Introductory Paragraph

This chapter explains the background of the study, statement of the problems, limitations of the research, research questions, objective of the research, and significance of the research.

Background of the Study

The novel Covid-19 (Coronavirus) has become a substantial public issue nowadays. Covid-19 has a sudden impact on almost all aspects of our life. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of Covid-19 a pandemic. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2020), approximately 170.000 confirmed Coronavirus cases caused by the novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) were registered worldwide, including an estimated 7,000 deaths in approximately 150 countries. Data from China have shown that older adults, especially those with serious underlying health problems, are at higher risk for Covid-19 associated severe illness and death than younger people.

According to News Detik, on April 24, 2021, there were 1.632.248 cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia. Covid-19 defines as the leading cause of the crisis in all aspects of life in this century. The government creates a social distancing policy to reduce the outbreak of Covid-19. In the early era of Covid-19. This new normal era is one of the policies that the government created to alleviate the crisis in Indonesia. The new normal era allowed people to remain in the community to adhere to health protocols. The government had predicted that this pandemic would end in early July. However, Covid-19 patients have experienced a significant increase

in the Era of New Normal. The pandemic also caused massive issues in the educational sector. Covid-19 changes everything should be done virtually, including the educational activity. In the new normal era, the educational sector originally wanted to conduct experiments face-to-face classes starting at the university level. Then it would be applied at all levels of education if the first trial was successful. Unfortunately, Covid-19 patients in Indonesia experienced a drastic increase, and then the government decided to keep virtual learning until an unspecified time.

Changing the educational system that was initially face-to-face into an online class is very influential for teachers and students. The must-have capability of both parties is the ability to operate technology information. Technology information has become the essential thing in online learning. At the university level, the government applied the new policy named e-university. E-university means almost all the classes at the university level are transferred into online classes to minimize the health issues due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Pujilestari, 2020). For teachers, they are required to know how to implement online learning using technology. The materials used must be IT-based to be accepted by their students. Teachers should change the learning materials as creatively as possible not to feel monotonous and can also be absorbed by students. Students are also required to follow the learning process that teachers have prepared.

According to the existence of Covid-19 and the changing of the educational system from conventional (face to face) into an online class, all students and teachers must be knowledgeable about the technology, especially online learning platforms. Microsoft Teams is one of the optional video conferencing apps to hold online learning due to the changing educational system. Some people who are not familiar with this application might challenge to use the platform. Besides the platform, gender is also one aspect that influences the use of Microsoft Teams. The gender of the participants had a significant influence on perceived

usability (Pal & Vanijja, 2020). It shows differences between male and female students on using Microsoft Teams. There may also be differing views amongst male and female ELED students in adopting Microsoft Teams as their online platform. Therefore, the researcher is interested in knowing more about the gender disparities in Microsoft Teams' usage.

The technology has many weak points, in line with Microsoft Teams. The lagging of the application caused unable to use Microsoft Teams properly. In some cases, the user interface also became several people's problem because they were unfamiliar with it. However, Microsoft Teams is also one of the platforms that contain many features to help learning activities. The English Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta has used Microsoft Teams for several years. It is worth investigating the platform's benefits and learning about student attitudes toward Microsoft Teams. In this case, the researcher will look at Microsoft Teams as one of the online learning platforms used by the English Language Education Department Students batch 2019 during the Covid-19 pandemic era.

Statement of the Problems

Microsoft Teams is a continuous chat-based collaboration network that includes document sharing, online meetings, and plenty of other industry features. Microsoft Teams is used for video conferencing in a large population. Microsoft Teams is commonly used for online classes. Based on researcher experience, Microsoft Teams has become the only online learning platform facilitated by the campus. Microsoft Teams is an online class platform at the English Language Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta that all lecturers have conducted. Microsoft Teams are used for synchronous online learning, giving assignments, direct and indirect feedback, learning consultation, and many more. Both students and teachers might face some problems while using Microsoft Teams to support their online learning.

The first problem, Microsoft Teams already facilitated the user to interact with each other, but not all participants maximize the platform to be active students in the class. According to the researcher's experience, some students chose to be silent participants rather than active participants in the class.

The second problem is that the holding of online learning using Microsoft Teams might not engage all students. Students can face difficulties while comprehending the materials, and because of the online learning environment, they have no self-confidence to ask virtually. It causes a severe effect on learning goals because the student might not understand the materials they should master.

The third problem, using Microsoft Teams also might cause the error in the device itself because basically for using Microsoft Teams as the online learning platform the user should have a proper device. Another issue is that Microsoft Teams might be lagging. Poor internet connection is one of the detention to join synchronous classes. Both female and male students are facing some issues in using Microsoft Teams. Nevertheless, the attitude of using Microsoft Teams based on their gender is different. The researcher's experience proves that male students are more comfortable using another online platform than Microsoft Teams. Meanwhile, some female students are very excited to use this platform. Hence, it is essential to know student attitudes on using Microsoft Teams while online class and the difference attitude toward female and male students.

Limitation of the Problems

Although many aspects of Microsoft Teams mentioned in the problem statement might be investigated, the researcher cannot conduct all those aspects because of the time limitation. Hence, the researcher only investigates the student's attitude in using Microsoft Teams in their

online class due to Covid-19 pandemic and the differences attitude among female and male students in facing the online class.

Research Questions

1. How is the students' attitude toward online class using Microsoft Teams in the Covid-19 pandemic era?

2. How is the difference in attitude between female and male students toward online class using Microsoft Teams in the Covid-19 pandemic era?

The Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions, the goals of this research are mentioned above:

1. To investigate the attitude EED students' batch 2019 on facing online class using Microsoft Teams due to Covid-19 pandemic.

2. To find the different attitudes of female students and male students in facing online classes using Microsoft Teams.

Significance of the Research

This research is intended to have benefits for the student, teacher, another researcher, and institution.

For the students. The researcher hopes that through the results of this research, students will have more knowledge about each students' attitude on using Microsoft Teams according to

gender. Students may be able to determine which video conferencing application is most beneficial to them.

For the teachers. This research will help the teacher know what students need in their online class using Microsoft Teams based on their attitude. The teacher may determine to use Microsoft Teams in their class.

For another researcher. The researcher hopes that this research will help and inspire another researcher also becomes the reference to do their research related to the students' attitude in using a platform and the way students face online classes according to their gender.