UTILIZING WHATSAPP APPLICATION AS A LEARNING MEDIA IN THE ONLINE ENGLISH CLASS

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Abstract

WhatsApp application as the foremost prevalent application for the education field is helpful to support the online teaching and learning process. During the Covid-19 pandemic, WhatsApp application is one of the media to help students in the learning process in online classes. WhatsApp gives useful highlights such as content, calls, send videos, sounds, links, locations, documents, and pictures. The purpose of this study is to know if the use of WhatsApp applications enhances English learning during online classes. In this research, a descriptive qualitative method was employed, and to gather the data the researcher used a questionnaire to collect the data. The findings supported the use of WhatsApp applications to help students in learning English during online classes, using WhatsApp to increase students' enthusiasm for learning English, and using WhatsApp helped students to develop English skills. In conclusion, the use of WhatsApp applications is helpful for students in learning English during online classes.

Keywords: WhatsApp Application, English Learning, Learning Media

INTRODUCTION

The covid-19 outbreak has rapidly transitioned into a worldwide pandemic including in Indonesia. Covid-19 could be an infection that assaults numerous individuals from all over the world. Indonesia has executed strict controls on development in reaction to the covid-19 widespread (Pustika, 2020). The aim is to reduce transmission by reducing close contact, but doing so has major consequences. The spread of covid-19 in whole countries around the world has affected all life sectors social, economic, health even education has changed dramatically. All routine activities to be stopped because of the coronavirus and this case makes all students' population in Indonesia are not attended school/college to break the chain of the spread of the virus. This situation has created a large-scale social distancing as limiting close-to-close contact and it's the way to reduce the virus. According to CDC (2020) social distancing to boot named physical distancing, which means keeping a secure house between people. This regulation has formally modified the teaching and learning system throughout the unfolding of Covid-19. The interaction of teaching and learning has changed sort of shot to cut the chain of the unfolding of this virus, from face-to-face shifted to online learning.

Shifting face-to-face interaction or communication of the teaching and learning method then changed by online learning is applied at all educational levels in Indonesia and is called e-learning or online learning. Indonesian government tries to support the continuity of education by utilizing technology to keep all activities teaching and learning running as usual. Students are required to continue their studies from home using an online learning system. The teaching and learning process is not as it was utilizing books or printed materials but moreover utilizing advanced apparatuses as teachers and learners have lived within the innovation time and gotten to be local to computerized innovation (Sari, 2018). Online education has progressively been recognized as a well-accepted learning fashion in higher education (Sari & Oktaviani, 2021). According to Kurtanto (2017), online learning is a teaching-learning process that can bring students and teachers to carry out learning interactions with the Internet's help. In this situation, teachers are required to have technical skills as well as students. All learning subjects are taught through online learning including learning English.

Mastering international languages like English is an absolute ought for faculty students recently. The expectation of English ability and completely different competence/skill that they are interested in is

concurrence. English is anticipated to bridge the necessary knowledge gap and facilitate communication with outsiders where the tongue is not reliable. Nowadays, being bilingual or mastering international languages except for one tongue may be a life of academic success and will be had by university graduates (Rodrigues, Carrasquelo, & Lee, 2014). Foreign language students, especially in Indonesia, have experienced significant teaching and learning processes inside the classroom since the innovation improvement within the education field (Pustika, 2020).

Interaction could be a notable design where both teachers and students come into contact to share data and information, particularly in language classrooms (Pustika, 2020). The students use the internet to communicate throughout the learning process. Several tools are used throughout English online learning like Google Meet, Google room, Edmodo, Zoom, E-mail, and WhatsApp. Thus, to interchange face-to-face meetings with the students, WhatsApp is one of the tools which will be used as a learning media during online classes.

Today is the digital era. In this period, innovation improvement offers an impact on each part of human existence. Innovation advancement in the cutting-edge computerized time causes a parcel of improvement of media social (Pustika, 2020). Technology is not fundamentally a modern thing in humans' life. Most individuals presently, indeed children, can utilize and operate technology in life. WhatsApp is perhaps the most well-known online media which is utilized by Indonesian individuals. WhatsApp is a free messenger application that works over distinctive stages like android and this application is by and huge broadly utilized by college students to send locate and sound messages like photos, recordings, sounds nearby direct moment messages. Since web office is required for utilizing WhatsApp, loads of information can moreover be gotten to ceaselessly, and sharing that information through advancement is both speedy and profitable.

WhatsApp's favorable circumstances in supporting human conveying don't utilize and apply yet in the field of schooling admirably. Encouraging the way toward educating and learning English, the educator can utilize WhatsApp as instructional media (Kheryadi, 2017). WhatsApp Application Messenger is a potential medium for educating (Jumiatmoko, 2016). It implies that English instructors can apply WhatsApp as one of the media in showing learning measures. WhatsApp is a simple tool that can be utilized for self-assisted learning (Sari, 2018).

WhatsApp application is a smartphone application that functions to send and receive messages fast. WhatsApp is so easy and simple in applying for communicating that makes many people of different ages, backgrounds, and purposes use them in daily life. WhatsApp has some functions such as sending messages, pictures, audio, video, document, and web address. By looking at the functions and advantages of WhatsApp in communicating, these advantages are also utilized as a tool/media in teaching and learning English like sending English messages, sharing English pictures, English documents, and English text materials. The user can send messages to an individual or group in the form of text messages, photos, audio files, video files, and links to the web address to be accessed (Bouhnik & Deshen, 2014).

Several studies related to the use of WhatsApp applications to help students in learning English during online classes have been conducted.

1. Research conducted by Armeria Wijaya entitled "Students' Responses Toward the Use of Whatsapp In Learning". This paper aims to see the student's reactions toward the utilization of WhatsApp in English learning as this shrewd phone application has been utilized in a few focuses in a few levels of students in the Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya majoring in English. It appeared that indeed even though self-effort to web get to was the most different within learning, their pursuing and writing aptitudes were found to progress. This result within the future is anticipated to be able to create other resources that savvy phone applications can upgrade the learning environment and outcome.

2. Research conducted by Cicih Nuraeni & Lia Nurmalia entitled "Utilizing WhatsApp Application in English Language Learning Classroom". This research is aimed at observing WhatsApp, which is custom-made to bolster English Language Learning (ELL) activities. The results are within the field of specialized focal points, and WhatsApp gives basic operation. Also, WhatsApp can improve learning openings exterior the classroom for students.

3. Research conducted by Mona M. Hamad entitled "Using WhatsApp to Enhance Students' Learning of English Language "Experience to Shar". Almost all study findings supported utilizing WhatsApp to upgrade students learning and eagerness, utilizing WhatsApp made a difference in students to create English aptitudes, enhanced their lexicon, and learn from their mate's mistakes, although the think laid out a few impediments of the encounter such as planning the material and having taught within the bunch.

Based on previous research that has been described above, the researcher plans to identify the use of WhatsApp applications to help students in learning during online classes. Choosing the right teaching-learning media for language learning leads to the inspirational perspective of students and adds to their language learning. The popularity of WhatsApp has increased numerous language educators' interest in directing investigations to investigate the capability of using WhatsApp in the teaching and learning process, especially in teaching certain aspects of foreign language learning. Based on this background, this paper aimed is to know if the use of WhatsApp applications enhances English learning during online classes.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, a descriptive qualitative method was employed. According to Creswell (2016), Qualitative research is to investigate what investigates and gets meaning in several people or bunches of individuals beginning from social issues. Common qualitative inquiries can be utilized for inquiring about people's life, history, behavior, concepts or wonders, social issues, and others. One of the reasons why employing a qualitative approach is the encounter of analysts where this strategy can discover and get what is hidden from a wonder that's now and then troublesome to actualize. The sort of qualitative research utilized by the analysts in this study is grounded theory.

The grounded theory could be a plan of request from human science in which the researcher infers a common, unique hypothesis of a preparation, activity, or interaction grounded within the sees of members. This handle includes utilizing numerous stages of information collection and the refinement and interrelationship of categories of data (Charmaz, 2006; Corbin & Strauss, 2007).

To gather the data the researcher used a questionnaire method to collect the data. After the information was collected, the researcher analyzed the data. A survey could be a valuable instrument for collecting the overview data, and giving organized, frequently numerical information. According to Sugiyono (2012:199), a survey is precise about what factors will be measured and what can be anticipated from the respondent. Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2018), also added that questionnaires could be cheap, reliable, valid, quick, and easy to complete.

This study involved the sixth-semester English Education students in the academic year 2020/2021 of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia, Bandar Lampung. To collect the relevant information, the instrument used in this research was a set of online questionnaires. There were yes-no questions. In collecting the data, the researcher distributed the questionnaire to the students.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data collection process of this research was conducted online. Within three days after it was distributed, there were 20 responses submitted. However, five of the responses seems to lack information and did not meet the criteria set in the questionnaire so only 15 responses were analyzed by the researcher. The finding is taken from an analysis questionnaire consisting of 5 items. The result of the questionnaire filled out by the sixth semester English Education students in the academic year 2020/2021 of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia, Bandar Lampung is presented below:
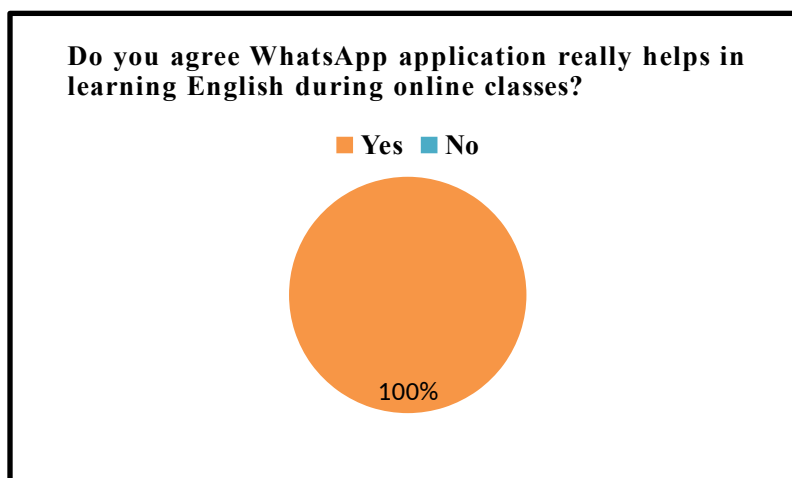

Figure 1. Students' perspective on the WhatsApp application

The first question is "Do you agree WhatsApp application helps in learning English during online classes?". Of about 20 people who filled out the questionnaire, 100% of them agree that the WhatsApp application helps them in learning English during online classes. It showed that all of the participants had positive thoughts about the WhatsApp application helping them in learning English during online classes.
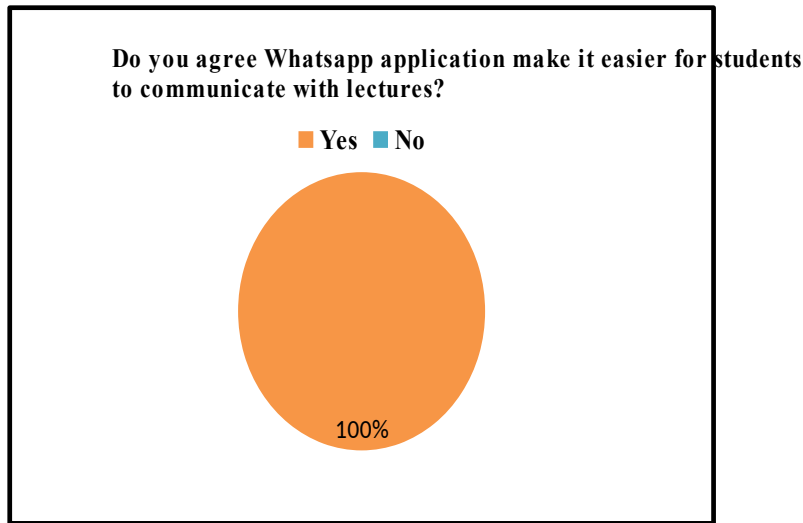
Do you agree Whatsapp application make it easier for students to communicate with lectures?

■ **Yes** ■ **No**

100%

Figure 2. Students' perspectives on the WhatsApp application for communicating

The second question is "Do you agree WhatsApp applications make it easier for students to communicate with lecturers?". By seeing the diagram below (Figure 2), it could be stated that all of the participants agree that WhatsApp applications make it easier for students to communicate with lecturers.
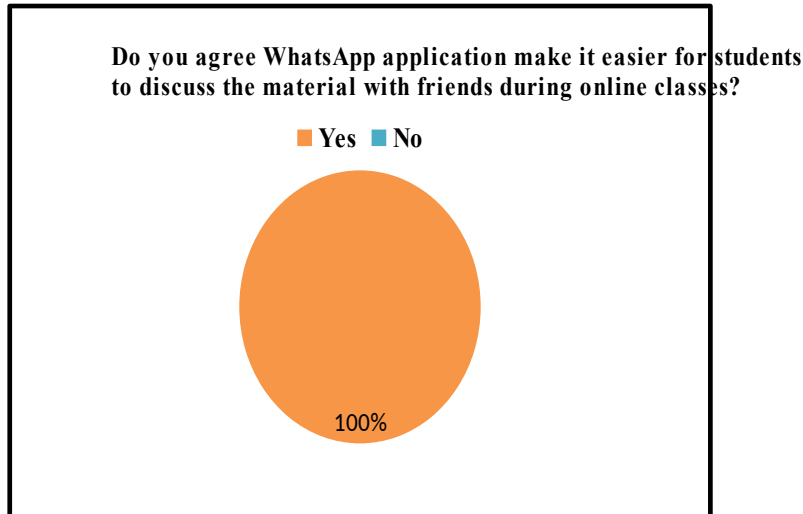
Do you agree WhatsApp application make it easier for students to discuss the material with friends during online classes?

■ **Yes** ■ **No**

100%

Figure 3. Students' perspectives about WhatsApp application for discussing

The third question is "Do you agree WhatsApp applications make it easier for students to discuss the material with friends during online classes?" (Figure 3). By seeing the diagram, it showed that all the participants agree WhatsApp applications make it easier for students to discuss the material with friends during online classes. This proves that by WhatsApp application makes students easier to discuss the material.
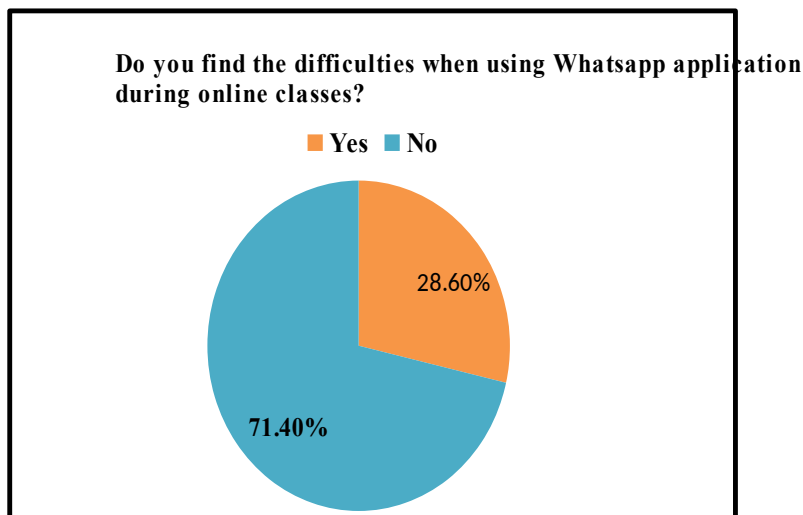
Do you find the difficulties when using Whatsapp application during online classes?

■ Yes ■ No

28.60%

71.40%

Figure 4. Students' perspective on the WhatsApp application

The fourth question is "Do you find difficulties when using the WhatsApp application during online classes?". By seeing the diagram below (Figure 4) it could be stated that only 29% of the participants found difficulties when using the WhatsApp application in learning English during online classes and 71% were not found difficulties when using the WhatsApp application in learning English during online classes. It can be concluded that almost all of the participants were not found difficulties when using the WhatsApp application in learning English during online classes.
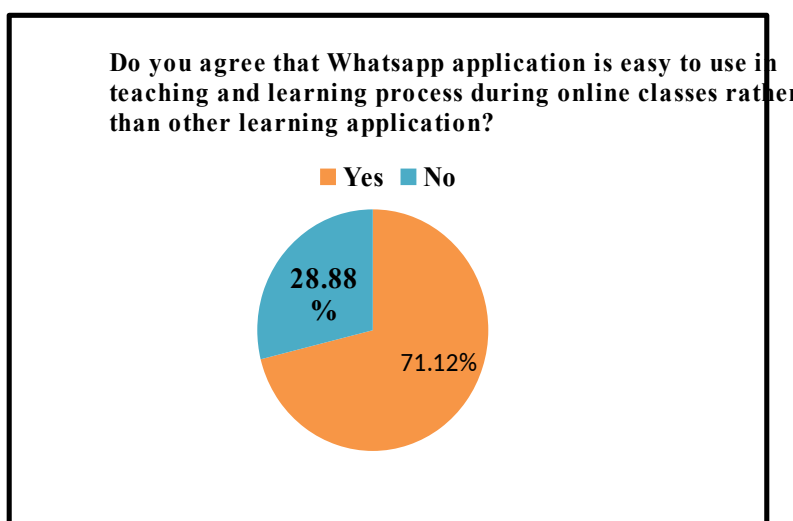
Do you agree that Whatsapp application is easy to use in teaching and learning process during online classes rather than other learning application?

■ Yes ■ No

28.88%

71.12%

Figure 5. Students' perspective on the WhatsApp application

The last question for this research is "Do you agree that the WhatsApp application is easy to use in teaching and learning English process during online classes rather than other learning applications?" (Figure 5). Based on the data in the diagram below it could be stated that only 29% does not agree that WhatsApp application is easy to use in the teaching and learning process during online classes rather than other learning application and 71% of the participants agreed that WhatsApp application is easy to use in teaching and learning English process during online classes rather than other learning application. So, based on the data it can be concluded that most participants agreed that WhatsApp application is easy to use in the teaching and learning process during online classes rather than other learning applications.

CONCLUSION

In the light of findings, it could be concluded that the usage of WhatsApp applications to assist students in learning English during online classes might enhance their enthusiasm for learning English. Most students comfortably engage actively in the discussion through WhatsApp. They also optimize the useful features to provide them supportive learning environment. Besides, it also develops the students' social interaction with

peers and teachers. Thus, WhatsApp is more efficient to be utilized in the online learning process and is recommended to be used.

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