HIGH LEVEL STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF ONLINE ENGLISH

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AT SMP MA'ARIF 02 SUKUN MALANG

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ABSTRACT

This study presents high level students' perceptions of online English learning activities. Online learning is a process where students and teachers carry out teaching and learning activities remotely. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, almost every country experienced the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, including in the field of education and learning. Therefore, in situations like this online learning is very important, because of Covid-19 the government makes regulations to not conduct face-to-face learning, but learning is done online. In previous research, most of the focus was on how students perceive online learning and how students perceive the use of platforms during online learning. However, no previous studies used high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities. While this study aims to find out and describe the perceptions of high-level students towards online English learning activities, in class VIII students of SMP Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang.

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The participants in this study were class VIII students of SMP Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang in the 2022 academic year, totaling 17 students who got the highest semester final exam scores in English. To find out the high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities, questionnaires and interviews were used as instruments to collect data. In this study, perceptions were shown in the responses to the questionnaire given to students about online English learning activities which included five indicators: student interest in online English learning activities, effectiveness of online English learning activities, teacher ability in online English learning activities, student involvement in online English learning activities and barriers in online

English learning activities. The data analysis process includes data reduction, data presentation, as well as drawing conclusions and verification.

The findings of this study indicate that high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities are positive in several aspects such as students feeling happy and enjoying online English learning activities. In addition, students are also very active in learning English even though it is held online, active participation of students such as being active in class, often doing assignments and often asking the teacher and students also have no obstacles at all when learning English activities are carried out online. Only a small number of students stated that online English learning was less effective because students found it difficult to understand the media provided by the teacher. In addition, students stated that the teacher's ability in online English learning activities was less creative because the teacher only gave videos during the teaching and learning process.

High-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities showed that the online learning was carried out effectively. However, the researcher found some negative perceptions during online English learning activities that did not go as expected because some students said that learning English online was difficult to understand the material. This research is expected to be useful for future researchers and can also be a reference for future researchers who are interested in the field of high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background elements of the research. This chapter introduces the background of the study, the research problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the most popular languages in the world when it is used as a means of communication in everyday life. Therefore, English is an important lesson today for the younger generation as an international language that must be mastered to get a bright future in the era of globalization and the following years. According to Castillo (2015), one of the most widely spoken languages in the world is English. English is one of the subjects in the education system in Indonesia. Especially for junior high school level systematically, both in terms of time, grid material and methodology.

Learning English there are several skills that we must master. Namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Explain thoroughly the relationship of each skill. Putra (2021) states that learning English has several important skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, aspects and other language components to be studied in more detail. According to Widyasari (2018),

the purpose of learning English is so that students can communicate in English orally and in writing fluently and according to their social context.

Online learning is one of the policies issued by the Government during the pandemic. Online learning has become a demand in unnecessary world education in recent years. Kuswara (2020) states that online learning can be a momentum for the world of education to create the concept of sustainable learning in improving the quality of educational services in the future. According to Anugrahana (2020) states that online learning has a definition to access experiential learning through certain technologies. The simultaneous development of education and technology can have a major impact on the quality of students and teachers as they face a changing world. According to Silvana (2021), online learning is a learning activity that uses the internet as a means of delivery, interaction and facilities, and is supported by various forms of learning services.

Currently, online learning as referred to in the title is not carried out by teachers and students who go to school, but uses technology for teaching and learning at home. Teachers and students can use technology such as smartphones, laptops, iPads, and tablets. There are many online learning platforms that can be integrated with technology such as WhatsApp, Google Cassroom, Zoom, and others.

E-learning can be defined as a form of information technology applied to education in the form of a virtual school (Basori, 2017). E-learning is the basis and logical result of the development of information and communication technology. With e-learning, students do not have to sit in class and listen to the teacher directly.

E-learning can reduce the desired learning time and of course save on learning and training costs. Meanwhile, distance learning does not seem difficult for them to do from a student's point of view.

English is one of the subjects taught in schools in Indonesia, one of which is in junior high school. Students learn or are taught English as the main subject in the teaching and learning process. Teaching English through online learning has become a widespread practice over the years as an integrated technology in education. According to Oliveira (2016) online learning is divided into two main areas, learning , and technology where learning is a cognitive process to achieve knowledge and technology is a tool to support the process of achieving it. Therefore, teachers need to design online learning well. The method of delivering subjects in online learning is based on the convenience of students with the technology used, students' technical expertise with the technology used, and the availability of student time.

Online learning media can be interpreted as media equipped with controllers that can be operated by the user (user), so that the user (user) can control and access what the user needs, for example downloading sources for Tenses material in English lessons. The advantages of using online learning media are independent learning and high interactivity, able to increase memory levels, providing more learning experiences, with text, audio, video and animation, all of which are used to convey information, and also providing convenience in conveying, updating content. , download, students can also send emails to other students, send comments on

discussion forums, use chat rooms, to video conference links to communicate directly.

Perception is the process by which people construct and interpret sensory impressions to understand their environment. Perception is the process of entering messages or information into the human brain. Perception is the experience of objects, events, and relationships obtained by transmitting information and interpreting messages. Mismara (2019) Defined perception as our recognition and understanding of sensory information. Student perceptions can be described as opinions that develop after experiencing certain experiences that require adjustment.

The higher level is the ability to think critically, logically, reflectively, metacognitively, and creatively. Indah (2020) defines higher-order thinking skills as the stages of thinking about the higher cognitive abilities of students. High-order thinking students can solve a problem, discuss a problem, and use student knowledge in new situations. According to Zulfiani (2020) states that there are various high-level stages in analyzing, evaluating, and creating skills. So learning leads to analyzing, evaluating, and creating. Teachers are required to be creative and innovative in preparing learning materials to empower higher-order thinking skills.

According to Noviana (2016) states that HOTS has four indicators, namely: Problem solving skills; Decision making skills; Critical thinking skills; and Creative thinking skills. In Bloom's revised Taxonomy, higher order thinking skills involving analysis, evaluation, and creation or creativity are considered higher order thinking (Krathwohl & Anderson, 2001).

Therefore, the researcher chose the perception of high-level students as very important to determine online English learning activities. Because students' perceptions when learning online use learning media during online English learning activities. While the perception of high-level students themselves have the ability to think creatively and can know, understand, and remember in learning.

Several researchers have conducted research related to this research. The first is Ermawatti (2020). The results showed that the application used in online learning during the Covid 19 pandemic was efficient because it provided an alternative way to do learning activities from home. In addition, almost all of the students surveyed stated that the WhatsApp application was the most efficient, convenient, and economical application during the pandemic. The second researcher is Muzakky (2021). This study aims to explore the teacher's perspective on the application of online learning. The samples used in this study were 33 teachers as participants. The results show that teachers think that learning media will become more interactive through various online learning platforms such as Zoom, Google Meeting, Google Classroom, and WhatsApp. Then, teaching via teleconference increases Teachers' skills and confidence because they can present teaching materials and class activities creatively.

From the previously mentioned research, most of the above findings focus on how online learning is carried out and conclude that the application is effective for online learning. However, there has been no previous study using observation to collect data on cases of online learning in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. In

addition, a striking difference from this study is that this study wants to know the high-level perceptions of online learning, especially in English subjects.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting this research the title high level students perception of online English learning activities at Smp Islam ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the research problem in this study is "How are high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities at Smp Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang"?

1.3 Objective of Research

This study aims to describe the perception of high-level students towards online English learning activities at Smp Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang

1.4 Significance of The Research

This research is expected to provide clear information about high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities. In addition, it can also complement previous theories related to online English learning activities. The results of this study may aim to provide useful information for certain stakeholders, so this research can be aimed at:

a. Teachers

It is hoped that this research can provide valuable information for teachers in teaching English skills in online classes. Furthermore, from the perception of high-level students, teachers can observe the level of students' understanding when learning English skills through online learning platforms.

This study also provides insight to teachers about how to improve online English learning. Perceptions of high-level students can find interesting ways in online English learning by knowing the motivation to learn English online for students and being able to understand what challenges are faced by students during learning.

b. Students

This research is also expected to provide valuable information for students and provide positive guidance for students to be motivated in online English learning activities so that students can learn English effectively from home without meeting face-to-face in class. This is very beneficial for them because they can still develop their knowledge during distance learning.

c. Further Reseacher

This research can be used as a reference and add more literature for further research on online English learning activities.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this study, the subject is the Eight Grade students of SMP Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang. Furthermore, the researcher limits the problem mainly to exploring the perceptions of high-level students of online English learning activities. Furthermore, this research is expected to be able to explore the perceptions of high-level students of online English learning skills. Because this research is students who are included in the category of high-level students. So, the researcher provided offline questionnaires and interviews as research instruments to collect data adapted from previous research.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher would like to define some key terms as follows.

a. Perception

Perception is the process of processing data to have a better knowledge of one's environment. In this study, perceptions are shown in responses to a questionnaire given to students about online English learning activities which include the following five indicators :

1. student interest in online English learning activities

2. effectiveness of online English learning activities

3. teacher's ability on online English learning activities

4. student involvement on online English learning activities

5. obstacles to online English learning activities

b. Online learning

Online learning is a learning activity that uses the internet as a means of delivery, interaction and facilities, and is supported by various learning services. There are several media that are often used by teachers and students when learning online, including WhatsApp and Zoom applications.

c. English learning activities

Learning activities are teaching processes between teachers and students. This research, it refers to activities in English class during online learning. English has several important skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and other aspects and components of language to be learned more communicatively. Learning English provides guidance to students to develop appropriate pedagogical scenarios to achieve the objectives of learning English itself. This learning can be defined as the practice of creating learning experiences to help facilitate effective learning.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusions and suggestions from the research. The conclusion consists of research findings and discussion, while suggestions emerge with some ideas addressed to English teachers and future researchers who are interested in the field of high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities.

5.1   Conclusion

Based on the findings in the previous chapter, the researcher concludes that the high-level students' perceptions of online English learning activities in the eighth grade at SMP Islam Ma'arif 02 Sukun Malang obtained positive perceptions or agreed with online English learning activities. Students also agree that learning English online is not boring, which makes students enthusiastic about learning English. Another advantage of learning English online is making their skills better than ever. Most of the students stated that the teacher's ability to manage the class and use media in learning English online was good which made them active during online learning. This can be seen from the significant percentage of questionnaires and interview results.

However, in this study the researcher found some negative perceptions during online English learning activities that did not work as expected. Students said that in learning English online it was difficult to understand the material and too much browsing made them confused about online learning. In addition, some students stated that the teacher's ability to manage English classes online was less creative because some students said that teachers often gave videos during online learning.

5.2 Suggestions

The researcher provides several suggestions related to this research. The first suggestion is for English teachers. The second suggestion is for students and the third suggestion for the next researcher.

5.2.1 English Teacher

Teachers should provide more interesting material that is carried out during online English learning classes. The success of the teacher in increasing student activity during learning activities cannot be separated from the way the teacher applies dynamic methods to deliver the material to be given to students. This is important to note and consider so that teachers can succeed in increasing student activity in the classroom. The learning method refers to the teacher's way of

maximizing learning activities in order to achieve the learning objectives that have been designed.

5.2.2 Students

Students should strive to utilize technology-based media during the online learning process. Because utilizing technology is needed in online learning media, being creative and actively communicating with teachers is very important in online learning because the media provided by teachers can be useful for students.

5.2.3 Future Researchers

This research is expected to be useful for other researchers and it can also be a reference or inspiration for further researchers who are interested in the field of high-level student perceptions of online English learning activities. In future research, to verify clearer and more detailed results, further researchers can use more instruments and participants in data collection.

Furthermore, this research is expected to explore high-level students' perceptions of online English learning skills. Because this study is a student who is included in the category of high-level students, students whose final grades in English are 80 to 100 are taken as subjects because they are classified as high-level students

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