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Students' Perception on Online Learning of English Grammar Course: Determining the Challenges Faced by The Students

Fatma Patadjenu[1], Elsje L. Sambouw[2], Muzdalifah Mahmud [3]
[1,2,3]Departement of English Education, Faculty of Letters and Culture, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Indonesia
fatmapatadjenu24@gmail.com[1], elsye.sambouw@gmail.com[2] , muzdalifah.mahmud@ung.ac.id [3]

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Abstract (Bahasa Inggris)

The purpose of this research is to elaborate on students' perceptions of online learning in the English grammar course, Department of English, State University of Gorontalo. The participants in this study were 15 students from all classes for the 2020/2021 academic year, 3 of whom were taken from each class. This study uses qualitative research method, the data obtained from the results of written interviews. Next, this this study uses thematic analysis to analyze the data. The results of this study found 6 themes consisting of implementing online classes, advantages of online classes, disadvantages of online classes, constraints on using online classes, independent learning, and suggestions. Online learning has been implemented since the Covid¬19 pandemic. And this raises various perceptions from students regarding online learning itself. This is evidenced by the perceptions of students who have been given to this research. Then this online learning has positive and negative impacts. In other words, online learning has advantages and disadvantages. Furthermore, the results of this study indicate that most students strongly disagree if online learning can be used on an ongoing basis. Considered the disadvantages and obstacles are more than the advantages.

Abstrak (Bahasa Indonesia)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan persepsi mahasiswa tentang pembelajaran online dalam kursus tata bahasa Inggris, Departemen Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah 15 mahasiswa dari semua kelas untuk tahun akademik 2020/2021, diambil 3 dari setiap kelas. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, dengan data yang diperoleh dari hasil wawancara tertulis. Selanjutnya, penelitian ini menggunakan analisis tematik untuk menganalisis data. Hasil dari penelitian ini menemukan 6 tema yang terdiri dari pelaksanaan kelas online, keunggulan kelas online, kelemahan kelas online, kendala dalam menggunakan kelas online, pembelajaran mandiri, dan saran. Pembelajaran online telah diterapkan sejak pandemi Covid-19, dan ini menimbulkan berbagai persepsi dari mahasiswa mengenai pembelajaran online itu sendiri. Hal ini terbukti dari persepsi mahasiswa yang telah diberikan pada penelitian ini. Selanjutnya, pembelajaran online memiliki dampak positif dan negatif. Dengan kata lain, pembelajaran online memiliki keunggulan dan kelemahan. Lebih lanjut, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar mahasiswa sangat tidak setuju jika pembelajaran online dapat digunakan secara berkelanjutan. Hal ini dipertimbangkan karena kelemahan dan hambatannya lebih banyak daripada keuntungannya.

Corresponding Author:

Elsje L Sambouw
Faculty of Letter and Culture
Universitas Negeri Gorontalo
E-mail: elsye.sambouw@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic began to enter Indonesia in 2020 which brought changes to daily activities. So that with the occurrence of a pandemic, policies such as social restrictions are carried out in daily activities. This makes students and lecturers to stay at home by doing learning activities at home. To follow this policy, in the world of education, adjustments are made by conducting an online learning system. This online learning is an option to carry out learning activities during the pandemic in all universities in Indonesia. Online learning is a learning system that is not carried out by face to face and used the internet. According to Kuntarto, E. (2017) online learning is learning that is able to bring together students and lecturers to conduct learning interactions with the help of the internet.

Moore, Dickson-Deane, & Galyen (2011) stated online learning is a learning process that uses the internet network with accessibility, connectivity, flexibility, and the ability to produce various types of learning interactions. This means that in order for the online learning process to take place and run well, must use an internet network that has smooth connectivity and access.

There are various challenges faced by students during online learning. These challenges give rise to various perceptions for students towards online learning conducted in English grammar courses. Perception is a sensing process carried out by individuals by taking the action of compiling, recognizing, or interpreting information in order to provide an overview and understanding of the surrounding environment. Perception is the ability to perceive or way to see or to understand (Oxford dictionary, 2011) as cited in Ra'u (2019). Perception is defined as a response based on their understanding of what they received.

Researchers conducted research on the problems faced by students when online learning was carried out in English grammar courses. So that students' perceptions are needed to find out more about what challenges students face in online learning, especially in the research that has been done.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Perception

Perception in general is an experience of objects, events, and relationships that have been obtained by inferring an information and interpreting a message. Perception is a process of understanding or giving meaning to an information on a stimulus. According to Corbin et al,. (2020) perception is a view of one individual towards others who play a role in his life and can also be a part of the determinants of success, which can also be done for students. Which means it shows that if one individual has a favorable view of something or of another person, it can benefit them as well. Therefore, according to Slameto (2013) as one of the responses that everyone has the perception of the determined the receipt of information. In the other words, perception is a way for people to determine something based on their response to receiving information. Perception is subjective, because it depends on the circumstances and abilities of each person, so that people's opinion can differ from one another. Perception can also be interpreted as an individual's interpretation of something (Amir et al., 2020).

Challenges faced by the students' on online learning

Kurnia A, and Qomariah N, (2020) Online learning is the learning chosen to be implemented in all universities in Indonesia, this also applies to IAIN Takengon. The implementation of online learning raises various kinds of student perceptions of the challenges of online learning that are not good and students are not sure that online learning can help the lecture process. In this study there were many factors that caused this including students being burdened by internet quota, difficulties in accessing the internet, difficulties in communicating with lecturers, difficulties in working on and also collecting assignments, and students' unpreparedness in participating in online learning. The large number of students who experience difficulties in online learning requires special attention. Keep in mind that it is impossible for lectures to be conducted face to face. So it is necessary to develop a good system and an adaptable online learning system, so that problems that arise during online learning can be resolved.

Online Learning

According to Ally (2008) online learning uses the internet which functions to access the material provided, interact with content, teachers and other students, and also get support while learning, gaining knowledge, and also building meaningful personal and progress by learning from experience. Moreover, Moore, Dickson-Deane, & Galyen (2011) stated online learning is a learning process that uses the internet network with accessibility, connectivity, flexibility, and the ability to produce various types of learning interactions. In this online learning when the material has been distributed, students are asked to be able to study independently and understand the material without having to be explained in detail by the lecturer. And then, online learning also make students more flexible to explain the material they understand.

Why There Should be Online Learning

This online learning is a distance learning concept. According to Mirawati et al., (2020) defines online learning as part of a learning system mediated by the internet without face to face meetings. With this online learning, students can learned to know something on their own, can learned to do something, and can also learn to live together with a distance approach. In this online learning, students can be more diligent and thorough in doing something. In this online learning also teaches students and teachers to be able to manage time. This online learning is held to make it easier for students to follow lessons and be able to interact with other students and lecturers even at a distance. That's why online learning is held.

Platform of Online Learning

Online learning through the internet used several applications or platforms that function as a medium for interaction between students and lecturers in giving and receiving material. Some of these platforms are Zoom, Google Classroom and Google Meet.

Online Learning in Indonesian

Widodo & Slamet (2020) stated that online learning may only be used to submit assignments. On the other hand, online learning is used not only to submit assignments, but also as a meeting place to start lessons using multiple platforms as discussed earlier. This online learning may have been carried out in several existing universities, not only in Indonesia but also possibly in other countries. However, with the emergence of the pandemic and entering Indonesia, online learning is carried out in all universities, including those in Indonesia. This online learning is carried out because of the limitation of activities so that it is not possible for students to take part in face to face learning.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study focused on students' perception on online learning conducted in English grammar courses. To fulfill the objectives of the research and answer the research questions, qualitative methods were used. Qualitative method is a construction or interpretation of the understanding of the data found in the field. According to Creswell (2009, p.4) states that qualitative research is a means to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups that are ascribed to a social or human problem. In the world of education that conducts research, the qualitative method is the most suitable method.

Participant

Participants in this study were students of the English Department in semester 3 of the 2020/2021 academic year who had taken online English grammar courses when learning and learning activities had to be carried out from home due to a pandemic. Previous researchers have conducted explorations with class 2020 students. Overall, the number of class 2020 students is approximately 97 people consisting of 5 classes and each class consists of 19 class A students, 23 class B students, 18 class C students, 19 people class D and 18 people in class E. In this study, 15 respondents were needed as resource persons and to determine who the respondents were in this study, the researcher took participants randomly based on the number of absences.

Technique of Collecting the Data

Interview is a way to obtain information by asking respondents. (Sugiyono, 2010 p.73) interviews are divided into three parts, namely structured interviews, semi-structured interviews, and unstructured interviews. The interview used in this study was a semi-structured interview. Semi-structured interview is a method that can be used in any way, including to collect research data. This semi structured interview is so that the interviewer can more freely follow up on topics that may later appear during the interview, and interviewers can feel more flexible and comfortable to express their opinions and ideas when answering questions. So it takes time to analyze the data. In this study, basically face to face interviews were conducted, but the current situation does not allow face to face interviews. So the interviews in this study were conducted by means of written interviews via a platform link and then share to all of respondents to get answers about perception in online learning in English grammar courses.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

After collecting all research data from interviews, there are several steps taken by researchers to analyze the data that has been collected. To analyze the data that has been collected, the researcher uses a thematic analysis approach in this study. Thematic analysis is a process to identify patterns or themes that exist in qualitative data (Braun & Clarke, 2017). The purpose of using this thematic analysis is to identify the themes contained in the research results.

There are six steps for conducting a thematic analysis that were used in this study. The steps used were adopted from Braun and Clarke (2006) :

Step 1: Knowing the Data
In this step, all parts of the results of the written interviews via the platform link were copied to collect into notes. After that, read the notes carefully and pay close attention to get used to all the existing data. If the researcher is familiar with the data, it is easier for the researcher to analyze the data.
Step 2: Coding
At this stage the research produces the initial code. This coding stage can reduce data from a lot of data to less data and is determined by the research question. The researcher tried to find some codes in the data that help answer the research questions.
Step 3: Search for Themes
Themes are patterns that take the significance of the research data and questions from the research that has been done. In this case, the researcher grouped all the codes from the data that had the same meaning. After that, the researchers looked for themes from the codes that had been grouped into one.
Step 4: Reviewing the theme
Reviewing the theme means that the researcher rereads the existing data related to each theme and also the researcher re-examines whether the data really supports it or not.
Step 5: Determine the theme

This step is to identify what the core of the theme is. The researcher also identified the important information available from each theme and the researcher wrote down the analysis and definition clearly.

Step 6: Writing

This section is the last step of data analysis, namely writing all reports on the results of the research. The researcher writes a report to explain all the data that has been collected to answer the research questions.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

According to the questions interview students answer it with some variety of perception on online learning in English grammar course. Moreover, there are some students that answer the question of interview in Indonesia, that is why in order to make the explanation clearly. The researcher provide the answer of participant in English. Furthermore, this research separated the students perception into six categorize, that consist of; implementation of online class, online class advantages, online class disadvantages, challenges of using online class, independent learning, and suggestion.

Codes and Themes

Codes	Themes
- A good learning - Fun and enjoyable learning	The implementation of online learning
- Provide the complete material and clear explanation from lecturer. - Available learning - Improving student skills in Grammar	Online learning advantages
- Difficult to understand - Less efficient - Not good enough	Online learning disadvantages
- Poor internet connection - Network disruptions - Difficult to understand the materials	Challenges of online learning
- There is no big differences - Choose to online learning with lecturer - Student have a space after learning intense with lecturer	Online learning with lectures vs independent study
- Immediately to offline class - More practice - Provide some games and quiz	Suggestion

Discussion

The result of this study shows that student gave their opinion regarding to their own experience during the existence of online learning in English grammar course. According to Eggen & Kauchak, 2001 Perception as the process by which people attach meaning to experiences.

Implementation of online learning

Implementation of online learning aims that this online learning is very good. As a result students said that this online learning can help student to improve their skill in English grammar subject. The implementation of this online learning was got a good response for student, which are said that this online learning is fun

enjoyable learning also a good learning. Students said that they can access the learning easily, because the learning is should not be in the real classroom. there are two statements mostly said by participants. Related to online learning in English Grammar subject. For instance, a good learning and fun and enjoyable learning. The first statement has been explained by two students, they said that they can improve their grammar skills through online learning because the lecturer has been provided the sources of material , then they can access it easily also other student said that they really enjoy the online learning because the lecturer explained the material clearly. Besides, some students also stated that they are really feel comfortable during the online learning, it is because the online learning can be accessed anywhere and anytime.

Online learning advantages

There are three statements has been given by students relating to online learning advantages. Firstly, provides the complete material and clear explanation from the lecturer, secondly improving student skills in grammar, and thirdly available learning. The second benefit online class is help student to improve their skills in English, because in online learning the process of giving and absorbing the material is really good. The last advantages of online learning is make student feel comfortable and easier to join the class because every students can study everywhere. On the other words, the class should not in the real classroom.

Online learning disadvantages

The result of interview showed that there are three statements that said by students mostly. They are less efficient, student feels bored and difficult to understand. The research shows that most of student feel in trouble during the online learning in English grammar course. The next advantages is student said that they are still need an intensive meeting in English grammar subject, because of grammar is a hard subject they think. The next problem is student feel difficult in process of giving and absorbing material they said it is still effective less. Same to the previous statement the main problem due to internet connection that makes the material that has been taught is not too audible and difficult to understand. The last disadvantage is student said this online learning is not effective less because of they have a lack in understanding the material because of online learning, and because there is still a difficulties to adapt with the existing in grammar especially the learning through by online.

Challenges of online learning

The challenges of online learning was classified into two parts, the first is challenges that comes from students, second the challenges that comes from internet connection.

Challenges That Comes From Students

The challenges that comes from students on online learning is student feel hard to understand with the material. They said that they still feel difficult when they are trying to understand with the material also in process of absorbing the material. It because they are still not familiar with the material also they cannot be focused with the explanation that caused of there is no previous explanation regarding to the previous material especially in analyzing the tense.

Challenges That Comes From Internet connection

One of the challenges that face by student is internet disruption. According to Nasrullah (2004) online learning is education that is carried out on an ongoing basis via the available internet and this is usually referred to in education as e-learning. In the other hand, this online learning depends on the stability of internet connection. So that this internet connection is a determinant in the online learning process. For example, there is an internet disruption during the online learning process, it causes the online learning process to be distrupted and the bad impact to student is they cannot receive the material.

Online learning with lecture vs independent learning

There are three statement most said by student, they are there is no big differences, choose online learning with lecturer, student have a space after learning intense with lecturer. The first response that most said by student is there is no big differences between online learning and independent learning. It is because most of student said that students still need to prepare all things included the material before the class is started

independently. The last response is student still have a space after learning intense with lecturer. In this case student perception that online learning can be an independent learning and it is good for them. Because student can feel more relax during the online learning process. Because the situation is really different when they learn with lecturer which is it is more intense.

Suggestion about online learning

The first is suggestion is most of student suggest to offline class, it is because during online learning sometimes lecturer cannot pay attention to all student, and it makes the learning process cannot be efficient. The second suggestion is have some games. Most of student realize that, the recently situation still not show that the online learning would be changed into offline. That is why, they suggested to have some games in online learning process. Because, as cited in previous theme, this online learning sometimes make students feel bored. Then they suggest in order lecturer can provides some games to restores their mood. Then, students said that grammar is a hard subject then they need to learn relax then they need some rest through games or quiz. The third suggestion is more practice, student perception that the most important thing in grammar is practice also they perceive that more practice and feedback can help them to know their process of development. And the last suggestion is about be more easier.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the description in the research findings and discussions about students' perceptions of online learning in the English grammar course, there were several points that were conveyed that were related to the research question, namely what is the student's perception on online learning of English grammar course? A qualitative was used in this research, and based on the results of the data analysis, this study succeeded in answering the research questions. In this case, the researchers found six themes about students' perceptions of online learning in English grammar courses. The six themes are implementation of online learning, online learning advantages, online learning disadvantages, challenges of online learning, independent learning vs learning with lectures, and suggestions.

5.2 Recommendations

This research recommended to both lecturer and students. In which that, through this research in order lecturer can get many information about what are the problems that student feel during the online learning process in English grammar subject, in order lecturer can considered it as a reference to create a good online learning in English grammar subject. Furthermore, for student this research can be a motivation for student in order that they can be more brave to give a solution to the lecturer regarding the process online learning especially in English grammar subject. Then this research recommended to whom that would used online learning in order this research become the references.

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