

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

At this time the world of education has new challenges because the Covid-19 has made all fields limit all activities including teaching and learning activities. Where initially learning activities were carried out face-to-face, now they cannot gather in one class like before. Nowadays learning is becoming distance learning. However, even in this situation, the teacher still has to carry out his obligations as a teacher, where the teacher must ensure that students can obtain information/knowledge to give to students. Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) Nadiem Makarim (2020) issued a circular letter to prevent the Covid-19 in education units containing, where children start learning from their homes without the need to go to school.

The Indonesian government through the ministry of education and culture has decided that all schools will implement online learning. E-learning as a concept includes various applications, methods, and learning processes (Rossi, 2009). In my best opinion, online is a learning process carried out by students using an internet network and using an application that can access material without having to come to school. Online Learning gives students the convenience of being able to more freely have time to do learning activities. However, this presents a new challenge for teachers to teach online by providing the material that is easy for students to understand.

Various learning applications can be used such as Google Classroom, Google Meet, Edmodo, Zoom, and *WhatsApp*. According to Abdurahman and Riswaya (2014), applications are ready-to-use programs that can be used to carry out commands from users of the application to get more accurate results following the purpose of making the application, the application has the meaning of solving problems using an application data processing technique that usually races on a desired or expected computation or expected data processing. In my best opinion, an application is a tool used to access information or provide information to audiences.

The use of technology in today's highly sophisticated digital era is nothing new in the world of education. (Selwyn, 2011) Digital technology has now begun to be used in educational institutions as a means of supporting learning, both as a means of information (i.e. as a means of accessing information) and as a means of learning (i.e. as a means of supporting learning in learning activities and assignments). To be able to access the information we can use a WiFi or cellular internet network. The difference between Wifi and

cellular networks is that the cellular network is a network that is directly connected between our smartphones and the internet service provider. Meanwhile, Wifi is a network that we get with an available intermediary or access point.

WhatsApp application as a medium used for online teaching and learning. "83% of our 171 million internet users are *WhatsApp* users that connect people," (Niken, Jakarta, Monday 2019). The use of the *Whatsapp* messenger application has been widely applied in schools and colleges. *WhatsApp* is an Instant Messenger technology in the form of SMS with internet data assistance with more attractive supporting features (Kongchan, 2008) (Kurniawati, Maolida, & Anjaniputra, 2018). Then in my personal opinion, *WhatsApp* is a messaging application that can not only share messages but there are other features such as sharing photos or documents that useless internet quota. This is one of the advantages of using *WhatsApp* where quota is one of the important indicators that must be available or have when teaching and learning activities are carried out online.

WhatsApp application is one of the favorite applications to use at Al-Huda High School. The *WhatsApp* application was chosen because it has various features such as being able to send text messages, photos or images, videos, voice messages, and documents. In addition to various features that make it easier for students and teachers to share information, *WhatsApp* also has grub content where teachers can create grub which consists of several students based on class. On *WhatsApp* group can cover many students in a short time. Students from the same class can easily have a dialogue about certain topics through this application because this application provides direct feedback to in-group members to join the chat to make communication effective (Trentin & Repetto, 2013). Of course, this makes it easier for teachers to be able to share material without having to share it one by one with students. There are several applications such as Google Classroom, Google meets, zoom that teachers use to teach online. But *WhatsApp* can make students more excited about learning with the features provided on *WhatsApp*.

Al-Huda Jati Mulyo High School actually does not only use *WhatsApp* as an online learning medium, there are Google Classroom, Google meet, and zoom which schools use as learning media. However, some teachers choose to use the *WhatsApp* application because students complain about the availability of internet quotas that students have. Most students only have a chat quota which they can only use to send messages via *WhatsApp*. Meanwhile, if they use other learning media such as Google Classroom, they need a larger internet quota to be able to operate it.

WhatsApp application is used in the world of education from elementary, junior high, high school, and college levels. Usually, at the primary school level, teachers give orders by sending photos of book pages that they have to work on and study. In the 2013 curriculum, SD / MI certificates usually teachers provide material about reading and counting because the 2013 curriculum has a thematic-based learning system that integrates various subjects that have the same theme. Then students write the answers in their assignment book and send back to the teacher the answers they have worked on. At the junior and senior high school levels, teachers usually provide material in the form of videos, voice messages, or files to students. The teacher usually provides the material and asks students to answer with answers according to students' creativity, and they can use the internet to develop their answers. After the students are finished students can send answers via *WhatsApp* chat messages to the teacher. At the college level, through the *WhatsApp* group which is made by mutual agreement, the communication relationship between lecturers and students will be very easy, usually, lecturers provide information about assignments that have been provided or uploaded on the platform provided by their university on *WhatsApp* group Then students will do their assignments and can immediately submit their assignments on the same platform, and sometimes they can also see directly the scores they get on that platform.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the research background above, this research was conducted to answer the following questions;

1. What are teachers' perceptions of the *WhatsApp* application as an eleventh-grade online learning medium at SMA AL-HUDA Jatimulyo?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are;

1. This is to identify teachers' perceptions of the *WhatsApp* application as an eleventh-grade online learning at SMA AL-HUDA Jatimulyo.

1.4 The Uses of the Study

This research is designed to be useful for others in theory or practice.

1.4.1 Theoretically

This research is useful as learning for others in the form of theory, for example, it is useful as a reference for other people or students who want to research with a similar title or as input for other researchers as consideration for improving their research results.

1.4.2 Practically

The results of this study are intended to be useful for writers and related parties, especially teachers who do online learning and use *WhatsApp* media to find out what obstacles are faced from using the *WhatsApp* application and how the solution is so that learning, especially English, continues to run well.

1.5 Scope of the Study

During this pandemic period, an educator is required to remain creative in delivering material through online learning media. Teachers must also be able to adjust to the level of education and the needs of students because if they choose the wrong media, students will feel pressured by the learning given by the teacher. This research focuses on why the teachers of SMA Al-Huda prefer to use the *WhatsApp* application as a learning English medium during this pandemic, while during this pandemic there are many other learning media such as zoom, google meet, google form and others. And what are the obstacles or difficulties faced by the teacher when using the *WhatsApp* application when carrying out teaching and learning activities?

