

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Online learning has been conducted in many schools or universities globally. This thing is caused by covid-19 that has been spreading around the world. The courses that have been taught face to face now had to be conducted by online learning with various digital platforms. However, online learning is the best way to conduct the learning process during this pandemic because it can prevent the spreading of the covid-19 virus. In this pandemic era, online learning can be used as one of the solutions to proceed with the learning process (Agustina & Mustika, 2020).

During the covid-19 spreading in Indonesia, the government has decided to tell the people to stay at home. So the activities have been conducted at home such as studying and working. The minister of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia, Nadiem Anwar Makarim, has announced that the implementation of education in Indonesia must be conducted through online learning to reduce the spreading of covid-19. Before the covid-19 spread in Indonesia, online learning has been used in Indonesia which is usually called e-learning. The digital platforms that were often used before are Ruangguru, Zenius, etc. But, those are paid platforms so the people need to pay first if they want to use those platforms.

In this pandemic era, which requires people to conduct the learning process through online learning, many people want to try modern platforms to use in the learning

process. Any video teleconferencing apps that are suitable to use such as Zoom platform, Google Classroom, and Skype. Those apps are very useful and popular in Indonesia. Those applications become one of the best solutions that can be used for online learning as the communication media (Agustina & Mustika, 2020). However, among those platforms, the one most used by many people is Zoom platform. Besides this platform is free, the use of the Zoom platform is also easy so both teachers and students don't need to waste much time learning how to use this application.

Besides the Zoom platform being used to conduct the learning process, the Zoom platform is also often used to conduct the events such as webinars, meetings, etc. Firstly, the Zoom platform was not initially developed as a classroom tool, but as any software that is more useful and easier to conduct in an educational setting so, this platform is used as a learning process (Minhas, et al., 2021). Zoom platform has many features such as sharing screen, virtual background, sharing whiteboard, etc. Before beginning the conference, the host usually makes a schedule first and shares the link with the participant. Then, the participant can join the Zoom platform meeting only when the host allows them to join. Not only the host but in the setting of the Zoom platform also there is a selection for participants to share screens so, it can be easier to conduct the presentation through Zoom platform. In the Zoom platform also there are mute and un-mute voices, so to avoid the noises, the participant will mute their voice and un-mute when needed. So that's why the Zoom platform is an appropriate platform to conduct the online meeting.

Based on the preliminary observation in SMK N 1 Bandar Lampung, Zoom platform was used as synchronous learning. Zoom platform was chosen because it closely resembled face-to-face interaction. The condition when using the Zoom platform was like in a classroom setting which is both students and teachers can interact with each other. However, sometimes the use of Zoom platform gives several problems that can disturb the learning process such as the students tend to turn off the camera or forget to turn off the mic while the teacher explaining. This case makes the teacher has no way of knowing whether the students are paying attention or not.

By looking at the statements above, the researcher was interested to research the implementation of the Zoom platform for synchronous learning in the vocational high school setting. The researcher wanted to know about the students' views toward synchronous learning using the Zoom platform in English class. SMK N 1 Bandar Lampung was chosen because not many schools in Lampung used the Zoom platform but this school is one of the schools that use the Zoom platform for synchronous learning. Moreover, SMK N 1 Bandar Lampung has achieved an "A" score for accreditation. This study will help the educational institutions with the implementation of synchronous learning using the Zoom platform by knowing the students' views.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions of this study research are :

1. What are students' views toward the use of the Zoom platform in English online learning?
2. What are students' views on the advantages and disadvantages of using Zoom platform?

1.3 Research Objectives

The research objectives of this study research are :

1. To describe the students' views toward the use of Zoom platform in English online learning.
2. To describe students' views on the advantages and disadvantages of using Zoom platform.

1.4 Uses of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretically

The findings of this research will help the students and teachers to be more effective to conduct Zoom platform. By exploring students' views toward online learning through Zoom platform, this study research will benefit for the teachers to know about the students' views so the teacher can evaluate their teaching whether has been effective or not.

1.4.2 Practically

This study research can be used by teachers and students to practice their online learning through the synchronous Zoom platform. When the students and teacher

conduct their online learning through the Zoom platform, the teacher can improve their teaching by knowing the students' views. Therefore, conducting online learning through a synchronous Zoom platform will be easier if the teacher knows about students' views.

1.4.3 Scope of the Study

This study purposes to explore the students' views toward online learning through a synchronous technique using the Zoom platform. This study research focuses on students' views toward the Zoom used for their online learning. The population and sample of this research will be taken from students of SMK N 1 Bandar Lampung. This study would be carried out from December 2021. The topic of theories that will discuss in this research is the students' views toward online learning through Zoom.