English as a Foreign Language Lesson Plans During Covid-19 Pandemic in The Senior High School

Jayantari, N. L. P. E¹, Agustini, D.A.E²
¹² Ganesha University of Education, Bali, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Teachers have difficulties in preparing lesson plans that are adapted to online learning. This has resulted in students having difficulty learning English as a foreign language (EFL) through Google Classroom during the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of this study was to analyze the abilities and difficulties of teachers in preparing lesson plans and the difficulties of students in learning English as a foreign language (EFL) through Google Classroom during the Covid-19 pandemic. The design used in this research is the Embedded Mix Method design. The technique used to collect data is a questionnaire. The population of this study found 10 teachers and 55 students. The ability of teachers to prepare lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom is measured and described quantitatively. Meanwhile, the difficulties of teachers and students were described and analyzed qualitatively. The study results are the teacher’s ability to prepare lesson plans and the difficulties of students in learning EFL through Google Classroom during the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has significant challenges in handling Covid-19. The Covid-19 pandemic forces learning activities to be carried out online (Laksana, 2020; Storch et al., 2021). This is to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced social distancing policies, or in Indonesia, it is known as physical distancing to minimize the spread of Covid-19 (Fitriyani et al., 2020; Sari et al., 2020). This causes teachers to be required to master technology to be able to design online learning (Ramkissoon et al., 2020; Tondeur et al., 2019). The online learning system is a learning system without face-to-face directly between students and teachers but is carried out online via the internet (Kurtz et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2020). In online learning, teachers must ensure that learning activities continue to study well, even though students are at home. This is what causes teachers to be required to design learning models, media, or teaching materials that can facilitate students when learning online (Awaludin et al., 2020; Silalali, 2020). Online learning systems require personal devices such as computers, laptops, or mobile phones connected to the internet network. Teachers can carry out learning activities via telegram, WhatsApp, ZOOM, and Google meet as learning applications (Mpungose, 2021; Suherly et al., 2020). Thus, the teacher can ensure that students take part in learning simultaneously, even though in different places.

The problem that occurs today is that many teachers have difficulty designing online learning (Aji, 2020; Mansyur, 2020; Windhiyana, 2020). This problem is also found in high school. Based on the results of observations...
and interviews conducted at SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi, it was found that teachers still had difficulties in preparing the EFL lesson plans. In addition, students find it challenging to learn EFL through Google Classroom. Generally, a professional teacher should have a plan before teaching. RPP is a guideline for the implementation of learning. Teachers usually develop better lesson plans to get a better learning implementation process. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the RPP was organized by the English Subject Teacher Consultation (MGMP) or the EFL Teacher's Coordinator Group. EFL teachers use lesson plans. EFL uses the compromised lesson plans in face-to-face or one-sided interactions at SMAN 1 Mengwi. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of National Education and Culture replaced the EFL learning process with an online learning platform. The policy about online learning brings new challenges and difficulties through Google Classroom to both students and teachers, especially in SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi.

Generally, EFL teachers faced difficulties in preparing lesson plans through Google Classroom. Preparing lesson plans through Google Classroom requires not only the teacher's ability, but also the skills to characterize EFL as an easy-to-learn, integrating with lots of applications and websites, moving freely from one thing to another easily, and making use of optimally G Suit document. EFL teachers difficulties faced in preparing lesson plans through Google Classroom in Senior High School 1 Mengwi was related to ability in 1) relating learning indicators with basic competency, 2) relating learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, 3) relating learning methods or techniques with learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, 4) relating learning procedures or steps in EFL, 5) relating evaluation and learning indicators, 6) relating evaluation instruments and techniques with learning indicators, 7) relating Information Technology to EFL, and 8) using Information Technology, especially Google Classroom in EFL.

The design that used in the present research was the Embedded Mix Method design. (Ellis,1997; Hopkins,2008; Creswell et al., 2000). The objective was to measure and identify EFL teacher’s ability in preparing and difficulties found, as well as the students’ difficulties in learning EFL through Google Classroom in SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi (Alwright et. al,1991; Hopkins,2008). The teacher's ability in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom was measured and described quantitatively. Whilst, the teacher’s and students’ difficulties were qualitatively described and analyzed. The teacher's ability in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom was rated in terms of 1= very poor; 2=poor; 3= good; 4 = very well. Teacher’s difficulties in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom were gathered in two steps. First, they had to rate their ability on each aspect of lesson plans’ preparation as objectively as they experienced. Second, they had to confirm the rating to the difficult aspects using a rubric.

2. METHOD

The design that used in the present research was the Embedded Mix Method design. (Ellis,1997; Hopkins,2008; Creswell et al., 2000). The objective was to measure and identify EFL teacher’s ability in preparing and difficulties found, as well as the students’ difficulties in learning EFL through Google Classroom in SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi (Alwright et. al,1991; Hopkins,2008). The teacher's ability in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom was measured and described quantitatively. Whilst, the teacher’s and students’ difficulties were qualitatively described and analyzed. The teacher's ability in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom was rated in terms of 1= very poor; 2=poor; 3= good; 4 = very well. Teacher’s difficulties in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom were gathered in two steps. First, they had to rate their ability on each aspect of lesson plans’ preparation as objectively as they experienced. Second, they had to confirm the rating to the difficult aspects using a rubric.

There was an EFL teacher recruited for the research subject. This teacher has taught for about 32 years. In the academic year 2020/2021, the teacher teaches twelve classes in 10th grade. The students were also recruited from the two classes for research subjects. However, 55 students returned the questionnaire. They consisted of 19 male students and 36 female students. Teacher's ability in preparing lesson plans through Google Classroom
targeted eight indicators, are the relevance of learning indicators with basic competency, the relevance of learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, the relevance of learning methods, the relevance of learning procedures or steps, relevance of evaluation and learning indicators, relevance of evaluation instruments and techniques, relevance of Information Technology. Teacher’s difficulties are also concerned with eight indicators as the teacher’s ability. They are the relevance of learning indicators with basic competency, the relevance of learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, the relevance of learning methods, the relevance of learning procedures or steps, relevance of evaluation and learning indicators, relevance of evaluation instruments and techniques, relevance of Information Technology.

There was three research instrument to collect the data. The first instrument was a rating scale. A rating scale was used to collect data on the ability of EFL teaching staff in preparing plans for a lesson through Google Classroom. This instrument was adopted and translated from “Instrumen Penilaian Persiapan Pembelajaran Undiksha 2020”. The second instrument was a questionnaire. A questionnaire was used to collect data on difficulties found by EFL teachers in preparing EFL through Google Classroom in The Senior High School. The questionnaire of teacher’s difficulties in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom contained eight items. First, EFL teachers had to rate their ability in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom as objectively as they experienced. Second, they had to specify the difficulties following the rating based on the rubric. The third instrument was a questionnaire. A questionnaire was used to collect data on difficulties found by EFL students in learning EFL through Google Classroom in The Senior High School. The questionnaire contained 20 items.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom was measured by eight aspects, namely 1) relation of learning indicators with basic competency, 2) relation of learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, 3) relation learning methods or techniques with learning materials, learning indicators with basic competency, 4) relation of learning procedures or steps in EFL, 5) relation of evaluation and learning indicators, 6) relation of evaluation instruments and techniques with learning indicators, 7) relation of Information Technology to EFL, and 8) using Information Technology, especially Online Learning platform in EFL. The lesson plans prepared by the teacher were evaluated by two independent evaluators to ensure reliability and validity of measurement.

Based on the results of data analysis obtained, the teacher’s ability mean score in preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom = 67.50. When the teacher’s ability mean scores are ordered, the teacher's ability mean score = 68.40 is the highest, followed by the teacher's ability mean score = 67.50 and 66.60. However, when the teacher’s ability mean scores were categorized, they are all in the moderate category (mean ± 1 standard deviation or 67.50 ± 1.27). The variability of scores among EFL teachers is not very large (variance statistic = 1.62). The range statistic = 1.80 between the minimum and maximum scores.

When analyzed per aspect, the teacher's ability is found less able in selecting learning methods or techniques with learning materials for basic competencies 1, 2, and 4. The teacher’s ability was less able in selecting learning procedures for basic competencies 1, 2, and 5. The teacher's ability was less able in relating the evaluation with learning indicators for basic competency 4. The teacher's ability was found less able in relating the evaluation instruments and techniques for basic competencies 1 and 4. In conclusion, the EFL teacher was less able in selecting learning methods or techniques based on the teacher's ability, learning materials, students’ characteristics, and basic competency as well as learning indicators. The EFL teacher was less able in selecting learning procedures or steps. The EFL teacher also was less able in conducting the learning evaluation which is objective and consistent with efficiency in terms of time, cost, and energy. The EFL teacher was less able in selecting the evaluation instruments and techniques relate to learning indicators and evaluate the learning process and outcome.

In preparing lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom, the EFL teacher found difficulties. The teacher was asked to rate his ability in preparing lesson plans as objectively as possible as they experienced. After self-rating, he described sources or descriptions of difficulty in each aspect of lesson plans. The teacher found difficulty in aspect 3 especially in selecting learning methods or techniques based on students’ characteristics and basic competency as well as learning indicators; in aspect 4 especially in selecting the steps which are continued with the association and completed with communication; in aspect 5 especially in conducting learning evaluation containing aspects of objectivity and consistent with efficiency; in aspect 6 especially in selecting the learning evaluation relate to learning indicators and evaluate learning process and outcome, in aspect 7 especially in selecting the learning media.

Students also found difficulty in learning EFL through Google Classroom in SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi. Their difficulties were probed in twenty items. In general, the items asked them to disclose some facilitative and
technical problems or difficulties in learning EFL through Google Classroom. Students found difficulties in 1) connection, 2) turning assignment through google classroom, 3) understanding EFL through Google Classroom, 4) disliking EFL through Google Classroom, 5) being demotivated in learning EFL through Google Classroom, 6) being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom, and 7) perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations. In lesson plan one, especially about introduction, the students mostly found difficulties in connection (58.19%), turning assignments through google classroom (12.73%), understanding the EFL through google classroom (5.46%), disliking EFL through Google Classroom (56.37%), perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations (50.91%).

In lesson plan two, especially about making a script of holiday plan, the students mostly found difficulties in connection (52.73%), turning assignments through google classroom (21.82%), understanding the EFL through google classroom (50.91%), disliking EFL through Google Classroom (52.73%), being demotivated in learning EFL through google classroom (52.73%), being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom (52.73%), perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations (21.82%).

In lesson plan three, especially about congratulating expressions, the students found difficulties in connection (25.46%), turning assignments through google classroom (54.55%), understanding the EFL through google classroom (12.73%), disliking EFL through Google Classroom (21.82%), being demotivated in learning EFL through google classroom (25.46%), being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom (21.82%), perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations (49.10%). It means that not too many students found difficulties in this skill.

In lesson plan four, especially about the announcement, the students found difficulties in connection (18.19%), turning assignments through google classroom (52.73%), understanding the EFL through google classroom (58.19%), disliking EFL through Google Classroom (56.37%), being demotivated in learning EFL through google classroom (21.82%), being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom (10.91%), perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations (49.10%).

In lesson plan five, especially about descriptive text, the students found difficulties in connection (10.91%), turning assignments through google classroom (5.46%), understanding the EFL through google classroom (10.91%), disliking EFL through Google Classroom (25.46%), being demotivated in learning EFL through google classroom (12.73%), being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom (21.82%), perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations (12.73%). It means that not too many students found difficulties in this lesson plan. In conclusion, the EFL students found 7 aspects of EFL through the Google Classroom learning paradigm. The most difficulties found in lesson plans 1, 2, and 3.

Discussion

The research finding shows that EFL teacher was less able to prepare lesson plans for EFL through Google Classroom in SMA Negeri 1 Mengwi. The teacher was less able in aspects 3, 4, 5, and 6. More specifically, the teacher was less able to 1) selecting learning methods or techniques suited to students' characteristics, 2) selecting learning methods or techniques matched with basic competency as well as learning indicators, 3) determining learning steps continued to association, 4) determining learning steps completed with communication, 5) conducting learning evaluation which is objectivity, 6) conducting learning evaluation which is consistent with efficiency in terms of time, cost, and energy, 7) selecting the evaluation instruments and technique relate to learning indicators, 8) selecting the evaluation instruments and technique which is evaluate learning process and outcome.

Adaptability struggle refers to an ability to switch from the traditional classroom and face-to-face instructor training to computer-based learning or on-line based learning (Darmaji et al., 2019; Kazua & Demirkol, 2014). The teacher and students find something new with these learning circumstances. In technical issues, many teachers and students are not provided with the strong internet connection that online courses require, and thus fail to catch up with their online learning (Hogan & Devi, 2019; Yustina et al., 2020). Besides that, the EFL teacher and students are not computer literate. Not all of them can manage computers well and operate basic computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft power points, as well as Google Classroom, therefore they are not able to handle their files (Abedoyin & Soykan, 2020; Albashtawi & Al Bataineh, 2020). Time management is a difficult task for EFL teachers and students. Online learning requires a lot of time and intensive work.

The research finding also showed that the teacher's difficulties in preparing lesson plans are divided into two major scopes, they are in academic area and technology area (Ja’ashan, 2020; Logan et al., 2021). The teacher found difficulty in aspect 3, especially in selecting learning methods or techniques based on students’
characteristics and basic competency as well as learning indicators. It was because the teacher still do not understand the characteristics of his students. Every child has different characteristics (Duman, 2010; Lwande et al., 2021). Learning is carried out by paying attention to the differences in characteristics that an individual has (Mahasneh et al., 2021; Rasheed & Wahid, 2021).

The other teacher's difficulty found in aspect 4, especially in selecting the steps which are continued with the association and completed with communication. It was because the step of associating and communicating was not applied well in the learning process. Communicating is also known as collaborative learning (Pratamawaty et al., 2019; Suharyadi, 2013). The limitation of time and distance made the EFL teacher consider collaborative learning. But, over time, then the teacher could apply the online learning platforms efficiently, they still found numerous issues such as insufficient suitable materials, learner’ low attention, and the decreasing of students’ motivation in online learning (Khatoony & Nezhadmehri, 2020; Sert & Boynueğri, 2017).

The difficulties found by students related to technology, connection, and academic aspects (Ja’ashan, 2020; Utami et al., 2018). From 20 items in the questionnaire, the difficulties of students were found in seven aspects. They are difficulties in connection, 1) connection, 2) turning assignments through Google Classroom, 3) understanding EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, 4) disliking EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, 5) being demotivated in learning EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, 6) being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, and 7) perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations. The students’ difficulties in connection are mostly found in lesson plans 1, 2, and 4. The first lesson plan was about the introduction. The second lesson plan was about a desire to do something. The fourth lesson plan was about the announcement.

Slow internet connection was one of the difficulties faced by the students (Octoberblina & Muslimin, 2020; Windhiyana, 2020). It was about 32 students who got into trouble in connection. It was because the students did not commonly use online learning platforms. From the first lesson plan to the last lesson plan, the number of students that found difficulties in connection was decreasing. It happened because not all of them have a strong internet connection and because of the weather. Online learning can be applied in long-distance learning, where internet resource is stable (Widiyono, 2020).

The students stated that they commonly needed grammar which closed to the topics during online learning (Bradley, 2020; Nartiningrum & Nugroho, 2020). The students were being demotivated in learning EFL through Google Classroom mostly in the first and second lesson plans. The reasons were 1) they were difficult to practice their English directly, and 2) they were easy to find out the material and easy to forget it because they can not practice it directly. The students were being negatively perceived to provide them with rich learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations mostly found in the first lesson plan about an introduction. The reasons were 1) they were anxious about the material they got would be wrong, and 2) they were difficult to understand the material or examples they got by themselves.

4. CONCLUSION

EFL teacher was difficult in selecting learning methods or techniques based on students' characteristics and basic competency as well as learning indicators; selecting the steps which are continued with the association and completed with communication; conducting learning evaluation containing aspects of objectivity and consistent with efficiency; selecting the learning evaluation relate to learning indicators and evaluate learning process and outcome, selecting the learning media. EFL students were also difficult in connection, turning assignments through Google Classroom, understanding EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, disliking EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, being demotivated in learning EFL through Google Classroom learning platform, being negatively perceived in learning EFL through Google Classroom platform, and perceiving positively to provide them with rich with learning materials, plenty of examples, or varied illustrations.

5. REFERENCES


