

**English Department Third-Year Students' Perception toward
Full Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic at
Universitas Negeri Padang**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Partial of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor of Education
(B.Ed) in English Language Education Program*



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During the COVID-19 Pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang

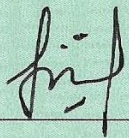
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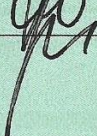
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Abstract

Agrefina. (2021). English Department Third-Year Students' Perception toward Full Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia has affected human life in various sectors, including education. The learning system from conventional classrooms to online learning brings various views or opinions from both teachers and students. This study aims to determine student perceptions of online learning that has been carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research was conducted at the English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang on 33 third-year students in the July-December 2020 semester. 25 statements were used in this study to find out how students perceive online learning. The result of this study is that students have a neutral perception of online learning that is being carried out during the pandemic with an average score of 2.87. However, the students considered that some platforms were considered inappropriate because they needed a lot of data packages to access, and there were platforms that could not be used to collect the assignments that had been done.

Key words: *Online learning, students' perception, platform, pandemic*

Abstract

Agrefina. (2021). English Department Third-Year Students' Perception toward Full Online Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penyebaran virus COVID-19 di Indonesia telah mempengaruhi kehidupan manusia dalam berbagai sektor, termasuk dibidang pendidikan. Sistem belajar dari kelas konvensional berubah menjadi pembelajaran daring mendatangkan berbagai pandangan atau pendapat baik dari kalangan pengajar maupun mahasiswa. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui persepsi mahasiswa terhadap pembelajaran daring yang telah dilaksanakan selama pandemi COVID-19. Penelitian ini dilakukan di jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Negeri Padang pada 33 mahasiswa tahun ketiga pada semester Juli-Desember 2020. 25 pernyataan digunakan dalam penelitian ini untuk mengetahui bagaimana persepsi mahasiswa terhadap pembelajaran daring. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah para mahasiswa memiliki persepsi yang netral terhadap pembelajaran daring yang tengah dilakukan selama pandemi dengan nilai rata-rata sebesar 2,87. Namun para mahasiswa menganggap bahwa beberapa platform dianggap kurang tepat karena membutuhkan banyak paket data untuk aksesnya, serta terdapat platform yang tidak dapat digunakan untuk mengumpulkan tugas-tugas yang telah dikerjakan.

Key words: *Online learning, students' perception, platform, pandemic*

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

This chapter presents the description of the introduction of this research. It consists of some parts which deal with background, identification, limitation, formulation, research questions, purposes, significances of the problem, and the definition of key terms. Each part is presented systematically.

Recently, the world has been shocked by the existence of the Coronavirus which has greatly troubled the whole world community. The appearance of this virus is classified as very dangerous because of its very fast and massive spread. Therefore, all activities of the world community are affected, such as economic, socio-cultural, and educational. According to Rajab (2020) quoted from Detik News, the Coronavirus has a bad impact on the continuity of world the education. This is proven by UNESCO's statement (5/3) that the Coronavirus has stopped learning activities of around 300 million students and 13 countries in the world have decided to close schools to avoid the spread of this virus.

The emergence of this virus has caused governments around the world to make emergency policies to anticipate the spread of this virus. The Indonesian government is also taking steps to overcome this problem. One of the solutions made by the government is to close various public places such as offices, schools, and campuses. All existing learning facilities have also been switched due to this pandemic. The solution that exists to overcome this problem is to do

all activities from home. Workers who are usually required to come to the office must work from home to fulfill their work obligations. The same thing has happened in the education system; teaching and learning activity is changed to distance learning, where the students and teachers conduct the learning activity from home, as known as online learning. According to Khan (2005), online learning is an innovative learning approach that can be done by anyone, anytime, anywhere by utilizing the development of digital technology which makes the learning system more flexible.

Students' perceptions of changes in the learning system are certainly different from one student to another. According to Wilson (1974), perception is how humans process information or phenomena. In addition, Slamento (2010) reveals that perception is an opinion or meaning given by a human to things that are received through the senses, be it sight, smell, hearing, touch, or taste. So, it can be concluded that perception is a human thought process towards certain information obtained. In short, it can be concluded that the student's perception is how students opinion toward a certain phenomenon.

There are many things that need to be considered in providing this online class, such as the devices like smartphones, personal computers, laptops, or other tools that will be used by each student and educator to conduct online classes, the availability of the internet network and the stability of the network so that the teaching and learning process can run smoothly, and so on. This change in the learning system from conventional methods to distance learning has also led to different opinions among students and educators.

In Indonesia, online learning is actually not a new thing. However, online learning itself is not a common thing to do, although higher education provides an online learning platform to use. Both students and educators are not prepared to carry out online learning (Maulipaksi, 2020). It will cause some new problems for students if they do not have adequate facilities and the availability of sufficiently qualified internet, especially for students who live in certain areas who have difficulty accessing the internet.

Technological advances in this century support government efforts to carry out activities online. This is evidenced by the availability of various digital platforms to support community activities. The use of the internet in education is very common in higher education (Hogg & Lomicky, 2012; Halawi, Pires, & McCarthy, 2009; Bhagat, Wu, Chang, 2016; Meng-Jung, 2009; Steel & Fahy, 2011). However, not all students are familiar with this. This is proven by the fact that conventional classroom procurement is mostly carried out in Indonesia where students study in schools with teachers directly.

In previous research, Mather and Sarkans (2018) have examined students' views of online classes and face-to-face classes. In this study, the researchers asked students' opinions about the differences between online learning and face-to-face learning. In this study, it can be concluded that university students prefer online learning because it is considered more flexible and saves time. Huss and Eastep (2013) have examined the interaction among students in online classrooms and conventional classrooms. As a result of this research, the students choose the best interactions to occur in conventional

classrooms. Anugrahana (2020) had also completed a study on the barriers and solutions of online learning that is being implemented as recommended by the government. The result of this research is the main obstacle in online learning experienced by students is the inadequate availability of internet access.

In this study, researchers tried to show in general how students think about online learning itself. This research carried out specifically in the English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang because so far there has been no similar research conducted. This study was different from some previous studies because this research is conducted only limited to students majoring in English at Universitas Negeri Padang and conducted on third-year students in July-December 2020 period. This study is aimed to know the perception of third-year students in the English Department towards online learning that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the study refer to how students' perception toward the platform used by the lecturers to carry out online learning process and how students' perception toward the learning activities that exist in the platform.

B. Identification of the Problem

There are several issues that can be discussed regarding students' opinions about online learning carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first problem is about the most platform used by the lecture to carry out the teaching-learning process. The second thing is about the platform used by lecturers to carry out online learning during the pandemic. And the third thing

that can be discussed is the learning activity used by lecturers to carry out online learning.

C. Limitation of the Research

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher limited this research to third-year students' perceptions toward online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic at Universitas Negeri Padang.

D. Research Question

Based on the identification and limitation of the problem, the researcher formulate the research questions as follows:

1. What is the platform mostly used by the lecturer to carry out the learning activity during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. How is the students' perception toward the most used platform used by the lecturer during the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. How is the students' perception toward the learning activity in the most used platform used by the lecturer during the COVID-19?

E. Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the researcher decide the purpose of this study as mentioned below:

- a. To find out what is the mostly used platform by lecturers in implementing learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b. To find out students' perceptions of the platform that mostly used by lecturers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c. To find out the students' perception toward the learning activity in the most used platform that used by the lecturer.

F. Significance of the Research

The results of this study are intended to provide information to the readers about how third-year students in the English Department perceive online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the platform that is most often used by lecturers in English Department in the July-December semester 2020. By knowing the students' perception about online learning, it is expected can help the lecturer to develop the learning activity to be more effective.

G. Definition of the Key Term

1. Online learning is a learning method that utilizes a digital platform to convey learning materials and discussions without face-to-face discussions that can be done anytime and anywhere as long as there are adequate digital devices and internet networks.
2. Students' perception is the student's perspective on an issue that is being discussed or discussed at a certain time.
3. Platform is a certain media used by a group of people to achieve certain goals.
4. Pandemic is a widespread and massive epidemic of disease that usually occurs in several countries and even continents.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of the data that has been obtained, it can be concluded that the platform used by the lecturers is considered appropriate for carrying out online learning, although the students experience some difficulties in terms of accessing these platforms. The students also thought that certain platforms cost more because they needed a lot of cellular data to access them. In addition, students also think that not all of these platforms can be used to collect the tasks that have been done.

B. Suggestion

1. The Lecturers

Lecturers are expected to be able to find a suitable and appropriate platform for students to carry out online learning during the pandemic. The lecturers are also expected to adapt the platform used to the students' access to the platform.

2. The Students

By holding online learning, students are expected to be able to take advantage of technological developments to find learning resources other than those provided by lecturers. Students are also expected to discuss with the lecturer the difficulties experienced during online learning.

3. Other Researchers

For researchers who will carry out similar research in the future, it is hoped that this research can be used as a reference. Researchers are also expected to develop other research related to online learning by using this research as a reading resource.

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