

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is about introduction which consists of background of the study, research question, definition of the key terms, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the thesis.

A. Background of the Study

English is international language and uses as second language in some countries. Nowadays, English is also used in terms of technology and sciences for instance it uses as a direction technology that usually people operated daily, such laptop, smartphone, and electronic tool others. Furthermore, almost all of the newest publications published are mostly written in English, such as magazine, manual book, article, journal, internet site page, and many others, Hadrus (2017: 17). People who learn international language will be easier in understanding English context.

According to Fauziati (2008: 181), learning English becomes an important role as a national development in educational field, especially in Indonesia. English is used as a subject in school start from junior high school, senior high school, and universities. Realizing the importance of English, schools will find out an effort to improve the student's English ability.

SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung is one of vocational high schools which provide a program to make students improve their ability in English, namely English club. It facilitates by the school as an effort to improve and encourage

the student's interest in English. In addition, many companies demand new employees should be able in English. Their English skill will be a most consideration as a comparison for company to recruit new employees. For that reason, the teacher's role is really needed in teaching and learning process to facilitate students to get English knowledge well, Aflah and Eka (2018: 77).

In fact, the world is facing a serious problem since the end of 2019. The problem is Coronavirus Disease Pandemic that caused almost all sectors forced to be closed, included education sector. It is known as Covid-19 pandemic which came from Wuhan, China. The transmission of this virus is very fast and most countries in the world are also exposed to this virus. Indonesia is one of the countries that has been exposed to the virus since early of March 2020. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Culture published several circular letters which contain about online learning from home by using e-learning system and internet help, Arifa (2020: 13).

Online learning is the best solution to continue learning in Covid-19 pandemic. Online learning is learning that decreases distance and time with the help of internet-based digital platforms so that the learning process carries out without any physical interaction, Putra & Irwansyah (in Lestari and Gunawan, 2020: 59). Online learning is a way to conduct teaching and learning process which is not face to face like in the classroom generally.

Schools are closed but learning activity should be continued. As the effort to obey the government policy about online learning in Covid-19 pandemic, SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung absolutely applies online learning

since mid of March in 2020. Online learning in this school has been conducted for almost sixteen months and it will be continued until this pandemic stops. The duration of each subject is same as the teaching and learning process in the classroom is about 90 minutes. Moreover, based on the writer's observation during the teaching practice program in this school, all subject in this school is conducted through online only once a week included English subject. This study relates to the current situation of Covid-19 pandemic. The teacher uses online platform to teach the students. In this case, the English teacher uses WhatsApp application in online English teaching and learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic.

WhatsApp application is not only used for communication tool but it also uses as learning media. Furthermore, now learning process conducts through online where the teacher and the students do not interact directly in learning process. Teacher and students can conduct teaching and learning process through Whatsapp group. Teacher can share learning materials and assignments for students in the form of text, document, photo, audio or even video. In this case, the English teacher prefers to deliver the material in written form by texting the explanation on WhatsApp group.

From that statement above, the writer would like to conduct a research under title "ONLINE ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS THROUGH WHATSAPP APPLICATION AT SMK AL FURQON BANTARKAWUNG IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021 DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC". This study focuses on online English teaching and

learning process during Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, especially at secondary school level.

B. Research Question

The research question is formulated as follow: “How is the online English teaching and learning process through WhatsApp application at SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung in the academic year 2020/2021 during Covid-19 pandemic carried out?”

C. Definition of Key Terms

To understand the topic easily for the reader, the writer classified the essential terms of the research as follow:

1. English Teaching and Learning Process

Learning takes both meaning toward each other, what is teach, what is learn, the teacher and student. Therefore, to make teaching and learning meaningfully, teacher has their own way in conducting English lesson (Destianingsih and Satria, 2020: 148).

Learning English is important because English is already become an international language. As stated by Fauziati (2008: 181) offers that learning English is always become an important role as a national development in educational field, especially in Indonesia.

2. Online Learning

Online learning is learning that shorten distance and time with the help of internet-based and digital platforms help in supporting learning

process is carried out without any physical interaction (Putra & Irwansyah in Lestari and Gunawan, 2020: 59).

3. WhatsApp

WhatsApp is an online chat application where user can send and receive messages through internet connection. This application is not only for personal chat between the sender and recipient of the message, but there is a group feature contains several Whatsapp users. Nowadays, Whatsapp has been used as online learning media. Teachers and students can conduct teaching and learning process through Whatsapp group. Teachers can share learning materials and assignments for students in the form of text, document, photo, audio or even video.

4. SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung

SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung is the first vocational high school in Bantarkawung district which established by Al Furqon Institution. It is located in Bantarkawung, Brebes – Central Jawa, 52274. SMK Al Furqon has a lot of devotees time by time. Students who study in this school aim to improve their ability according the program they want, whether it is online business and marketing, computer network and engineering, or motorcycle business engineering.

5. Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 stands for corona virus disease that found in 2019. Covid-19 is included in the types of infectious diseases that infect the lungs of the sufferers caused by a new type of novel coronavirus. The virus is the first

identified in December 2019 in Wuhan City, China. It virus has been reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic since March 11, 2020. Currently the whole world, included Indonesia is being hit by an outbreak that known as Covid-19 in mid of March 2020.

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the research, this study aims “To describe how the online English teaching and learning process through WhatsApp application at SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung in the academic year 2020/2021 during Covid-19 pandemic is carried out”.

E. Significances of the Study

This significance of the study consists of theoretically, practically and pedagogically.

1. Theoretically

This study is able to be an appropriate reference for other researcher who wants to conduct a research about online learning process through WhatsApp application during Covid-19 pandemic especially in online English teaching and learning.

2. Practically

This study informs the advantages for the writer and the readers.

a. The Writer

Through this study, the writer can get more knowledge in understanding online English teaching and learning process through

WhatsApp application during Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the study is able to give advantages of academic writing skill to the writer.

b. The Readers

The study is expected can give the information about online English teaching and learning process through WhatsApp application during Covid-19 pandemic to the readers. The writer expects the readers can add their knowledge about online learning especially in English teaching and learning through WhatsApp application during Covid-19.

3. Pedagogically

This research is expected useful in educational field especially in online English teaching and learning through WhatsApp application. Furthermore, the teacher can use this research to improve their teaching and learning innovation through e-learning and online learning system during Covid-19 pandemic.

F. Organization of the Thesis

The thesis entitled “Online English Teaching and Learning Process through WhatsApp application at SMK Al Furqon Bantarkawung in the Academic Year 2020/2021 during Covid-19 Pandemic” is organized into five chapters. Those are: Chapter I consists of background of the study, research question, definition of the key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study and organizations of the thesis. Chapter II consists of theoretical of the study, previous studies, and theoretical framework. Chapter III consists of research design, the source of data, technique of data collection, and technique

of data analysis. Chapter IV is findings and interpretation. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.