Chapter One

Introduction

There are seven points discussed in this chapter. The first one is the background of the study. This part elaborates the reasons why the researcher is interested in conducting this research. The second one is the identification of the problem, which describes the problem of the study. The third one is the delimitation of the problem, which discusses the research boundary. Fourth, it is the research questions. The fifth is the research objectives, and it explains the aim of the study. The sixth is the significance of the study are described. This point discusses the contribution of this research for some educational aspects.

Background of The Study

The global COVID-19 pandemic has recently altered many aspects of human life, including education. To combat the spread of coronavirus, the Indonesian minister of education implements a distance learning policy that makes use of online media. In this case, Schleicher (2020) has identified numerous effects of COVID-19 on education, including increased financial spending on educational facilities, reduced international student mobility, lost instructional time in the school setting, difficulties measuring students' learning, the unpreparedness of digital learning support, confusion in determining how much the class size, and learning ineffectiveness for vocational school students. COVID-19's effects are unavoidable in Indonesia.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, schools and educational institutions were closed since March 2020 and slowly recover until nowadays. Since it was

first announced that COVID-19 entered Indonesia in March 2020, educational

facilities (elementary, junior high, high school, vocational school, and university)

have been closed (Codepixer, 2021). This pandemic, according to Yarrow,

Masood, and Afkar (2020), caused school closures in Indonesia. As a result,

educational institutions must provide online classes. Online learning class has a

negative impact on school participation, according to Yarrow et al, (2020). It

necessitates new skills for both teachers and students, resulting in increased

exclusion and inequality. To support teaching and learning, appropriate action is

required.

Since the government requires all levels of education to conduct teaching

and learning online, all aspects of education have recognized the benefits and

challenges of this method. According to Ritonga et al, (2020), online learning

provides flexibility for both teachers and students because it can be done at any

time and from any location. On the other hand, the most common difficulties

encountered in online learning are students' inability to follow the teacher's

explanation fluently and focus on the material provided, poor internet connection,

and power failure. According to Agung, Surtikanti, and Quinones (2020), the

main issue in the online learning process is the unavailability and sustainability of

internet connections.

Furthermore, inside the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, most college

students learn at home, which presents obstacles and tensions as these students

return to their hometown, which is frequently relatively isolated from the business

and political canters. The abrupt change toward unrestricted online education,

particularly in the Indonesian context, has various drawbacks, including limited internet connection and communication issues. Based on some informal interviews that the researcher has done with some EFL students at an English Language Education Department (ELED) at a private university in Yogyakarta, most of them have some issues in joining online classes. Thus, the researcher is desired to conduct this research in order to get deeper understanding about the perception of English Language Education Department students in joining English online classes.

Identification of The Problem

The problem of implementing technology in education also occurs in the case of implementing online learning for EFL students. According to the researcher's own observations, the implementation of online classes caused by pandemic has not previously been employed. The researcher discovered certain challenges with the usage of online classes, such as unfamiliarity with various tools and directions in online classes, feelings of overload when participating in online classes, and a lack of facilities that enable the adoption of online classes at ELED. Thus, the researcher desire to find out other students' perceptions toward it.

Delimitation of the Problems

As stated above, some problems can be caused by online classes. However, the researcher limits the scope of this study. The focus is only to find out the students' perception on the difficulties in joining online classes and also the strategies that the students use to overcome online classes difficulties. In

addition, the researcher chose four participants for his research because of the short time constraint. There are basically two reasons why the researcher limits the study, the first one is the relatively short time constraint, and the second one is to get deeper analysis of the problems.

Research Question

Based on the background of the study, identification of the problems, and the delimitation of the problems, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the difficulties in joining online classes as perceived by English Language Education Department students at a private university in Yogyakarta?
2. What are the strategies to overcome online classes difficulties as perceived by English Language Education Department the students at a private university in Yogyakarta?

Purpose of the research

Based on the researcher's questions, there are two purposes of the research:

1. To find out the difficulties in joining online classes as perceived by English Language Education Department students.
2. To identify the strategies to overcome online classes difficulties as perceived by English Language Education Department students.

Significances of the research

Several significances of the research can bring benefits to several parties, including students, teachers, and future researchers.

Students. This study will help the students to anticipate the difficulties that they might have when joining online class and provide ways to solve online classes difficulties when they face them.

Teachers. This study provides some information for teachers about the challenges that the students face related to the lecture so teachers can find the most possible solutions to maximize the lecture in online classes.

Future researchers. This study can be used for future researchers as one of the sources in developing their research. In addition, they can also get an idea to conduct research in a similar field.

Organization of the Chapters

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction of this research. It presents overviews of why the researcher conducts the research, some background information of this research, and also the focus of this research. The second chapter explains the literature review, which consists of some theories related to research questions. The third chapter elaborates the methodology applied in order to conduct this research, such as research design, setting, and participants of the research, data collection method, and data analysis method. The fourth chapter reports the finding and discussion of the research. The last chapter which is chapter five explains the conclusion of this research. It also provides recommendations for the teachers, students, and other researchers.