



Students' Perception of E-Learning in English Language Education, Universitas Internasional Batam

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Abstract

English has been taught in face-to-face class. However, since Covid-19 exploded into a global pandemic and Indonesia confirmed the first case on 2 March 2, 2020, the local government implement a policy to dismiss schools for avoiding a wider spread of the virus in schools. Covid-19 shifted the way students learn from the traditional face-to-face class to long-distance classes or what is called online class. Still, the way online class is something very new for both students and teachers. As a result, the objective of this study is to find the students' perception of e-learning in English Language Education in Universitas Internasional Batam, this study is conducted. The quantitative method was used by conducting a survey toward 79 students in English Language Education Department. The instrument of data collection were close-ended questions and interview. By concerning the advantage, confidence, effectiveness, and efficiency of utilizing e-learning, the result shows that the average score of the categories is 2.915 which is categorized as positive perception of e-learning.

Keywords: E-learning, student perception, face-to-face learning

Introduction

English as the most widely used language (lingua franca) is a common language used in the present globalized world and it influences a huge part of society. Nowadays, English holds a special and significant position. It may not be the language with the most elevated number of native speakers; however, it is a language that holds a prevailing position and has a broad impact. English is currently aced by

more than 750 million non-native speakers. No other existing language can show such a high volume of individuals learning it as an unknown dialect. (Graddol, p. 10) on Zikmundová (2016) therefore, English becomes one of the foreign languages used as a compulsory subject in schools in Indonesia. English has usually been taught in face-to-face class. (Mukminin et al, 2018).

Since Covid-19 exploded into a global pandemic and Indonesia confirmed the first case on 2 March 2, 2020, the local government adopted a policy to dismiss schools to avoid a wider spread of the virus in schools and the policy was supported by the Minister of Education and Culture Mr. Nadiem Makarim on March 15, 2020. Mr. Nadiem states that schools will implement teaching and learning activities through an online system or also called e-learning. The Ministry of Education and Culture has also developed portal-based e-learning applications as well as Android, so students can access them through learning.kemdikbud.go.id. The Ministry of Education and Culture also recommends seven e-learning platforms namely Kelas Pintar, Ruangguru, Sekolahmu, Zenius, Quipper, Google Indonesia, and Microsoft. Each platform will provide facilities that are publicly accessible and free.

The use of technology is not a new thing in the educational field. Harasim (2017) states that technology has affected every aspect of our lives starting from social, cultural, and even education. Now people depend on computer networks or cellular devices to find information in search engines and also social media. In redundant of so-called knowledge age where economic and social values rest on knowledge, technology greatly influences the teaching profession and the teaching process. Humans at this time are very familiar with the internet and even there is an indication that the role of teachers is replaced with technology; however, there is also a good opportunity in learning to improve limited learning methods and explore new learning by involving technology in the learning process. Tayşı (2018) added technology is rapidly developing and affecting every aspect of human life and aspects that are affected by technology include the field of education. Many teaching methods have changed from the traditional mode of face-to-face to online or called e-learning.

Mulyani (2020) found that the positive perceptual experience of students about learning English through E-Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the participants proclaimed that learning English at home is acceptable. They reasoned that this technique is seemingly quite effective because this is the only way to continue study with limited access to schools when the Covid-19 pandemic still ongoing in Indonesia, so they can in any case learn regardless of their position at school. Besides, English learning through E-learning is also quite difficult because the learning process is not as good as face-to-face class. There is a lack of questions and answers between students and teachers. Students are additionally less persuaded and lost the willingness to ask when they get into trouble on doing tasks. They imagine that learning in a genuine class is more enjoyable because they can collaborate straightforwardly with peers and teachers.

Research by Loh (2016) about the perspective of Australian University

students toward e-learning finds that it is clear from the examination of the student, it was found that the advantage of e-learning is adaptability and better learning results. Two main issues were seen as foremost in students' negative view of e-learning. There are self-inspirational, lack of human cooperation, and encouraging collaboration.

Erarslan & Topkaya (2017) researched student perception toward e-learning. They found that students do not put any effort into the E-learning course such as finish the exercises. The finding of investigations shows that when there is a lack of direction of the teacher which causes disrespect students to the learning. In particular, students think that they do not get profit from the e-learning as expected. As the finding of the Erarslan & Topkaya (2017) investigation that the majority of the student do the online course after they do other work which demonstrates that e-learning is not a need for them which can be described as a factor for their aloofness towards e-learning.

From the research above, the researchers are interested to continue the study about English language students' perception of e-learning. Based on the statement and the research above there are many advantages taken from technology in learning especially on English language learning. Learning and teaching through e-learning is not a new method in the educational field but in developing countries, there are lacks of technology and the knowledge of teacher about technology so this method is not that famous in Indonesia as a developing country.

Erarslan & Topkaya (2017) said student's perception about e-learning is not effective since student makes it easy and neglect assignment is given through online. These two reasons can be based why learning and teaching through online are no more interesting than traditional teaching through face-to-face class. Meanwhile, Mulyani (2020) found that students perceived that learning English through e-learning is acceptable. They reasoned that e-learning helps them to learn English from home when they are forbidden to come to school. Therefore, it can be assumed that e-learning has both positive and negative perception, this study decides to find student perception of e-learning in English Language Education student during this pandemic COVID-19.

The objective of this research is to find out students' perceptions toward the use of e-learning in English Language Education, Universitas Internasional Batam.

Method

According to Matthews & Ross (2010), research is the process to extend knowledge and find the answer to some questions from the researcher. There are two types of research namely qualitative and quantitative research. Creswell (2014) states that Qualitative research and quantitative research is the method of research. Qualitative research is narrated by using the word using the interview as an instrument; meanwhile, quantitative research is narrated by using close-ended questions with the instrument is usually using a questionnaire.

This study was conducting survey research which is a research that provides a

numerical descriptive of the perception, trends, or attitude of the participant, the participant can studying by a sample of the population. It includes longitudinal and cross-section research that usually using a questionnaire or structured interview to collecting the data (Creswell, 2014). In addition, Leavy (2016) states that survey research is usually using quantitative design, survey research is included polling, census, poling opinion of market research. There is a special purpose survey on education, science, and health care research. A survey asks some standardized questions that typically ask individuals' opinions, beliefs, or attitudes to the participant and analyze through statistically. the data that collecting in survey research is called subjective data.

The researcher decides to use a questionnaire by Google form as a main and interview by phone to support data collection. This study uses a sample of the population as participants. The sample is a part of the population that has been determined. The same case as blood in a syringe is a sample of all blood from the patient's circulation. Similarly, 100 schizophrenic patients in one case constituted a sample of the schizophrenic population. The sample must be representative, in which every member of the population has an equal and exclusive opportunity to be selected. On this study researcher choose a random sampling in which every individual in the population has the same possibility to be included. Random sampling is a basic sampling and disallows any method of selection, it is based on volunteering or the choice of groups which know can be cooperative. Banerjee (2010)

The questionnaire was inspired by Cakrawati (2017) and Su'adah (2015) cited in Siahaan (2020) research. The researcher decided to make a little modification to make the question fit with the participant's condition. Participant was asked to choose the scale-likert to indicate their agree or disagree, Likert scale starts from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

The questionnaire will be contained by four aspects, namely:

1. Student perception about e-learning.
2. Student perception about being active and confidence in online class compared to face-to-face class.
3. Students' perception of effectiveness of e-learning.
4. Student perception about the benefit of using e-learning.

The Cronbach Alpha test was utilized to check the 31 items. The questionnaire is reliable to use because the coefficient result of the questionnaire is 0.874. The questionnaire is attached

The interview question was inspired by Cakrawati (2017) and Su'adah (2015) cited in Siahaan (2020) research.

1. What are the advantages of Learning by E-learning?
2. Which class that makes them more active and confident by E-learning?
3. Which one is more interesting between e-learning vs face-to-face class?
4. Which one Efficiency of face-to-face learning vs E-learning?

Here are the following formula for data analysis technique on this research;

Example:

Score 1 = strongly disagree

Score 2 = disagree

Score 4: agree

Score 5: strongly agree

Then the total score of each question is calculated and find the average (M)

Results and Discussion

The finding of the questionnaire will divide into two types, Strongly agree and strongly disagree will present as disagree perception. Agree and strongly agree will be present as an agreed perception. The result of the responses will be explained with the average of the mean which consists of two classifications that is the positive perception and negative perception.

Based on finding in study. On first category, it was founded a positive perception of e-learning. First e-learning contribute a positive experience to students, improve critical thinking and the ability to think logically. On the interview student state that e-learning gave a better time efficiency, e-learning is easy to access and help the student to aware with technology.

On the second category, The indicator of student perception about which class that makes them feel active and confident is positive. Half of the participant believes that e-learning increases their involvement with the class, and some of them disagree if e-learning increases their involvement on the classroom. Based on interviews found that some students think that students can be active or not is based on the classroom

On the third category, Students believe that e-learning is interesting, they can observe a feature on the application, and easy to submit an assignment. For reading and writing by e-learning, Student can find a lot of resources, do writing on Microsoft word also can Improve student ability on typing. Some students believe if they can get automatic correct and googles translate can help student.

On the fourth category, Most participants believe if e-learning makes them more confident, communicate effectively, and feel open on sharing their though on e-learning, student can practice their English skill.

Conclusion

This study is aimed to uncover students' perception of e-learning in English Language Education in Universitas Internasional Batam. By concerning the advantage, confidence, effectiveness, and efficiency of utilizing e-learning, the result shows that the average score of the categories is 2.915 which is categorized as positive perception of e-learning. The average score of the first criteria is 2.91. The average score of the second criteria is 2.95. The average score of the third criteria is 2.93. Moreover, the average score of last criteria is 2.87.

Moreover, the interviews conducted in this study verify the main data which

states the positive perception towards e-learning. According to the result of the interviews, e-learning supports the students to study English at home especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. E-learning is helpful for student to gain a lesson and continue their study. This study found two strong perceptions. Several participants believe that e-learning is very effective in helping their learning. Students believe that technology is great for helping them continue learning from home. Students feel more comfortable using e-learning than face-to-face class. They feel e-learning does not make them nervous when giving comments or present something, it can make them feel more clearly and openly to share their thought.

With the use of technology on learning, student believes it gives the many advantages for their future career such as good writing because they always type their assignment on the device. They are also aware with technology such as learning platform and many tools that they are used for supporting their learning process. On the other side, student also thinks that e-learning is not efficient. There are some issues when student learning by e-learning such as internet connection and unclear voice. Commenting and discussion also problem when two or more people want to say something at the same time.

Some students also think that this e-learning is not impactful, when they are present something, student do not know how about the audience reaction. From all the results and discussion, the future lesson can combine for both e-learning and face-to-face class. For writing and reading lesson can be done by e-learning meanwhile for the practice lesson such as listening and speaking or presentation and student discussion it should be done by real face-to-face class.

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