

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on various sectors of life such as the economy, social, including education. COVID-19 pandemic has changed various aspects of human life, one of which is the world of education in Indonesia from kindergarten to university level (Herliandry, et al., 2020, p. 65). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of education in Indonesia was seen after *Surat Edaran Menteri Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan nomor 4 tahun 2020*. One of the content in that letter explaining about studying from home or known as online learning. Therefore, educational institutions require to carry out teaching-learning activities by online learning.

However, the situation of COVID-19 pandemic become better over time. Therefore, in the early 2022 educational institution can carry out the teaching learning activities offline. The activity can be carried out in the number of students in fifty percent at *PPKM* level two area. That is stated in the *Surat Edaran Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 2 Tahun 2022* concern on discretion in the implementation of a joint decree with four Minister concerning guidelines for the implementation of learning in the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic period. In the letter, it is stated that the implementation of offline learning in *PPKM* level two is fifty percent of the capacity classrooms in educational institution that located at *PPKM* level two

areas. In addition, limited face-to-face learning implementation in educational institution located at areas which *PPKM* level one, three, and four still follows provision in Joint Decree of four Ministers. During this limited face-to-face learning pay attention to some regulations, like implementation of strict health protocols in educational institutions also execution of vaccination accelerated for educators and students. This regulation make students feel excited to back to school and to see their friends because it has been difficult for students learning from home.

During COVID-19 pandemic, University of Muhammadiyah Jember has been implemented teaching and learning activities online. The government issue *Surat Edaran Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 2 Tahun 2022* so that the teaching learning activities carried out offline learning in the case the capacity of students is fifty percent and pay attention to health protocols. Students learning activities at home before and they shift back to offline classes after COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, offline classes encourage socialization through group work activities with other students and helping students increase their confidence and learn new skills. Conversely, online learning make students less in interaction and interested as they associate with lecturers and their friends only through online chatting and video conference application, without face-to-face interaction. Therefore, group work activities can help them to interact with their friends directly, exploring and discussing their ideas with their friends.

Group work help students develop their teamwork skills and social interactions (Payne, et al., 2004, p. 441). Gillies (2003, p. 35) states that students working together are more motivated to achieve a goal than when they are working alone. Hammar Chiriatic (2014, p. 2) also stresses that when working interactively with others, students learn to inquire, share ideas, clarify differences, problem-solve, and construct new understandings. Thus, group work might serve as an incentive for learning, in terms of both academic knowledge and interpersonal skills (Hammar Chiriatic, 2014, p. 2).

John (2017, p. 4) states group work gives improvement on the confidence in public speaking. It helps the students to get involved, socialized, and give and receive ideas or opinions with others. It also expands their vocabularies. It enhances students' language skills, team spirit, adaptability and friendship. It makes inactive students participate to take turns to share their thoughts.

There are some studied that discuss the use of group work in teaching speaking. The study done by Hung & Mai (2020, p. 445) investigated teachers' perceptions toward group work and the implementation of group work in EFL classes. The data were collected by questionnaire from 105 high school teachers and video recording that taught by 4 teachers. The results showed that the teachers generally understood clearly its benefits, possible problems, and teacher roles. Besides, the study conducted by Madjid (2019, p. 1) investigated to see whether using group work has a positive effect on the academic achievement of the students at Polytechnic ATI Makassar. This study was carried out through class action research. The result showed that group work plays a positive role in

improving academic achievement in speaking also improves students' motivation in learning English.

From two previous studies which the researcher mentioned above, two studies by Hung & Mai also Madjid have discussed the use of group work. Hung & Mai focused on teachers' perceptions and the use of group work in EFL classes. Besides, Madjid focused on the effect of using group work on academic achievement. Both of them use different techniques to complete the study. While this research focuses on how the lecturers implement the group work and learning task in speaking classes after COVID-19 pandemic. Students shift back to university after COVID-19 pandemic. Students were learning at home before. They studied used video conference application and online chatting which has no face-to-face interaction with lecturers and students. Therefore, the role of lecturers is important to help them to interact with their friends directly, exploring and discussing their ideas with their friends, and build their confidence to speak and express their thoughts. That is the reason why the researcher focuses on lecturers in this research.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested to conduct research entitled "The Implementation of Group Work in Teaching Speaking After COVID-19 Pandemic".

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the problems of the research can be identified as follow:

1. How do lecturers implement group work in teaching speaking after the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What kind of learning tasks are assigned for the group?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the research problem above, objectives in this research are:

1. To describe the implementation of group work by the lecturers in teaching speaking after the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To find out the learning tasks that are assigned for the group.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms

In order to give clear some key terms in this research, the researcher needs to make the interpretation and define the meaning of some key terms dealing with this research:

1.4.1 Group work

Group work defines as the students working together in a group to complete the assignment or construct knowledge in speaking class.

1.4.2 Speaking

Speaking is a language skill which the students' ability to speak, express ideas or opinions, and give suggestions in conversation with other students.

1.4.3 Learning Task

A Learning task is an activity in which students do all the instructions that are given by teachers to achieve a specific goal in learning speaking.

1.4.4 COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 as we know COVID-19 which caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS-CoV-2.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The significances of this research are categories into two, they are theoretical and practical significances.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to contribute knowledge, especially about the implementation of group work in teaching speaking after the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, this research is expected to be used as a reference for another researcher that conducts similar research related to the use of group work in teaching speaking.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

- a. For the researcher, this research can give knowledge about group work, especially in teaching speaking.
- b. For the lecturers, hopefully, the output of this research can be a useful contribution in the English teaching field especially in the use of group work in teaching speaking. Through this research, the researcher also hopes that it could be a reference for the lecturer who uses group work in teaching speaking.

- c. For the next researcher, this research can be a reference for another researcher, especially research about the use of group work in teaching speaking.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is limited to the implementation of group work in teaching speaking after the COVID-19 pandemic in Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember. This research emphasized how the lecturers implement the group work in teaching speaking after the COVID-19 pandemic and the learning tasks assigned for the group.

