Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents introduction of the study. The introduction discusses background of the study along with statement and delimitation of the problem. The next points are research questions, objectives of the study, and significance of the study. Last but not least, the organization of the chapter is also described in this part.

Background of the Study

English is an international language that is used as a means of communication between countries. Therefore, it is hoped that Indonesians will be able to master the language fluently. Although in Indonesia English is a foreign language, English occupies an important position in the daily life of our society. This is clearly seen in the world of education in Indonesia. According to Maduwu (2016), English is one of the lessons taught to students from elementary to tertiary levels.

English learning materials in schools are taught in order to develop students' knowledge, language skills, and positive attitudes towards English. For this reason, the material provided should be presented in an attractive, quality, and in accordance with the existing level of development. This attraction is expected to increase students' motivation in developing their initial ability to speak English.

However, in the end 2019 Indonesia underwent a change where the entire process of human life was forced to change. The reason is, at that time the COVID-19 virus began to enter and spread in Indonesia. The WHO (Who Health Organization) describes Covid-19 as an infectious disease brought on by an infection with a novel virus. Wuhan, China, is where this illness initially surfaced. 2019 December. Coronavirus Disease 2019 or more often known as COVID-19. Changes in the order of human life have an impact on every aspect,

especially in the field of education. In the world of education, the teaching and learning process must be carried out using online (distance) methods using various media or applications.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the education system to conduct online learning in Indonesia. This event is vulnerable for students in the Frontier, Outermost, and Disadvantaged (3T) areas because they have the potential to lose their learning rights. Distance learning that was applied during the COVID-19 pandemic was online using information and communication technology. Finally, the distance education system was developed as the main choice to continue teaching and learning activities in the midst of a pandemic. The existence of the corona virus outbreak has hampered teaching and learning activities which usually take place face-to-face.

In addition, the implementation of online learning must provide facilities for teachers to upload teaching materials that are available for direct download by students as class members. When used as a teaching and learning tool, technology can make lessons more engaging and creative, which will encourage students to participate actively in their studies (Dharmawati, 2017). Furthermore, Roida and Yuni (2020) claim that with the use of technology, teaching and learning activities can be completed successfully whether taking classes online or while the Corona Covid-19 virus is active. Additionally, it keeps the learning exercises from becoming boring. This educational institution in Central Kalimantan, especially in Pangkalan Bun, from mid-March 2020 to early 2022, has replaced all academic activities and the process of teaching and learning activities that are face-to-face in the classroom with virtual / online learning. Online learning cannot be separated from the internet network and the stability of electricity. Internet network connection is one of the obstacles faced by students whose place of residence is difficult to access the internet, especially those students who live in rural, remote and disadvantaged areas. Even if someone uses a cellular

network, sometimes the network is unstable, because the geographical location is still far from cellular signal coverage. For example, when it rains, there will be a sudden power outage without any notification from the State Electricity Company (PLN). This is also a problem that often occurs in students and teachers who undergo online learning so that it is not optimal in its implementation.

The accelerated transformation of educational technology due to the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the development of various online learning applications to support distance learning. Implementation of virtual classes can be supported by using applications, for example the applications are WhatsApp, Zoom, and Google Classroom.

Additionally, the methods of instruction used must fit the pupils' academic needs and abilities. To encourage pupils to learn English, teaching methods must be efficient, precise, and engaging. Teachers must run online learning utilizing a variety of programs to address this issue. Schools must incorporate e-learning right away during the COVID-19 pandemic, but doing so isn't always simple or efficient. Thus, schools with limited or no experience with e-learning and have not prepared e-learning resources may experience difficulties, especially when teachers are not proficient in using online applications (Zaharah, Kirilova, & Windarti, 2020). Because teachers who teach in Central Kalimantan are minimal with mastery of teaching technology and also learning applications that have been widely circulated outside Java, this is one of the problems faced by teachers who teach in the Central Kalimantan area. Because the teachers in the Pangkalan Bun area are only familiar with the use of the Whatsapp, zoom and Google meet applications. With so many applications that have been circulating in Java and outside Java, this is also one of the difficulties felt by teachers to apply their learning techniques which will be realized in learning applications such as Zoom and Google Meet.

The problems that occur are not only found in the learning media system, and teaching techniques used by teachers, but the availability of quotas that require a fairly high cost for students to meet the needs of online learning. The quota purchased for internet needs has soared and many parents of students are not ready to increase the budget in providing internet networks. In line with (Rahmadi, 2020) Education in the foremost, outermost, and disadvantaged (3T) regions of Indonesia is known to be unique with various complex problems.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in writing a thesis entitled "Analysis of Techniques for Teaching English Teachers During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Pangkalan Bun, Indonesia". The purpose of writing this study is to analyze, describe and find out how the learning techniques were carried out in several high schools in Pangkalan Bun during the Covid-19 pandemic with the background of the study described above. The researcher hoped that innovations will be produced to overcome the difficulties when applying English learning techniques during online teaching in the future.

Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, the identification of the problems in this study are as follows: The Covid-19 pandemic factor has caused the Indonesian government to implement social distancing policies which have an impact on the education sector so that it has an impact on changing the learning model which was originally carried out face-to-face to learning based in network (online) and online learning methods cause learning activities to be less conducive and have an impact on the way teachers teach with improvised techniques so that learning becomes less than optimal. The lack of an internet network and also the stability of electricity in Pangkalan Bun is also a problem in the application of learning techniques in online classes. The change from a face-to-face learning system to an online learning system requires different learning readiness. Lack of mastery of

technology and mastery of applications owned by teachers as well as the unpreparedness of all elements in education from the government, schools, teachers, students and parents in fulfilling the requirements for online learning activities.

Delimitation of the Study

Learning process consists of approaches, methods, and techniques. This research will not focus on approaches and methods, but will focus on discussing the teaching techniques used by teachers in Central Kalimantan during the time of pandemic. By conducting this research, the researcher will develop a greater understanding of teachers' activities by focusing on their teaching techniques in said setting. Teachers' activities can be used to describe how English is taught and learned in real life. Furthermore, learning process will also flow more successfully if the suitable learning techniques are implemented.

Research Question

The research questions for this study are presented as follows:

1. What are the English teaching techniques used by senior high school teachers in Pangkalan Bun in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. How do the teachers apply the techniques in teaching English in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Research Objective

Based on the research question, the aims of this research are:

1. To describe English teaching techniques used by high school teachers in Pangkalan Bun in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To identify how the teachers, apply the techniques in teaching English in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give benefits for several parties such as the researcher, students, English teachers, and the future researchers. The detailed explanation is presented below:

Students

Students are expected to use this research to look for information in the academic field. This research is expected to help them increase their knowledge regarding English teaching technique in the time of pandemic. Therefore, they can apply and find the best techniques to enjoy English online learning.

English Teachers

By knowing the techniques in teaching English and how to apply these techniques during this COVID-19 period, teachers recognize and adapt to new circumstances in teaching in this COVID-19 era. In addition, the results of this study as a consideration on which techniques to use and also the ways to implement the techniques.

Future Researchers

This research is expected to be reference for other researchers who plan to conduct research using the same topic. Moreover, the researchers can deeply explore teachers' problems and solutions in teaching English in the time of pandemic.