the problem of the research is as follow.

1. How is the student's perception of online learning towards their writing skill?
2. What are the challenges faced by teachers in teaching writing using online learning ?

1.3 Focus of the Research

In line with the problem of the research, the focus of this research are the students perception on online learning towards their writing skill and the challenge that faced by teachers in teaching writing using online learning at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember.

1.4 The Objective of the Research

Based on the research statement, the objective of this particular study is to find out how is student's perception on online learning towards their writing skill and what are the challenges faced by the teacher in teaching writing using online learning.

1.5 The Operational Definition of the Research

It is necessary to define the terms operationally to avoid misunderstanding both of the researcher and the readers. The terms that are necessary to be defined operationally in this research as follow :

1.5.1 Online Learning Model

Online learning is the most popular form of distance education, which has long been a part of the education system, and it has become the largest sector of distance learning in recent years (Bartley & Golek, 2004 ; Evans & Haase, 2001). Online learning refers to instructional environment supported by the Internet. Online learning can be fully online or blended with face to face interactions.

1.5.2 Writing Skill

Harmer (2004:31) states that writing is a way to produce language and express ideas, feelings, and opinions. Writing skill refers to students competence in producing simple English sentences.

1.6 Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give contribution to the English teacher, the students' of junior high school, and the future researchers.

For the English teacher, the result of the research may be useful as input or consideration to apply the online learning in teaching English for foreign language for junior high school

For the students, the actions given to the students are useful to provide learning model that support them in various kind of situations.

For future researchers, the result of the research is expected to be useful as a reference to conduct the same research design.

1.7 Scope of the Research

The research is conducted to the second grade students of junior high school at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember. The focus of the research is to know how students perceive their writing skill after following the online learning model and what are the challenge that faced by the teacher in teaching writing skill using online learning.

