Students and Parents’ Perceptions toward English Online Learning during Corona Virus Pandemic

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Abstract
E-learning secara dramatis mengubah proses pembelajaran. Akibatnya, baik guru maupun siswa harus bekerja keras untuk beradaptasi dengan proses tersebut. Menanggapinya perubahan tersebut, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi SMP, SMA, dan orang tua mengenai pembelajaran daring. Penelitian ini melibatkan 44 orang tua siswa, 24 siswa SMP, dan 20 siswa SMA. Data dikumpulkan menggunakan dua kuesioner. Data yang dikumpulkan dianalisis secara kuantitatif dalam bentuk persentase. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa siswa SMP menggunakan komputer/gawai untuk kegiatan pembelajaran daring; namun, mereka menganggap metode tradisional (pertemuan kelas langsung) lebih tepat daripada pembelajaran daring; (2) siswa SMA juga menggunakan komputer/gawai mereka untuk pembelajaran daring dan mendapat dukungan penuh dari guru mereka, tetapi mereka lebih memilih metode tradisional. Mereka menganggap metode tradisional lebih efektif daripada pembelajaran daring; dan (3) orang tua lebih menyukai metode tradisional daripada pembelajaran daring. Oleh karena itu, guru disarankan untuk kreatif dalam mengajar secara daring; orang tua diharapkan untuk terus mengontrol pembelajaran online siswa mereka. Diperlukan lebih banyak penelitian lagi agar lebih banyak informasi tentang pembelajaran daring dapat diperoleh.

1. Introduction
To most teachers and students, E-learning learning is something new. E-learning, as it is often called, has dramatically changed the manner and process of delivering learning courses and imparting necessary knowledge (Garbin et al., 2020; Rahmat, 2020). Consequently, both teachers and students have to work hard to adapt to the process. On the one hand, e-learning has opened a new and improved path of learning (Almaiah et al., 2020; Elfeky et al., 2020). At the university level, online learning has been applied widely nowadays. In some other parts of the world, especially in developed and some developing countries online learning has been students’ daily activity (Mailizar et al., 2020; Ramkissoon et al., 2020). In Indonesia, this has been used by leading universities. When using distance learning, students work online at home while the lecturer or teacher assigns work and checks in digitally. Studies show that technology integration in the higher and professional education world provides learners with an increased opportunity to control the learning process, as they can access learning materials with ease and convenience (Amit, 2020; Ja’ashan, 2020).

There have been a number of studies on parents and family support in students learning (Liando, 2012; Oostin, 2018). In particular, studies on parents’ understanding of, support for, and concerns about E-learning in countries where e-learning has been intensively used indicate that e-learning has some advantages for students. Primary school students, parents, and teachers have positive perceptions toward the use of computers, the Internet, and social networking sites (Mailizar et al., 2020; Ramkissoon et al., 2020). E-learning can improve the quality of students learning according to parents’ perception by providing them a wide variety of accessibility of learning.
materials (Amii, 2020; Ja’ashan, 2020). The students are not limited or restricted in any manner, regarding course materials, availability of faculty members, accessibility, and time-related issues.

In contrast with the above-mentioned findings, previous research found that the parents generally had negative beliefs about the values and benefits of online learning and preferred traditional learning settings (Dong et al., 2020). They tended to resist and even reject online learning for three key reasons: the shortcomings of online learning, young children’s inadequate self-regulation, and their lack of time and professional knowledge in supporting children’s online learning. Similarly, previous research found that overall, 77% of students have negative perceptions towards e-learning and concluded that students did not prefer e-teaching over face-to-face teaching during the lockdown situation (Abbasi et al., 2020). Administration and faculty members should take necessary measures for improving e-teaching for better learning during the lockdown. The implementation of online learning programs was a very great idea and is supported by the majority of the sampled students. However, what came up during the research is the high cost of participating in online learning. Last but not least, the study discovered that internet connectivity is limited. Briefly, parents tend to have both and negative-positive perceptions toward the use of e-learning.

Similar studies were also conducted to obtain information about students’ perceptions toward e-learning. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the previous research found that the students accepting the E-learning system with the desire to use it in a more advanced manner (Eze et al., 2018; Weng et al., 2018). The majority of the students think e-learning is an innovative idea and must be encouraged (Amalia & Brata, 2018; Soni et al., 2018). Students are deeply aware of the changes brought over by digital technologies, by their impact on the learning process. Using this type of educational technology in elementary, junior, and high school education in Indonesia, on the one hand, is a new practice that makes certain requirements for the material, technical, organizational, and professional attainment level of information technology (Astuti et al., 2021; Bastemur & Bastemur, 2015). On the other hand, the school community does not have the necessary competencies and range of tools to implement and use distance learning technologies. This dictates the need to study the condition of all the components listed above, as well as the readiness of the school community: teachers, dedicated specialists, administrative personnel, students, and their parents to implement and use distance learning technology.

Previous research findings stated that online learning could facilitate student learning (Khalil, 2018; Parker et al., 2021). Other research findings also state that online learning affects students to learn independently (Mpungose, 2021). It can be concluded that online learning can have a positive impact on students. There is no study regarding students’ and parents’ perceptions of online English learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. This study aimed to analyze the perceptions of students and parents towards online English learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that online learning can help students in independent learning.

2. METHOD

This study falls into the category of survey research or self-report study. In a survey study, the researcher infers information about a population of interest based on the responses of a selected sample drawn from that population; preferably, the sample is either purposely selected or randomly selected. The information is solicited from individuals using, for example, questionnaires, interviews, or standardized attitude scales (Gay et al., 2012). In this study there are two groups of population. One is parents, the other one is students. They live in the resort kepolisian housing complex in Amurang. In this study, two questionnaires were used to collect data to answer the research questions. The first questionnaire was used to assess SMP and SMA students’ perceptions; the second one was used for assessing their parents’ perceptions. The questionnaire for parents was adopted from previous research studies conducted by (Khan et al., 2021). The one for students was self-developed. The questionnaires were translated into bahasa Indonesia before they were used to collect the data. The data collected using questionnaires were quantitatively analysed in percentage.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result
There were four indicators in the questionnaire assessing online learning. The four indicators are the use of online, teacher support, interaction/group work, and students’ preferences related to online learning. This questionnaire was distributed to both SMP and SMA students. This analysis deals first with data from SMP respondents. The data relating to SMP Students’ use of computer/gadgets for online learning, showed that (1) majority of students (96%) always or usually used the internet (email and Whatsapp) to send their assignments to their teachers; (2) almost all of them (88%) always or usually asked their teachers questions to clarify instructional materials or tasks they were assigned to study or do; (3) majority of the students (92%) used their computers or hand-phones to get more information about the instructional materials or tasks given from other sources; (4) they (88%) always/usually use their computer or hand-phone to read the instructional material/tasks they were assigned
to read; (5) only a small number of them (3 respondents/12%) used their computer to find out how their tasks were assessed by their teachers. In short, the majority of the respondents always/usually used their computers or handphone for learning purposes.

The data that dealt with teacher’s support showed that (1) majority of the respondents (88%) indicated that their teachers always/usually willingly responded to their questions asked; (2) 95 respondents revealed that their teachers willingly helped them when they needed their help; (3) the teachers also usually/always immediately responded to their questions as indicated by 83% of the respondents; (4) 84% of the respondents indicated that their teachers always/usually motivated them to participate in online learning; (5) 87% respondents revealed that their teachers usually/always answered their question without giving more explanation about what was asked; (6) 83% respondents showed that their teachers usually/always provide necessary inputs in relation to the instructional materials/tasks that were given; and (7) 96% respondents indicated that their teachers were easily contacted when the respondents needed their help. In brief, the teachers were very helpful and always/usually a step behind when the respondents needed their help.

Data that dealt with student interaction and cooperation show that (1) majority of the respondents (96%) revealed that they were able and willing to cooperate with their classmates; (2) 88% of respondents tended to share their work/tasks with their classmates; (3) 92% respondents shared information they had with their classmates; (4) 83% respondents discussed their tasks or instructional materials received from their teachers with their classmates; (5) 96% of the respondents worked collaboratively with their friends, and (6) 96% respondents participated in group activities. Only a few of them, maximally 3 respondents or 12% rarely interacted or cooperated with their classmates online. In short, the respondents used their computers to interact, discuss, worked together with their classmates, and shared information among them.

The data relating to the respondents’ online learning preferences showed that (1) all the respondents (100%) strongly considered classroom meeting more effective than online learning; (2) all of the respondents (100%) considered online learning effective if it was accompanied with written instructional materials; and (3) they strongly agreed that instructional materials were easier to understand in classroom meeting than in online learning. In brief, SMP students living in Resort Kepolisian housing complex in Amurang preferred classroom meetings to online learning through computer/handphone, because it was more effective and instructional materials were easier to understand.

In connection with the use of computer/handphone, the data showed that (1) 95% of SMA respondents made use of computer/handphone to send their tasks or assignments to their teachers through email or WhatsApp; (2) 80% of them made use of the devices to ask their teachers questions; (3) 85% respondents used the devices to search for more information about the instructional materials given by the teachers; (4) 85% of the total respondents used the devices to read teacher’s notes related to the instructional materials/tasks given; and (5) 70% rarely or never used the devices to check how their teachers assessed the assignment sent to them. In brief, the majority of the respondents, minimally 80%, used computers/handphones to support their online learning. 70% of them rarely used the devices to check how their teachers assessed the task/assignments sent to them.

Concerning teacher support, It was revealed that (1) as with those reported by SMP respondents, 85% of SMA respondents indicated that their teachers always/usually willing to respond to questions put forward by their students; (2) 95% always/usually helped the respondents identify problems faced in their study; (3) 90% indicated that their teachers always/usually responded to their questions immediately after they were put forward; (4) 75% usually were willing to respond to the students’ question; (5) 80% of the existing respondents indicated that their teachers always/usually provided the answers to their questions; (6) 85% respondents indicated that their teachers always/usually provided more input or explanations to help them learn the instructional materials or do the tasks assigned to them; and (7) 85% showed that always/usually their teachers were easily contacted. In sum, the data indicated that their teachers strongly supported their online learning.

As with those at SMP, the data showed that SMA students used computers or handphones to interact or cooperate with their classmates. The data show that (1) 80% of the SMA respondents willingly used and had the intention to interact or cooperate with their classmates; (2) 80% of them used computer/handphone to compare their tasks/work with tasks/work of their classmates; (3) 85% of the respondents shared information they had with their classmates; (4) 85% discussed their learning materials/tasks with their friends; (5) 85% worked collaboratively with their classmates; and (6) 80% considered group working as an inherent part of their online learning. In brief, the majority of the SMA respondents willingly interacted, collaborated, discussed, and shared information related to their online learning materials/tasks with their classmates. Only a few of them or less than 20% rarely involved in group interaction or cooperation.

The data on SMA students’ preferences indicated that (1) 100% of respondents always/usually believed that direct classroom meeting is more effective than online learning through computer/handphone; (2) although 70% of respondents suggested that online learning plus written instructional materials make learning better than it was without written materials, 30% of the respondents seemed not sure about its effectiveness; and
(3) 100% SMA respondents fully confident that instructional materials presented in direct classroom meeting are better understood than those presented online.

As pointed out before, the questionnaire used to collect data related to parent perception on online learning is different from that used for students. The questionnaire consisted of 2 indicators, namely perception about online classes and teachers taking online classes. The data on parents’ perceptions about online learning showed that some parents agreed with some of the statements dealing with online classes; some others were neutral or disagree with the statements put forward. Concerning item No. 1, for example, most of the parent respondents did not consider it effective as most of the respondents strongly disagreed (34%) and disagreed (39%) with the statement; 4 (or 9%) respondents were neutral whereas 3 (or 7%) and 5 (11%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively. In item no.2, the traditional method of studying or direct classroom meetings is considered to be more effective than online learning. Of 44 parent respondents, 17 respondents (39%) strongly agreed, 16 or 36% respondents agreed, 3 or 7% neutral, and 8 or 18% respondents disagree. This indicated that the majority of the respondents considered the traditional method more favorable or fruitful than online learning.

In item no. 3, the respondents were required to put forward their opinions about the statement ‘Student still feel connected with the teacher’. Of all the respondents, 12 (or 27%) strongly agreed that students still felt connected with their teacher; 16 or 36% agreed; 6 respondents or 16% neutral, and 10 or 23% thought that students did not feel connected with their teachers. In other words, although 63% of respondents thought that students still maintained their relationship with their teachers, 37% of respondents were in doubt whether teacher-student relationships were still as close as they were before the pandemic. Item No. 4 requires parent respondents their opinions about the statement ‘Students miss their classroom classes’ (due to the pandemic). Of 44 respondents, 17 respondents (39%) strongly agreed and 22 others (50%) agreed that the students missed their class. Only 2 respondents (5%) were neutral and 3 or 7% disagreed. This indicated that the majority of the respondents worried about their sons/daughters’ academic progress.

In item no. 5, the respondents were to give their opinions about the statement: Practical subjects like science, Mathematics, and English need a face-to-face method of teaching. The majority of e respondents (20 or 45% strongly agreed and 21 or 48% agreed) indicated that these practical subjects can only be effectively learned if taught face-to-face in regular class meetings. It seemed that they were so worried about their sons/daughters’ academic progress in these subjects. The respondents were also required to give their opinion about the statement: My child enjoys online classes (item no. 6). The data obtained indicated that 7 respondents (16%) were neutral, 13 respondents (30%) disagreed, and 18 others (41%) strongly disagreed. The rest, 6 respondents (14%) strongly agreed or agreed. The data indicated that most of the respondents revealed that their sons/daughters did not enjoy online learning.

The respondents were to respond to the statement: Creativity is lost in online classes (item 7). The data collected indicated that 17 respondents (39%) strongly agreed with the statement; 16 respondents (36%) agreed, 6 or 14% neutral, and the rest, 5 respondents, disagreed and strongly disagreed. this, again, indicated that the respondents were worried about the effectiveness of online learning. The last item in this section required the respondent to comment on: Online classes are value for money. The data obtained indicated that of 44 respondents, 9 (or 39%) strongly agreed, 15 (or 34%) agreed, 10 (or 23%) neutral, 10 (or 23%) disagreed, and 5 (11%) strongly disagreed. The data seemed to indicate that their sons/daughters’ academic progress was not a matter of money or how much parents had to spend.

![Figure 1. Parents’ perceptions about online classes](image)

In the next section, parents were given five statement to comment. This section dealt with their perceptions related to taking online classes. Concerning item 9, for example, Teachers make extra efforts in online classes, the respondents provided the following responses: 16 (or 36%) respondents strongly agreed that since it is new to most them, teachers needed to work a bit harder; 21 (or 48%) respondents agreed that extra work was
needed in online class; 3 (or 7%) respondents were neutral in this case, while the rest, 4 (or 9%) respondents strongly disagreed. Briefly, majority of the respondents thought that online class needed extra work from the teacher.

Item 10 is For teachers, online teaching is a simple job. The respondents gave the following responses: 5 (or 11%) and 7 (or 16%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that basically teaching online classes was a simple job. In their opinions, the teacher just sat in from o his computer and delivered the material. The rest, 7 (or 16%) respondents were neutral, 14 (or 32%) disagreed, and 11 (or 25%) strongly disagreed. Those who were neutral, an, disagreed and strongly disagreed considered teaching online class was not as simple as sitting in front of computer and delivered the instructional material. It was more than that. Item 11, It is challenging job for the teachers, as it is tedious. The data collected indicated that 6 (or 14%) and 8 (or 18%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed with the idea that teaching online class was something boring. the rest, 12 (or 27%) were neutral, 10 (or 23%) disagreed, and the rest, 8 (or 18%) respondent strongly disagreed. Those who were neutral and disagreed considered teaching online class as something interesting. It is boring and monotonous if the teacher just sat in front of the computer and delivered the materials.

Item 12, Online teaching is extra work for the teacher. The data obtained indicated that 3 (or 7%) and 5 (or 11%) respondents considered teaching online class was as extra work. The rest, 6 or (14%) respondents were neutral, 18 (41%) disagreed, and 15 (or 34%) strongly disagreed. It seemed that those who were neutral and disagreed considered teaching online classes was not extra work. Teaching online class was the main job of the teacher and was similar to teaching in regular class. Item 13, Teachers are more trained for classroom teaching. The data obtained showed that 19 or 43%) and 21 (or 48%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that teachers were more trained for classroom teaching. the rest, 1 (2%) was neutral, and 3 (7%) disagreed. In other words, the respondents indicated that teachers were not prepared for online class. They were prepared for direct classroom instruction. They were to teach online class due to the pandemic.

Discussion

Based on the data findings above, First concerning, responses from SMP students, it can be said that concerning computer/handphone use, majority of the respondents always/usually used their computers or handphone for learning purposes. Technology can support the learning process (Fakhruddin et al., 2019; MacLachlan et al., 2018). During online learning, the teachers were very helpful and always/usually a step behind when the respondents needed their help. Teachers who help students while studying will make it easier for students to understand the subject matter (Brandmiller et al., 2020; Márquez-García et al., 2020). They used their computers to interact, discuss, worked together with their classmates, and shared information among them. Most of them preferred classroom meeting to online learning through computer/handphone, because it was more effective and instructional materials were easier to understand.

First, as with those from SMP, SMA students in the housing complex in Amurang used their computer/handphone to support their online learning. Mobile phones can also be used as a learning tool for students (Sophonhiranrak, 2021; Sunismi, 2015). They were fully supported by their teachers in their online learning. Furthermore, majority of the SMA respondents willingly interacted, collaborated, discussed and shared information related to their online learning materials/tasks with their classmates. Discussing and interacting in learning is also one way that makes learning fun (Edriati et al., 2015; Lailiyah & Wulansari, 2017). Only a few of them or less than 20% rarely involved in group interaction or cooperation. They were fully confident that instructional materials presented in direct classroom meeting were better understood than those presented online. To them, classroom meeting was more effective than online learning.

Second, as with their sons/daughters, parents living in the housing complex were not satisfied with online learning. Online learning was considered not effective by majority of parent respondents. According to them, traditional method was more favorable or fruitful than online learning. In addition, online learning made students did not feel connected with their teachers, and that they were worried about their sons/daughters’ academic progress, because their sons/daughters did not enjoy it. That is why they were so worried about the effectiveness of online learning. Some parents considered online learning expensive, but to some, online learning was not a matter of money. Concerning parents’ perceptions about teachers taking online classes, it can be briefly said that majority of the respondents thought that online class needed extra work from the teacher. They considered online class or online learning was not a simple job, because teachers were not trained for online learning. They were trained for classroom teaching. Online learning needed creativity on the part of the teachers in order not to make it tedious (Ferri et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020). It was boring and monotonous only if the teacher just sat in front of the computer and delivered the materials (Satyawan et al., 2021; Stover et al., 2016).
4. CONCLUSION

The majority of the SMP respondents used their computers or hand-phones for learning purposes. They used their computers to interact, discuss, worked together with their classmates, and shared information among them. However, they prefer classroom meeting to online learning, because it was more effective and instructional materials were easier to understand. The SMA students used their computer/mobile phone to support their online learning with full support from their teachers. Majority of the SMA respondents willingly interacted, collaborated, discussed and shared information related to their online learning materials/tasks with their classmates. However, they preferred traditional teaching to online learning. The parents were not satisfied with online learning. To them, online learning ineffective was ineffective compared to traditional method of teaching.

5. REFERENCES


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