STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe students' perceptions of learning English through Microsoft Teams in class XI students at one of senior high school. This research uses a qualitative research design with an open questionnaire instrument given to 50 students and interviews with 15 student. The results of this research indicate that the students have a neutral perception of learning English through Microsoft Teams. This is evidenced by the fact that most students think that learning English through Microsoft Teams is effective and efficient, but they face several obstacles while using Microsoft Teams which causes them do not understand the material and choose face-to-face learning. From the results of this research, it is suggested that students pay more attention to the importance of learning English and motivate themselves to study harder.

Keywords: Student perception, learning English, Microsoft Teams.

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the general subjects found in public and private schools ranging from elementary school to high school, and has an important role in communicating, because at this time English is an international language used to communicate throughout the world.

According to Pangestu (2020), the education sector is a particularly risky sector when it is carried out in the middle of this corona virus pandemic (Covid-19), because of teaching and learning that involves a large number of people in a room and with a face to face (meeting) system between teacher and students at school or college. This is because

one of the reasons of the spread of the virus outbreak is the activity of crowding in one room and without social distancing. Since it has a big risk and can endanger the safety of teachers and students, teaching learning activities at schools or colleges are temporarily suspended and change them into online learning system.

Nowdays, there are many application that can be uses for online learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic, for examples WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom Meeting, etc. Recently one of the most effective online learning tools is Microsoft Teams, a cloud-based interactive app portal that puts together interactions, workshops, files and applications through a single Learning Management Sytem (LSM)(Microsoft,2018). The application of Microsoft Teams can be easily downloaded via mobile and web applications, and individuals wherever exploit their functionality.

Through Microsoft Teams, teachers can post assignments to students, small classes or to a whole class using the assignment features of teams (Allison & Hudson, 2020). Teachers can make assignment features include organizing a meeting, exchanging invitation links with students to join a meeting, holding a web conference, connecting with a web conference, sharing files or documents, communicating in chat room, changing the role of participants in joining or presenting and reporting the web meeting. Materials, student experiences, as well as the learning environment are essential variables that allow students to accomplish their learning target in an optimal way (Fortune et al., 2011).

Based on the researcher's experienced while practice teaching internship in SMA 2 Kudus, SMA 2 Kudus used Microsoft Teams due the implementatiton of the Goverment of Indonesia Policy concerning school regulations that should implement distance learning. Based on the informal interview with students at SMA 2 Kudus, some of them claimed that learning English through Microsoft Teams is effective, but some of them were not. In this research, the researcher wants to describe students' perceptions on learning English through Microsoft Teams.

The researchers found some relevant previous research as references to conduct this research. The first previous research was conducted by (Rojabi, 2020) entitled "Exploring EfL Students' Perception of Online Learning via Microsoft Teams: University Level in Indonesia". The result of this research showed that online learning via Microsoft Teams is categorized as something new for the students but this interaction and learning

environment motivated students in participacing online learning, as a result, they can easier to comprehend the learning material.

The second previous research entitled "Students' Perceptions of E-learning platforms (Moodle, Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms) in The University of Jordan Education and its Realtion to self-study and Academic Achievement During Covid-19 pandemic" was conducted by (Jehad et al., 2020). The result of this research showed that the strategic design of the university's e-learning program using Moodle, Microsoft teams and Zoom platforms was more important than individual context variables in assessing student perception. Students consider e-learning connectivity on campus very efficient.

The third previous research entitled "Students' Perceptions of Using Microsoft Teams Application Online Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic" conducted by (Wea & Dua Kuki, 2021). The result of this research showed that FKIP UNIPA students had a good perception of using Microsoft Teams. Students hope that this application will continue to be used during online learning with some improvements so that learning using this application can take place more effectively and efficiently. The difference between this research and previous research is that this research focuses on learning English through Microsoft Teams and conducted in high school level.

METHOD

The design of this research used qualitative design. The subjects of this research consist of with 50 eleventh grade students at SMA 2 Kudus. The students have experienced learning English using Microsoft Teams. The researchers used questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire in this instrument used open ended questionnaire with 2 indicators as follow : (1) students' perception toward effectiveness of Microsoft Teams (2) Students' perception toward usefulness of Microsoft Teams. The researcher used interview as another instrument to get more information about students' perceptions on learning English through Microsoft Teams. A semi-structured interview with open-ended question employed in this research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researchers conducted the research through questionnaire with 7 questions to 50 students and interview with 5 questions to 15 students of eleventh grade students at

SMA 2 Kudus to gain deep information about students' perceptions on learning English through Microsoft Teams. The researcher discusses the students' perceptions on learning English through Microsoft Teams in two parts of the indicators. There are students' perception toward effectiveness of Microsoft Teams and students' perception toward usefullnes of Microsoft Teams.

Students' Perception Toward Effectiveness Of Microsoft Teams

From 50 students, there were various responses about their opinion of learning English through Microsoft Teams. Most of the students though that learning English through Microsoft Teams is effective, efficient, and easy to use.

1. Using Microsoft Teams in learning English is that it is quite understandable because there is a meet to explain.
2. It is quite effective because help students in online learning.
3. Because there are many features which makes learning easier.
4. Very useful and effective. Because there are many features that make it easier for students in learning such as meetings, and even being able to take tests using Microsoft forms.

Although, most students said that learning English through Microsoft Teams are effective and easy to use, there are some students who answered that Microsoft Teams is less of effective because students understand the material more easily when offline learning in the classroom, and also it is constrained by internet access.

1. Difficult to understand, because English lessons are fun and clear when delivered directly. And of course, if we use Microsoft Teams, we often have problems because of bad signal.
2. Difficult to understand because it is not clear depending on the signal so that if the signal is bad, learning is hindered.
3. Using Microsoft Teams for learning is less effective, because usually we can understand better when explained directly.

According to the interview results, most of students thought that Microsoft Teams is an effective and efficient learning application compared to other applications. Microsoft Teams can help students to do online learning, because Microsoft Teams has more complete features. Microsoft Teams offers better functionality like most social channels including chat rooms, collaborative conversation, sharing of content, and teleconferencing

(Buchal & Songsore, 2019). This student's opinion offer proof that the use of Microsoft Teams in learning English is effective and efficient.

> *Student 11 : Menurut saya efektif Miss, karena fiturnya itu lebih lengkap dibanding yang lain, kan ada fitur translate terus bisa kaya zoom meeting, jadi lumayan membantu buat memahami materi*
>
> *I think it is efective Miss, because the features more complete than the others, there is a translate feature and also can meeting like zoom, so it's quite helpful for understanding the material.*

Moreover, from the result of questionnaire, most of students also give positive response. In the result of questionnaire students also thought that Microsoft Teams has complete feature.

> *Student 40   : Good, because in Microsoft Teams there is a feature that can translate into a language that we understand. And it makes it easier for students to understand what the teacher is teaching, even if the teacher uses a language we don't understand, it will be easier for us to understand because there is a translation feature.*

Although many students gave positive responses about the effectiveness of Microsoft Teams, students' motivation to learn English through Microsoft Teams is still lacking, because students prefer to learn English offline face-to-face with teachers in the classroom.

> *Student 25 : No, it's more better offline, more enthusiastic*

From some of the students' opinions, Microsoft Teams is an effective and efficient application, but it does not motivate students to learn English.

This research is related to the previous research conducted by Wea and Dua Kuki (2021) entitled *Students' Perception of Using Microsoft Teams Application Online Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic*. The result of previous research showed that online learning use Microsoft Teams is effective. The students hope that this application will continue to be used during online learning.

Students' Perception Toward Usefullness Of Microsoft Teams

Almost all students think that Microsoft Teams does not help to make it easier to understand English material, because students understand the material better if explained directly face to face in the classroom.

1. It is easier to meet directly with the teacher to explain the material.
2. Because it's better if the teacher teach it directly.
3. Because it is easier to understand direct face-to-face explanations than through media such as handphone, laptop and others.
4. It's easier to understand the material face-to-face, not through online media like Microsoft Teams or other applications.

On the other answer, the students though that Microsoft Teams can help students to learn English easier to understand beacuse there is a translate feature in Microsoft Teams.

Based on the results of the questionnaire, 30 out of 50 students thought that Microsoft Teams did not help students understand the material, even though Microsoft Teams was an effective and efficient application. Students think that learning English is easier to understand when it is explained directly by the teacher in the classroom. Student answered :

> *No, I think it's easier to understand the material face-to-face, not through online learning applications like Microsoft Teams or other applications.*

Meanwhile, in the interview results, most students think that Microsoft Teams can make it easier for students to understand the material compared to other online learning applications, but students still have some problems, especially on internet access problems. Student argued :

> *Kalau buat saya itu membantu lebih mudah memahami materi Bahasa Inggris Miss,* soalnya *kadang ada meeting sama gurunya, tapi ya harus punya sinyal yang bagus.*
>
> *For me, it helps make it easier to understand the English material, Miss, because sometimes there are meetings with the teacher, but we must have a good signal.*

Based on the statement above, the use of Microsoft Teams in learning English is still less beneficial for students, because students still have many obstacles when using Microsoft Teams.

The research is not relevant with the previous research conducted by Rojabi (2020) entitled *Exploring EfL Students' Perception of Online Learning via Microsoft Teams: University Level in Indonesia*. In the result of the research conducted by Rojabi showed that students can easier to comprehend the learning material.

CONCLUSIONS

The students' perception on learning English through Microsoft Teams in general was neutral. Most of students consider that Microsoft Teams is effective and efficient application if compared with another applications, but they face some obtacles during learning English through Microsoft Teams, such as inadequate signal. The problem face by students on learning English through Microsoft Teams have an impact on their motivation and improvement of English skills. Therefore, the students responded neutrally to the use of Microsoft Teams in learning English, and they prefer offline or face-to-face learning.

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