

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sintema (2020) stated that the rapid spread of Covid-19 had made every sector of life felt the impact. There were various sectors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the sectors was the education sector, especially changed in the learning system in Indonesia. Ayu & Pratiwi (2021) stated that Covid-19 disease had a significant impact on the education sector. Learning activities in school areas, campuses and other educational institutions must be temporarily stopped. It did not mean that all learning activities completely stopped, but rather transferred to other learning methods. Previously, all teaching staff and students carried out learning and teaching activities face-to-face in the school or campus area, such as classrooms, laboratories and others, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic all learning activities shifted to online learning. It was in line with the opinion from Simamora et al (2022) that stated to stop the spread of Covid-19, the government had agreed to change from asynchronous classrooms to online learning. Febliza and Oktariani (2020) defined the online learning as a process of education through an internet network or the intranet with the use of a management system for education. Nuraziza et al (2021) also defined online learning as a learning process that used technology, such as an application, to gain insight to students all over the world because it could connect with people no matter where they were.

From the definition of online learning that stated previously, it could be seen that online learning was a learning and teaching activity which in its implementation

used an internet connection as the access to obtain material delivered by teachers or lecturers. Yuliansyah & Ayu (2021) stated that online learning required to assist teachers in distributing material to learners during a pandemic. Not only useful as the access to delivery of material, but also online learning used for other activities, for example, such as discussing or interacting with fellow students or between students and teachers without having to meet face to face like in an ordinary classroom (offline learning). The implementation of online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic also applied at SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung. All subjects at SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung transferred to online learning, including English subjects. English was a subject which students should learn in school (Putri & Oktaviani, 2021). It was because English had an important role for students, including students from vocational schools. Utami et al (2021) stated that students in vocational high school strongly recommended to be able to experience the use of English because they prepared to jump into various fields of work immediately after graduation. It was the reason why English learning activity still carried out through online learning even during the pandemic at SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung.

The activities of online English learning during pandemic era which required students and teachers to do learning activities from home, it certainly needed a media to support the online learning process. The media used in online learning was an online-based media that could be reached with an internet connection. Learning media in online English learning process itself were very diverse. One of the media that used in online learning during pandemic era was social media. If

talking about social media, did you know the meaning of social media? Manning (2014) explained that the term of social media often referred to new forms of media that involved interactive participation. Social media arguably was the most popular social networking site in the world, allowed people to share and connect with others in their network (Selwyn, 2007). In another study, Devi, Eragamreddy & V (2019) stated that social media considered as the important tools in the environment or among people to exchange information, express opinions and ideas (for example gave comments or had some discussions), and also create information and knowledge in a collaborative way. Valenzuela, Park, and Kee (2009) found that freshman students primarily used social media for about an hour a day to connect with friends. Then, Mensah and Nizam (2016) stated that social networking had a significant impact at the students' educational performances. In the previous study, Bakeer (2009) also tried to seek students' opinions about how their use of social networking sites affected their educational performance. The majority of those polled agreed that social networking sites had a positive effect on academic performance. From this study, it could be said that social media not only acted as a medium for communicating with each other or exchanging information via online, but also had a role in learning activities.

In implementing online English learning during pandemic era, SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung also used online platform or social media as one of the media used to support their online English learning. Most of the online learning activities at SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung carried out in the Google Classroom. In addition, in conducting online English learning, teachers did not only use Google

Classroom in online learning, but also combined it with the use of social media as supporting media to maximize online learning activities, especially English subject.

Based on the condition of learning above, the researcher interested to conduct the study about "The Roles of Social Media as Learning Media to Support Online English Learning during Covid-19 Pandemic for Eleventh Grade Students at SMK Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung." This research certainly aimed to investigate the roles of social media as the learning media and to identify the types of social media to support online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic at SMK Negeri 9 Bandarlampung. This study was certainly different from the studies that had been conducted by previous researchers because this study more specifically discussed about the roles of social media in online English learning. The results from this study were useful to inspire the teaching staff to create more interactive online learning activities.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the researcher purposed two research questions:

1. What are the roles of social media as learning media to support online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic?
2. What are the types of social media used by students as their learning media to support online English learning during covid-19 pandemic?

1.3 Research Objectives

According to two research questions, the researcher had two research objectives:

1. To investigate the roles of social media as learning media to support online English learning during covid-19 pandemic.
2. To identify types of social media used by students as their learning media to support online English learning during covid-19 pandemic.

1.4 Uses of the Study

This research conducted to investigate the roles of social media as the learning media and to identify the types of social media to support online English learning during Covid-19 pandemic at SMK Negeri 9 Bandarlampung.

1. Theoretically

The findings obtained from this study were useful for providing information and education to educators and everyone in this modern era to know about the roles of social media in education especially in online English Learning besides to interact with others.

2. Practically

The results of this study had several benefits for students, teachers and the next researchers. The following were the benefits of the results of this study:

- a. For students: the results of this study could be used by students to get other references regarding online platforms that they could use to learn English in online learning which was useful for improving their English skills.

- b. For Teachers: the results of this study could be used by teachers to design interactive learning by using or utilizing social media as a learning media.
- c. For Researchers: the results of this study could be used by next researchers as a reference to be able to present more complete information about the role of social media in online English learning and to find other roles of social media in online English learning as the education system develops in the future.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research focused on investigating the roles of social media and identifying types of social media used by students as their learning media to support online English learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. The samples used in this study were coming from eleventh grade students from SMK Negeri 9 Bandarlampung. There were 74 students who sampled in this study. The 74 students came from 2 classes, the first class was from XI AKL1 which consisted of 37 students, and the second class came from XI BDP with 37 students in 1 class. This research started from March 2022 until finish. The types of social media that were being the subject of this research are WhatsApp, Youtube and Instagram. It was because most people, including students, had those three social media on their smartphones. The data collection carried out by distributing questionnaires, online interviewing and finding the required information from other sources, for example from various journals that were relevant to the topic discussed by the researcher.