
EFL Students' Perceptions of Online Learning using Zoom During Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study

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Abstract

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the transformation of learning has significantly switched from face-to-face learning to online learning. Many platforms have been utilized to support the teaching and learning process, one of them is the Zoom Meeting application. Although many studies have explored the educators' and students' perceptions of using Zoom, exploring the perspectives of EFL learners in the rural context remains a paucity. This study aims to explore the EFL students' perspective using the Zoom Meeting application, particularly in the rural college context. This study employs a qualitative method. The data analysis is used thematic analysis. The results of this study show that the students have two sides perceptions of using Zoom; on the first side, EFL students thought that Zoom is very suitable to support online learning because the features available in the zoom meeting are varied and complete. However, on the other side, based on the students' opinions, one of the negative sides of Zoom meetings is that this application tends to take up a lot of internet quota. This condition has forced the students to try to have free Wifi access in the public space and shared money to purchase the internet quota.

Keywords: *EFL; students' perceptions; case study; online learning.*

Abstrak

Karena pandemi Covid-19, transformasi pembelajaran telah beralih secara signifikan dari pembelajaran tatap muka ke pembelajaran online. Banyak platform yang telah digunakan untuk mendukung proses belajar mengajar, salah satunya adalah aplikasi Zoom Meeting. Meskipun banyak penelitian telah mengeksplorasi persepsi pendidik dan siswa dalam menggunakan Zoom, mengeksplorasi perspektif pelajar EFL dalam konteks pedesaan masih kurang. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi pembelajaran online siswa EFL menggunakan aplikasi Zoom Meeting, khususnya dalam konteks perguruan tinggi pedesaan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Analisis data yang digunakan adalah analisis tematik. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki persepsi dua sisi dalam menggunakan Zoom; Di sisi pertama, mahasiswa EFL menilai Zoom sangat cocok untuk mendukung pembelajaran online karena fitur yang tersedia dalam zoom meeting sangat beragam dan lengkap. Namun, di sisi lain, berdasarkan pendapat mahasiswa, salah satu sisi negatif dari Zoom meeting adalah aplikasi ini cenderung memakan banyak kuota internet. Kondisi ini memaksa para mahasiswa untuk mencoba akses Wifi gratis di ruang publik dan berbagi uang untuk membeli kuota internet.

Kata kunci: *EFL; persepsi siswa; belajar virtual, case study*

I. INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 not only has an impact on the health sector but also in other fields, such as Education and Economy. In Indonesia, because of Covid-19 pandemic, the government shifted the way of learning. The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic Indonesia release of the Circular Letter of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4 of 2020 (on the Implementation of Education Policy in the Emergency Period of The Spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), 2020). The policy not only impacts the campus in general but also has an impact on the course in particular. Therefore, there is a proposal that the lecture program be

changed to digital or in-network for students who are studying at home. Hence the lectures can still be done even at home along with the development of technology. Zhafira (2020:38) stated that online lectures are conducted by almost every educational institution "in order to break the chain of spread of the virus and maintain the safety and security of learners and educators. Similar to the above opinion, Fatmawati (2020:52) stated that digital transformation is the safest way to stop the spread of the outbreak caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based on the results of initial interviews and observations conducted by researcher on 16 December 2021, researcher found that EFL students have mobile phones as a means of communication and use various applications as online learning media. And one of the applications used for the online learning process is Zoom Meeting. Students with the initials NA stated that the use of the application felt very good because students could easily interact through group videos that can contain all students in the class. And by using this application, it allows students to capture the expression and material delivered by lecturers and fellow students. Meanwhile, according to NK, learning using the Zoom Meeting application is felt less comfortable and less effective when used in the learning process. Because the use of the Zoom Meeting

Many studies have examined the use of Zoom Meeting During Covid-19. The first study was conducted by Far-Far (2021), his study examined the effectiveness of The Use of Zoom Meeting Application in Learning In The Covid-19 Pandemic and used the interview and WhatsApp for data collection. The second study was conducted by Kelana, (2021) with the title: "Use of Zoom Meeting Application in the Covid-19 Pandemic In Science Learning". The study aims to identify science learning through zoom meeting apps during the COVID-19 pandemic. The method used is qualitative descriptive. The subjects in the study were PGSD students with a sample of 42 students. Data collection techniques use test questions and questionnaires. Data analysis uses interactive model analysis. Other studies examined the use of Zoom also focus on the effectiveness of zoom during Covid-19 (Monica, 2020; Zhafira, 2020; Suhaeri 2020). These three studies have the similarity; examine the use of Zoom meeting during Covid-19 but these studies have different findings and results. This current research, therefore, explore the perceptions of EFL students in one of rural universities of Indonesia, especially focus on their views of using Zoom during Covid-19 Pandemic in learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL).

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The study employs qualitative research with a case study technique. A qualitative approach is an approach used to examine the condition of natural objects (as opposed to experiments) through observation, interviews or document review. Meanwhile, according to Bog and Taylor (2000), qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from subjects or actors that can be observed. The interview result is analyzed use thematic analysis. Thematic Analysis was chosen to analyse the data as it is flexible, accessible, and not aligned to one theoretical framework (Braun & Clarke, 2013). The research was conducted at one of private colleges in Indonesia, especially in the rural area. The number of participants is six EFL college students. To keep the respondents' privacy, this study uses initial code. each of respondant is used initial code as follows:

- a) WCR= interview
- b) M= student
- c) NK, MS, RN, NA is the code name of each student or respondant
- d) The rest is the date of the month and year.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the data, it obtains that students have various views regarding the use of Zoom during the teaching and learning process. These then draw into two catagorizes; positive and

negative sides. Regarding the advantage of Zoom, it is classified into five types. Firstly, Zoom Has Complete Feature. Through Zoom Meetings, EFL students are greatly helped by this application because they can share PPT while explaining to their friends so that online learning runs like studying in a classroom. Secondly, Zoom has Clear Sound and Picture. Besides being able to share PPT, the zoom meeting application has very clear sound and picture. This helps them to maximize their performance in learning and presenting. Thirdly, Zoom can accommodate numerous students. As has been stated by NK that, "Zoom is so awful because we can virtually meet with numerous friends". Next, Zoom enhance students' understanding in how to use technology in educational settings. Most of students stated that the use of the zoom meeting application can improve their knowledge of technology because many students from out of town also use the zoom meeting application as an application for online learning. Last, lecturers are able to monitor students directly.

However, students also have negative perceptions of using Zoom. The first barrier is Zoom Needs a Smooth Internet Connection. The data from student interviews with the code "WCR/M/MS/13-03-2022" states that online learning using Zoom Meeting requires a stronger and smoother internet connection, while their current condition only has a limited internet quota and unable to fill the internet quota as required by the zoom meeting, so they sometimes get disconnected from the internet connection and leave the Zoom Meeting class. Another negative sides of Zoom is the Internet quota quickly runs out. Zoom Application takes much memory space. The data from student interviews with the code "WCR/M/NA/21-02-2022" states that when using Zoom meetings, some students use cellphones with limited. The same view showed by the students M, "memory space, so when they want to download the Zoom meeting application, the student must delete some of the data application so after that they can download the Zoom Meeting application. The last is students find it difficult to focus. Studying at home and in a classroom at school are two very different things. At school, there are rules that some students must follow so that they do not generate noise near the classroom where the students are studying. According to data from student interviews with the code "WCR/M/MS/13-03-2022" states that when they learn to use Zoom meetings at home, they cannot focus because some of their family members were noisy.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGESTION

This study has explored the EFL students' perceptions of online learning using zoom meetings. Based on the results of the analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that the Zoom Meeting application is very suitable to support online learning at one of colleges in Indonesia, especially for EFL students. According to the data, the students have different perspectives of using zoom. For instance, Zoom has clear sound and picture and Zoom has improved students' technological skill. However, the students' views also highlighted the challenges of using this application, such as it takes a lot of quota and Zoom requires large capacity of mobile phone. It is suggested for the lecturers to highlight the six principles of Andragogy in teaching EFL students as has been studied by (Purwati, Mardiah, Nurhasanah & Ramli, 2022).

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