The Students’ Opinion on Online Learning

Sirin Suhainah
Universitas PGRI Wiranegara Pasuruan
sirinsuhaimah23@gmail.com
Indonesia

Lestari Setyowati
Universitas Negeri Malang
lestari.setyowati@yahoo.co.id
Indonesia

ABSTRACT
The coronavirus outbreak has impacted all aspects of human life, including the greatest impact is on education. Therefore, the education system that is being carried out conventionally must be converted into online learning to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This article aims to describe (1) the students’ opinions regarding English subjects in online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) the students’ difficulties during online learning in English subjects, (3) the students’ opinions about understanding the material in English subjects during online learning. This research used a descriptive qualitative design, by using interviews to get the data. The subjects of this study were 2 female and 1 male high achiever students from the first language class in Senior High School 2 situated in the area of a small town Pasuruan, East Java, Indonesia. The research instruments used were mainly personal chat interviews with the subjects of the study. The data collection was conducted in December 2020. The results showed that (1) online learning is less effective, significant, and boring; (2) difficulties that they face are unstable network difficulty in the delivery of materials provided by the teacher, and teacher’s teaching method; (3) most of them also had difficulty in understanding the materials provided by the teacher.

Keywords: COVID-19, Online learning, English Subject, Students’ Opinion

Corresponding Author:
Sirin Suhainah
Universitas PGRI Wiranegara Pasuruan
Sirinsuhaimah23@gmail.com
Indonesia

1. Introduction

2020 has become a tough year for anyone all over the world. According to the World Health Organization or WHO (2020a) at the beginning of the year, precisely on 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and issued a group of Temporary Recommendations. Then, in accordance with the World Health Organization or WHO (2020b) on 11 March WHO announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. Based on Wikipedia (2020), the coronavirus began to spread to Indonesia on the 2nd March, 2020, after a mother and her daughter as a dance instructor tested positive for the virus so that on April 9, the pandemic has spread to 34 provinces in the country. Which finally the government began to impose lockdowns in various regions in Indonesia. The government disabled transportation activities, offices, and closed all educational institutions in Indonesia. So that this greatly impacts several aspects of Indonesia, especially the education system.

As a result of the closure of educational institutions, the education system must be changed and adjusted to the situation. So the best way to overcome this is through online learning, where teaching is done remotely and on a digital platform. So that this further shifts the implementation of conventional learning in Indonesia which can no longer be done during a pandemic. Then students must begin to adapt to changes in the offline system to online where this learning system makes us depend on technology.

Online learning does have an advantage where learning can be accessed anywhere and anytime. But the Sirin Suhaimah. The Students’ Opinion on Online Learning. 2021: Vol. 4 (2):
implementation of this learning is not easy, all parties are required to quickly adapt. Of course, many aspects need to be considered in the implementation of this online learning, where the freedom to provide explanations or instructions is also limited. Teachers are required to be able to provide learning online, where they are required to be able to use at least one particular application for the chase process, even though not all teachers understand technology due to delays in understanding technological developments. Another thing to note is that we need a network package and a strong internet connection so that we can always be connected to the learning process. Besides that, in online learning, not all students can understand what the teacher means, because of the limitations in the delivery of existing instructions. This is different from the offline learning system, although we cannot be as free as online because we have to meet face to face and be implemented somewhere, in offline learning where teachers and students meet directly, it means that they can get more clear explanations of their learning. There are no limitations in giving instructions and explanations in this offline system so that misunderstandings are very easy to avoid.

English is used throughout the world, both spoken and written. Lots of sources and media that use it, such as in magazines, internets, newspapers. In addition, there are also many books that use English, such as books on science, medicine, and so on. Hereby we know that English often becomes a necessity in several kinds of fields, and professions. Not only that, but English is also an international language that is used to connect people from various parts of the world. The influence of globalization is what makes the rapid growth of the use of English, this is because everyone knows and uses English. In order to understand and fulfill their own needs, people are forced to learn it better. Whereas, English is not the official language in most countries. However, English is currently the language that is most often taught in schools around the world.

Learning English is important. The Indonesian government has considered how important English is. This is seen in various schools, especially at the secondary level where English is a compulsory subject. Not only that, but English is also included in one of the four subjects tested in the National Examination. Other than that it is quoted from the Law of the Republic of Indonesia concerning the National Education System by Hj. Zurinal Z. and Wahdi Sayuti (2006) stated that the Indonesian Government has regulated the teaching of English in the law Republic of Indonesia regarding the National Education System, article 37 paragraph 1 which explains that "Foreign languages, especially English, are international languages which are very important in their use in global relations".

In order to be able to describe the students’ opinion about English subject that is learned online during pandemic Covid-19, the study should answer the research question:
1. What are the students' opinions regarding English subjects in online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What are the students' difficulties during online learning in English subjects?
3. What are the students' opinions about understanding the material in English subjects during online learning?

2. Literature Review

Online learning is the latest and most prevalent form of education nowadays, where students and teachers can still do learning at a distance. According to Joshua Stern, Ph.D., online learning is an education that occurs via the internet. Among other terms, It is often called as 'e-learning'. However, online learning is only one of the types of "distance learning" (n.d.). It shows that learning does not always have to be done in the classroom, but distance learning can be done with this online learning. Melissa A. Miller (2020) stated that virtual learning platform is a place where the informations and instructions are shared over the internet and without a place of physical classroom meeting. This online learning system that does not need to be face to face is what makes it popular nowadays. Where the implementation is very flexible and suitable for the current situation. Where, according to Domenico Cucinotta and Maurizio Vanelli that "World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, has declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic" (Cucinotta & Vanelli, 2020). Since then, education must change due to the impact of pandemic COVID-20. Based on www.kemendikbud.go.id (2020), to prevent the spread of Covid19 through the Letter of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 36962 / MPK. A / HK / 2020 the government has advised the public regarding online learning and working from home. The learning system has changed from face-to-face to online (Srinivasan & Arora, 2020). Where the instruction and content on online learning are delivered over the internet (Watson & Kalmon, 2005). So, carrying out online learning is depending on the internet.

2.1 Students’ Opinion of Online Learning during Pandemic

Online learning is an alternative of learning that can be done in the current pandemic situation, schools have implemented online learning as their permanent learning for the time being. Students are directly involved in online learning, where learning is made available to them. They feel how online learning has been going on during this pandemic. Of course, their opinions are very diverse in
responding to online learning. Certainly, there are pros and cons in its application. Based on the result of the previous research that was presented by Wijayanganentias et al. (2020), that students' perceptions of online learning in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, they consider online learning is effective, even though there are several shortcomings such as network, facilities, task intensity, and the deepening of the material. Meanwhile, according to research conducted by Sujarwo et al. (2020), online learning is the best option for the teaching and learning process during the pandemic COVID-19 because online learning can be done easily anywhere and anytime, but online learning has also negatives impact in terms of the continuity in using the cell phone and the inadequate network to access it.

2.2 The Difficulties of Online Learning in English Subject

Certainly, online learning will not always run smoothly, of course, there will be difficulties in this implementation. According to (Islam et al., 2015) in an academic environment academics face many challenges regarding the use and success of online learning. Based on previous research, (Nartinringrum & Nugroho, 2020) There were some problems that EFL students got in online learning. The first problem in online learning is an unstable network that causes a lack of direct interaction. This communication causes learning material to be more difficult to understand. Then, students also revealed that in online learning, communication and social interaction between teachers and students was still lacking. It also causes difficulty understanding the material. This situation also contributes to the weakening of students' commitment to learning. Students become easily distracted.

2.3 Students’ Opinion About Learning Material Understanding in English Subject During Online Learning

One of the most important aspects of the learning process is where students can understand and accept the material provided by the teacher. Online learning during a pandemic also greatly affects the process, where there are face-to-face limitations in online learning which causes limited interaction between students and teachers. So, the results of online learning are still in doubt, because the system only relies on the internet. In this case, there are pros and cons also given by students as learners of online learning. It occurs in a wide variety of subjects, including in the English subject. According to research by Wijayanganentias et al. (2020), easy access in online learning does not guarantee the delivery of the material properly, most students feel that the material in online learning is not delivered well. It means that they have not gotten an understanding of the materials in online learning. Meanwhile, based on previous research by Agung et al. (2020) that most students easily understand the material in online learning, besides that the teacher also provides explanations, material, discussions, questions and answers, assignments that are relevant to the topic, and also responses to student assignments are also given very well.

3. Method

A research method can be described as "a scientific way to obtain valid data to be able to be found, developed, and proven, a certain knowledge so that in turn it can be used to understand, solve, anticipate problems in education" (Sugiyono, 2009:6). This study aims to determine the students’ opinion from language class about English subjects that conducted online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This research used a descriptive qualitative design, by using interviews to get the data. Data were collected to answer the research questions of this study. The participants of this study were three students from the first language class from Senior High School 2 in Pasuruan. They were 1 male and 2 female students that have high achievement. The researcher collected the data by interviewing the respondents through WhatsApp. The respondents of this research have been given some questions that should be answered according to their experiences in learning English subjects online. There were three questions in the interview. The time is needed to complete the questionnaire is about 3 minutes but the researcher does not give limited time to answer every question. The data was collected on the 28th of Monday, December 2020 start from 08.00 AM until 09.00 PM.

4. Finding

For the subject of this research, the researcher chose three respondents to answer the questionnaire. All of the respondents were from the first level of Senior High School or the tenth grade. Researchers select specific respondents only in the language class. All of the respondents were from Senior High School 2 in Pasuruan. They were 2 female and 1 male high achiever students from that class.

4.1 Students’ Opinion Regarding English Subjects in Online Learning During The COVID-19 Pandemic

In answering the research question about students’ opinions regarding English Subject in Online Learning, the researcher collected the data through interview via WhatsApp. From the interview guideline, there are 3 questions, but the related questions for research question 1 are number 1.

Question: What do you think about the English subjects that were conducted online during the Covid-19
For answering the research question about the understanding material that students got in English subject during online learning, the respondents have to be able to answer the third question of the interview. N/SHS2/X said that "In my opinion, English learning in schools is less significant, because it is not explained directly by the teacher, especially grammar, it causes students to have difficulty understanding the material".

P/SHS2/X said that "For me, learning English online has two different sides, if English is taught by the right teacher, the learning process can still be understood by students, because English can be taught (explained) through voice recordings, so even though explanation and stabilization of the subject of English can still be handled well in comparison another learning that requires a lot of practice while the other side is that it is less effective if it is taught by teachers who are not experts in the field of technology so that the teachers only provide any material without any exploration".

Based on the data as the result of the interview showed that all of the respondents have negative opinion about the English subject which the learning is carried out online. There were various opinions about the English subject that learned online. The opinion that they gave is the learning is not interesting. They felt bored because the teacher only gave the material by explaining. Then, they also stated that learning English online is less significant. They do not get the material better because it is not explained directly. While the other respondent thought that the learning is less effective because the teacher only gave the material without any further. So, the conclusion is all of the respondents did not have good perceptions about English subject that is conducted online. They also do not like learning English that is carried out online.

4.2 Students' Difficulties During Online Learning in English Subjects

To answer this research question, of course, the researchers also used interviews via WhatsApp. This second question is following research question number two. Question: What difficulties did you have with online English subject?

A/SHS2/X said that "The difficulty I face in English online is I feel insufficient in providing material delivered by our teacher".

N/SHS2/X said that " which I have explained in number 1, in a pandemic era like this we are required to learn using the online method, but not all teachers can explain online, so students are also required to study independently, without the help of mothers and fathers because teachers in the elderly are not too familiar with online methods like today, so the teacher only gave assignments and did not explain in detail".

P/SHS2/X said that "During this distance learning there are not many significant difficulties because the teachers at my school have provided the maximum English material by utilizing the existing schedule. It is just the problem, in general, is that the internet network is less stable so that it becomes a separate threat to students. Then concerning English, for myself, the difficulty I experienced was that I could not distinguish between the uses of several sentence formulas in English".

Based on the data that is took from the interview above, there were some difficulties that the respondents got in English subject during online learning. The first difficulty that they experienced was the lack of delivery of the material provided by the teacher. The second difficulty was that not all teachers can explain the lessons well in online learning. They were forced to study independently. The teacher's methods are just that, the teacher only gives assignments without explaining in detail. They also stated that the third difficulty that they got was an unstable network that made them as students felt threatened. In conclusion, the result of the interview shows that most of the respondents have difficulties in online learning such as the difficulties in the delivery of material provided by the teacher, teacher’s teaching methods and also network problems.

4.3 The Students' Opinions About Understanding The Material in English Subjects During Online Learning

For answering the research question about the understanding material that students got in English subject during online learning the respondents have to be able to answer the third question of the interview. Question: What do you think about the understanding of the material that you get in English subject that is conducted online? Do you understand it well or not? Give your reason!

A/SHS2/X said that "The understanding of the material that I got was not good, because our teacher often gave assignments compared to giving understanding, therefore I didn't really understand it".

N/SHS2/X said that "I study independently, but I am also accompanied by tutoring, so I can’t explain it at school, I can have input with lessons, and can be explained in detail because at the tutoring site I am
Students' Difficulties During Online Learning in English Subjects

Students' Opinion Regarding English Subjects in Online Learning During The COVID-19 Pandemic

The results of the data interview above show that students do not like online learning. All of the respondents have negative opinions about the English subject which the learning is carried out online. They thought that online learning is not effective. It contrasts with the results of research by Wijayanengtias et al (2020) which showed that students considered online learning to be effective. In this study the respondents thought that English subject in online learning is not interesting, they felt bored and also thought that the learning is less significant. They do not get the material better because it is not explained directly. From the results of this interview, it can be concluded that the respondents do not have a good opinion about online learning during the pandemic, this is also in contrast to the results of previous research by Sujarwo et al (2020) that online learning is the best choice of the process learning to teach during a pandemic. Thus, students did not have a favorable opinion about online learning during the pandemic.

Students' Difficulties During Online Learning in English Subjects

Online learning will not run easily, because there are still many problems related to its application. The results of the research data show that students still experience many difficulties in learning English Subjects during online learning. One of the problems in English subject during online learning the lack of the material that provided by the teacher. The second difficulty is the teacher's methods in teaching that they only give assignments without explaining in detail. It affects the student that they could not get well understanding. This is in line with the problems in research conducted by Nartiningrum & Nugroho (2020). The third difficulty that they experienced was an unstable network, this is also equal to the research conducted by Nartiningrum & Nugroho (2020) that the problem in online learning is an unstable network that causes a lack of direct interaction. It can be concluded in this case that students still have some difficulties in English subject during online learning.

The Students' Opinions About Understanding The Material in English Subjects During Online Learning

The results of the questionnaire regarding the understanding of the material found that all of the students had difficulty understanding the English material in online learning. It is in line with previous research conducted by Wijayanengtias et al (2020) that the material in online learning is not delivered well so they did not understand the materials well. But, this result contrasts with the research conducted by Agung et al (2020) that most of the students easily understand the materials. Besides that, the respondents also stated that they were not fully understood the material. It was because of the limitations that occurred between students and teachers in online learning. It is in line with the previous study conducted by Nartiningrum & Nugroho (2020) that students revealed that in online learning, communication and social interaction between teachers and students was still lacking. It causes difficulty understanding the material.

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6. Conclusion

The results of this study generally show that students do not like online learning to be carried out in English Subjects. They also consider that online learning is less effective, significant, and boring. Most of the difficulties they face are unstable network, difficulty in the delivery of material provided by the teacher, and teacher’s teaching methods. Besides, most of them also had difficulty understanding the materials provided by the teacher. There are several obstacles in the implementation of online learning, so it is expected that it will become an evaluation material in the future to deal with situations like this.

The suggestion is addressed to the government, teachers, schools, and parents. First, the researchers suggest the government to provide training for teachers because many teachers are still not able to carry out online learning properly because the readiness of teachers, both understanding and practice in conducting distance teaching, is still low, so this is the case impact on the knowledge received by students. Second, the researchers also suggest the teacher be able to adjust learning in such a way that it can be accepted by students, using online learning methods that are more diverse and fun so that it can make the students will not feel bored in learning. Besides, teachers must also want to study technological developments, so that the online learning that they provide can be maximally conveyed, one of which is by participating in training or actively studying technological developments related to education. Third, the researcher also suggests the school make efforts for accommodating the conditions of students who lack financial support and the availability of internet access. Fourth, the researchers also suggest the parents support their children in online learning in various ways such as building good communication with teachers, they must also be open to technology which bridges between the learning of the teacher, school, and the child.

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