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Exploring Students' Motivation in Online English Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Eighth-Grade Students at MTsN 2 Palu

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ABSTRACT

Education has become a new challenge in Indonesia during the covid-19 pandemic because of many changes that occurred in the education system, either in the learning methods or the learning strategies which finally affects the learning motivation of the students. This research aims to explain in detail how the objective conditions of motivation experienced by the students in online learning English and what factors affect the students' learning motivation in online learning English during the covid-19 pandemic. The research question of this research was, "How is the eighth grade students' motivation in learning English at MTsN 2 Palu during the covid-19 pandemic?" This research was conducted with a qualitative descriptive approach. The participants involved in this research were 1 teacher and 82 students in MTsN 2 Palu. Data collection techniques used by the researcher were interview and documentation techniques. The validity of the data was done by the triangulation method. The analysis technique applied refers to Miles and Huberman's interactive data inductive model, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. The results of this research shows that some students were adequately motivated and some students had low motivation during the online learning. This can be seen directly from the results of this research through interviews and documentation to respondents. Moreover, the factors that influence the students' learning motivation during the pandemic are students' learning enthusiasm, family economic problems, and the lack of connection with the students' parents.

Keywords: *Motivation, Online Learning*



INTRODUCTION

At the end of 2019, the world was shocked by the outbreak of a new virus, the coronavirus. Corona virus disease outbreak or known as coronavirus or covid-19 was first detected and appeared in Wuhan, China. This virus is terrible for the people of the world, especially after it took thousands of human lives in a relatively short time. Almost 200 countries in the world were infected with the coronavirus. Various efforts are done to prevent the spread of corona, such as lockdown and social distancing in major cities have been carried out to break the chain of the spread of coronavirus (Eman, 2020).

In the current condition, coronavirus is not an outbreak that can be ignored just like that. If you look at the symptoms, the layperson will think it is only limited to the common cold or common influenza, but for medical analysts, this virus is quite dangerous and can be deadly. Currently the development and transmission of this virus is quite significant, because its spread has been worldwide and the whole country feels the impact (Rohim & Rizki, 2020).

On March 17th, 2020, the Minister of Education and Culture in Indonesia issued Circular Letter Number 3696/MPK. A/HK/2020, on online learning policy, by dismiss schools and replacing the process of teaching and learning activities from conventional learning to online learning in order to prevent the spread of corona virus disease (Kolang & Muliani, 2020). Online learning is a system that can facilitate students to learn more widely. Students can learn anytime and anywhere, and the material obtained can be learned in a more varied form, not only in verbal form but much more varied such as using audio and visual. Online learning is very different from conventional learning. Online learning emphasizes the accuracy and ingenuity of students in receiving and managing learning materials provided online (Cecilia & Usmany, 2020).

In online learning, of course, there are some obstacles experienced by students so that the students have lack of motivation in following the learning process. Some of the obstacles in the application of online learning include limited internet quota, the understanding of students in using learning media, and the lack of student education on the materials delivered (Kurniawan et al., 2020). In online learning, of course, there are some changes that students experience, both in terms of learning methods and in terms of assessment.

There are changes in the learning process today, making it difficult for students to follow the online learning process. One of the things that makes it difficult for students to follow the learning process in online is the media used in school. The learning media in school sometimes makes students confused and difficult to follow the learning process. According to Ahmadi, there are two factors that cause learning difficulties, namely, internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include physiological factors or physical conditions of students, while external factors are factors that come from outside the student, namely, family factors, school and the surrounding environment (Abu & Supriyono, 2004).



Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that there are several factors that cause learning difficulties in students. One of the most influential factors is the internal factor, that is the factor that exists within the student itself. From some of the above explanations the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled “*Students’ Motivation in Online English Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic of the Eighth Grade at MTsN 2 Palu*”.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Online Learning

Online learning is basically distance learning or also known as PJJ. Distance learning systems or online learning has been around since the 18th century. Distance learning or (PJJ) always uses technology to conduct teaching and learning process, ranging from the simplest technology to the most advanced today. The history of remote development can be grouped based on frequently used technologies (Tian, 2019).

This online learning activity is carried out to replace in-person learning activities. In online learning, there are several disadvantages in it, namely the use of the internet network requires adequate infrastructure, requires a lot of costs and there are various obstacles in communicating via the internet. Even though there are some obstacles in it, online learning can be said to be effective if students can achieve learning goals, and students can be active with the interaction between teachers and students (Cecilia & Usmani, 2020).

Learning Motivation

Learning is a staple activity in the educational process in schools. Learning is an effort made consciously to change attitude and behavior. In an effort to achieve behavior change, motivation is needed. Motivation is one of the factors that encourage students want to learn. Learning motivation can be divided into two, intrinsic motivation (a state that comes from within the student himself that can encourage him to perform learning actions) and extrinsic motivation (a state that comes from outside the student's individual that encourages him to carry out learning activities). The presence or absence of learning motivation would greatly affect the student's learning success (Amna, 2018).

Motivation of course plays an important role in the teaching and learning process activities. Motivation would certainly make the learning process interesting and students would bring a positive influence on attitudes and willingness in following the learning process. However, the lack of motivation in students will have a negative impact on learning, especially mastery and ability for students (Ema & Yulinar, 2009). According to Yusuf and Budiamin (2016) there are several factors that can influence the motivation of learning in students, namely:

- 1) Internal Factors
 - a) Physical factors



It is a factor that can affect the body and appearance of individuals. Physical factors include nutrient intake, health and physical functions of the five senses.

b) Psychological factors

It is an intrinsic factor that relates to aspects to encourage or inhibit learning activities in students, this factor concerns the spiritual condition of the student.

2) External Factors

a) Social factors

It is a human factor around the student environment. These factors include teachers, friends of students, parents of students and people in the environment such as neighbors.

b) Non-social factors

This factor is the physical state or condition of the student. Non-social factors include weather conditions, time, place.

Classification of Learning Motivation

a. High of Learning Motivation

Motivation is defined as an impulse that is the basic of one enthusiasm to achieve certain goals, so that motivation is an important thing which can help students easier to achieve the learning goals. Students with high motivation surely perform better than the students with low motivaion. High and low motivation ca be seen from the action of students in learning process. It is believed that students who are highly motivated in learning what they are interested in will definitely do their best in learning although the subject is very hard. Meanwhile, students who have low motivation would feel bored and lazy even though the subject given are so easy it is why motivation is a basic where students must have desire to do something (Putri, 2021).

b. Lack of Learning Motivation

Lack of motivation refers to having a deficient level of passion and anthusiasim in doing a job. Lack of motivation can be interpreted as not caring about what should be done. Low motivation has been experienced by everyone, including students, as it is a situation where students do not want to learn due to the difficulties in following the lesson. As students do not understand what they are learning in class, they end up feeling unmotivated. Students' lack of self-confidence, unrealized expectations in class, not being valued or supported by family, and high pressure cause students to have low motivation in learning, which results in low academic achievement (Mauliya, 2020).

METHOD

In this research, the researcher used qualitative approach with case study method which is a method of research that attempt to describe and interpret the objects in accordance with reality. Qualitative research is research that is carried out with a certain



setting that exists in real life with the intention of investigating and understanding the phenomena that occur.

The researcher conducted the research at MTsN 2 Kota Palu. The subject of the research were the teacher and 82 students of eighth-grade. In collecting the data, the researcher took documentation from school related to the researcher's need and did the interview to both teacher and students. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Miles and Huberman's qualitative data analysis model consisting some stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion/verification. For the final step, the researcher checked data validity through triangulation technique. According to Afifuddin and Saebani (2009), triangulation is a technique of checking the validity of data that utilizes something else outside of the data, for the purposes of checking or as a comparison to the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the description of the data that the researcher has described before, the researcher presents the results of data obtained from research in the field that is adjusted to the purpose of the thesis discussion as follows:

To achieve learning goals, it is necessary to create a more conducive learning environment system (conditions). Learning is an activity carried out by individuals to achieve a change in themselves, while teaching is an effort that creates an environmental system that allows the teaching and learning process to occur. Motivation in teaching and learning are two interrelated things, in learning activities, a student needs motivation because, with the motivation in the student, the student will be more diligent and try as much as he can in the hope of obtaining cool results. Therefore, the presence of learning motivation will greatly affect the perseverance of students in the learning process.

Based on the results of the research, it is known that class VIII students at MTsN 2 Palu is motivated to learn, but many obstacles made it difficult. Their motivation decreased. Most students studied seriously and diligently in doing the tasks given by the teacher, but some students wanted to learn if they were forced by the teacher, but it did not make the English teacher feel bored in educating and providing motivation to students.

Motivation is the desire to be satisfied. If there is a desire, motivation would arise. Encouragement in the form of needs and interests in something, and encouragement builds students' motivation to learn. Therefore, if there is good intention and intention both from within and from outside, then the student's learning motivation will appear. Based on the results of the research, several factors became obstacles or obstacles to teachers in increasing learning motivation in students, namely the lack of enthusiasm for learning in some students so that the material provided was less well absorbed by the students. Students' learning interest was also an obstacle because a good student must foster interest in certain lessons. Family economic problems were also an obstacle for teachers in increasing student's learning motivation, and some other obstacles such as internet networks and internet qouta which made students lazy to follow learning.



CONCLUSION

Most students had low motivation during the online learning process. This can be seen from some evidence of answers from interviews conducted by the researcher with students, from the results of the interview there were several obstacle factors felt by students during the online learning process, one of which was the inadequate network that made the material presented by the teacher ineffective. The teacher's constraints in providing learning motivation to class VIII students in MTsN 2 Palu during the pandemic era, some of the students had lack of learning spirit which caused teachers to be good at strategy towards their students when in the process of teaching and learning as for other factors such as family economic problems and less parental relationships.

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