



English Department Third-Year Students' Perception toward Full Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang

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Abstract

The spread of the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia has affected human life in various sectors, including education. The learning system from conventional classrooms to online learning brings various views or opinions from both teachers and students. This study aims to determine student perceptions of online learning that has been carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research was conducted at the English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang on 33 third-year students in the July-December 2020 semester. 25 statements were used in this study to find out how students perceive online learning. The result of this study is that students have a neutral perception of online learning that is being carried out during the pandemic with an average score of 2.87. However, the students considered that some platforms were considered inappropriate because they needed a lot of data packages to access, and there were platforms that could not be used to collect the assignments that had been done.

Keywords

Online learning, students' perception, platform, pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, the world has been shocked by the existence of the Coronavirus which has greatly troubled the whole world community. The appearance of this virus is classified as very dangerous because of its very fast and massive spread. Therefore, all activities of the world community are affected, such as economic, socio-cultural, and educational. According to Rajab (2020) quoted from Detik News, the Coronavirus has a bad impact on the continuity of world the education. This is proven by UNESCO's statement (5/3) that the Coronavirus has stopped learning activities of around 300 million students and 13 countries in the world have decided to close schools to avoid the spread of this virus.

The emergence of this virus has caused governments around the world to make emergency policies to anticipate the spread of this virus. The Indonesian government is also taking steps to overcome this problem. One of the solutions made

by the government is to close various public places such as offices, schools, and campuses. All existing learning facilities have also been switched due to this pandemic. The solution that exists to overcome this problem is to do all activities from home. Workers who are usually required to come to the office must work from home to fulfill their work obligations. The same thing has happened in the education system; teaching and learning activity is changed to distance learning, where the students and teachers conduct the learning activity from home, as known as online learning. According to Khan (2005), online learning is an innovative learning approach that can be done by anyone, anytime, anywhere by utilizing the development of digital technology which makes the learning system more flexible.

Students' perceptions of changes in the learning system are certainly different from one student to another. According to Wilson (1974), perception is how humans process information or phenomena. In addition, Slamento (2010) reveals that perception is an opinion or meaning given by a human to things that are received through the senses, be it sight, smell, hearing, touch, or taste. So, it can be concluded that perception is a human thought process towards certain information obtained. In short, it can be concluded that the student's perception is how students opinion toward a certain phenomenon.

There are many things that need to be considered in providing this online class, such as the devices like smartphones, personal computers, laptops, or other tools that will be used by each student and educator to conduct online classes, the availability of the internet network and the stability of the network so that the teaching and learning process can run smoothly, and so on. This change in the learning system from conventional methods to distance learning has also led to different opinions among students and educators.

In Indonesia, online learning is actually not a new thing. However, online learning itself is not a common thing to do, although higher education provides an online learning platform to use. Both students and educators are not prepared to carry out online learning (Maulipaksi, 2020). It will cause some new problems for students if they do not have adequate facilities and the availability of sufficiently qualified internet, especially for students who live in certain areas who have difficulty accessing the internet.

Technological advances in this century support government efforts to carry out activities online. This is evidenced by the availability of various digital platforms to support community activities. The use of the internet in education is very common in higher education (Hogg & Lomicky, 2012; Halawi, Pires, & McCarthy, 2009; Bhagat, Wu, Chang, 2016; Meng-Jung, 2009; Steel & Fahy, 2011). However, not all students are familiar with this. This is proven by the fact that conventional classroom procurement is mostly carried out in Indonesia where students study in schools with teachers directly.

In previous research, Mather and Sarkans (2018) have examined students' views of online classes and face-to-face classes. In this study, the researchers asked students' opinions about the differences between online learning and face-to-face learning. In this study, it can be concluded that university students prefer online learning because it is considered more flexible and saves time. Huss and Eastep (2013) have examined the interaction among students in online classrooms and

conventional classrooms. As a result of this research, the students choose the best interactions to occur in conventional classrooms. Anugrahana (2020) had also completed a study on the barriers and solutions of online learning that is being implemented as recommended by the government. The result of this research is the main obstacle in online learning experienced by students is the inadequate availability of internet access.

In this study, researchers will try to show in general how students think about online learning itself. This research will be carried out specifically in the English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang because so far there has been no similar research conducted. This study will be different from previous studies because this research is conducted only limited to students majoring in English at Universitas Negeri Padang and will be conducted on third-year students in July-December 2020 period. This study is aimed to know the perception of third-year students in the English Department towards online learning that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the study will refer to how students' perception toward the learning management system used by the lecturers to carry out online learning process and how students' perception toward the learning activities that exist in the learning management system.

There are several issues that can be discussed regarding students' opinions about online learning carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first problem is about the most learning management system used by the lecture to carry out the teaching-learning process. The second thing is about the learning management system used by lecturers to carry out online learning during the pandemic. And the third thing that can be discussed is the learning activity used by lecturers to carry out online learning.

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher limited this research to third-year students' perceptions toward online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang.

The results of this study are intended to provide information to the readers about how third-year students in the English Department perceive online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the learning management system that is most often used by lecturers in English Department in the July-December semester 2020. By knowing the students' perception about online learning, it is expected can help the lecturer to develop the learning activity to be more effective.

METHOD

This research used a descriptive quantitative study because in this study the researcher described the perception of university students toward online classes that are implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic narratively.

The population of this study were all third year students in the English Department. The sample selection was done by cluster random sampling and the K4-2018 class came out as the class that was chosen to be the research sample.

This questionnaire contained 25 questions and divided into three parts: a. learning management system that is mostly used by lecturers during the online learning process; b. students' perceptions of the learning management system that is most used by lecturers during the online learning process; c. students' opinions about

learning activities in the mostly used learning management system used by lecturers to carry out online learning. The questionnaire used Likert scale. Sugiyono (2010) said the Likert scale is used to measure the opinion and perception of someone or group of people toward a social phenomenon.

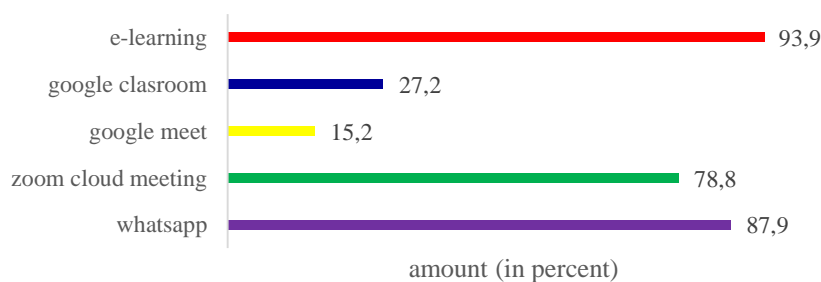
In order to check the validity of the questionnaire, the researcher discussed with the expert and consulted with the lecturer expert in this study. Reliability was calculated for the research instruments most frequently questionnaires and tests. To test the reliability of the data, cronbach's alpha (α) was used because the data was in the form of scale. It was calculated using statistical software such as the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The Cronbach Alpha value for the instrument is 0.807, and the total number of items questions are 25 questions. Based on the results of measurements using Cronbach Alpha, it can be concluded that the instrument used in this study was good.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Finding

After analyzing the data based on the answers obtained from the students, the researcher found several results. First, E-Learning (93.9%) was the most widely used platform by lecturers during online learning, followed by Whatsapp (87.9%) and Zoom Cloud Meeting (78.8%).



Graphic 1. Most Used Learning Management System

Students' perception toward the most used learning management system

1. E-learning

The students consider *e-learning* as the right platform to use during online learning because this platform supports written communication and interaction between students and lecturers, but this platform does not support virtual conferencing. This platform is also considered to support the use of multimedia as a support for learning activities. The students consider this platform to be accessible anytime and anywhere without any difficulties. This is also an enjoyable platform for students. The *e-learning* platform is considered a low-cost platform for students.

2. Whatsapp

Students also consider *Whatsapp* as the right platform to use during online learning because this platform supports communication and interaction between students and lecturers in writing, but this platform does not support virtual conferencing. This platform is also considered to support the use of multimedia as a support for learning activities. The students considered the *Whatsapp* platform to be

accessible anytime and anywhere without any difficulties. This is also an enjoyable platform for students. *Whatsapp* platform is also considered as a low-cost platform for students.

3. Zoom Cloud Meeting

Students consider the *Zoom* platform to be the right platform to use during online learning. This platform supports communication between lecturers and students, both textual and virtual conferences. This platform also supports the use of multimedia. According to the students, this platform is easily accessible anytime and anywhere. This platform is also considered enjoyable by students, but for students, this platform is a rather expensive platform.

Students' perception toward learning activity on the platform

1. E-learning

According to the students, learning activities on this platform are carried out clearly and sequentially. The learning activities carried out are also varied. This platform also supports the implementation of practical activities. In addition, this platform also makes it possible to collect assignments that have been carried out by students. The platform also supports the execution of exams on its platform.

2. Whatsapp

Based on the opinions of students, learning activities on this platform are carried out clearly and sequentially. The *Whatsapp* platform also supports the implementation of practical activities and supports the process of collecting tasks on the platform. However, according to the students, this platform does not support varied learning activities. This platform is also considered not to support the implementation of exams on its platform.

3. Zoom Cloud Meeting

The students considered the learning activities carried out on the *Zoom* platform to be carried out clearly and sequentially. Learning activities also vary, support the implementation of practical activities, and support the implementation of exams or tests. However, in the opinion of the students, this platform does not support the collection of the tasks that have been carried out by the students.

Discussion

Based on the findings obtained in this study, of the 5 platforms (*Whatsapp*, *Google Classroom*, *E-Learning*, *Zoom Cloud Meeting*, *Google Meet*) that were selected, there were 3 platforms that according to students were the most widely used by lecturers to carry out the online learning process: *E-Learning*, *Whatsapp*, and *Zoom Cloud Meeting*. In the previous research of Hilmy, Ertika, and Chairyaton (2020) and Ermawati (2020), *Whatsapp* is also the most popular platform for students to use during online learning.

Based on the results of research on a questionnaire about the three platforms that are most widely used during online learning, students have a neutral opinion on the three platforms. In other words, students cannot determine whether the three platforms are good or not to use during online learning. However, these three platforms have some drawbacks based on the opinions of the students. The students considered that the *E-Learning* and *Whatsapp* did not support the implementation of

virtual conferences to support online learning activities while the *Zoom Cloud Meeting* is considered as a quite expensive platform because it requires a lot of cellular data to access it. The students also considered these three platforms as effective platform. Anggraini (2021) also found some platform are considered effective to use by the students during online learning.

Furthermore, students also have a neutral perception of learning activities that exist on each platform used by lecturers during online learning. However, there were several statements that received negative responses from students. The students think that the E-Learning does not support the implementation of speaking practice through the platform. Furthermore, the students considered that learning activities on the *Whatsapp* platform did not vary, and this platform did not support the implementation of exams or tests through the platform. Furthermore, according to the students' opinion, the *Zoom Cloud Meeting* platform does not allow students to collect assignments that have been done by students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data that has been obtained, it can be concluded that the platform used by the lecturers is considered appropriate for carrying out online learning, although the students experience some difficulties in terms of accessing these platforms. The students also thought that certain platforms cost more because they needed a lot of cellular data to access them. In addition, students also think that not all of these platforms can be used to collect the tasks that have been done. Therefore, lecturers are expected to choose a platform that allows it to be accessed easily wherever the students are.

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