

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the research, significance of the research and definition of the key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

In the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the learning system in the world has turned into an online learning system (in a network) which is connected through computer networks. This is commonly referred to as e-learning that should use appropriate media in the learning process during the pandemic. E-learning is a formal learning system to make use of electronic resources. The essential component of e-learning is the use of computer technology and the Internet, (Maatuk *et.al*, 2021). When the COVID-19 virus appeared, traditional educational techniques were supplanted with e-learning because social gatherings at educational institutions were seen as a potential for the virus to spread. Overcoming the problems of spread virus, e-learning is the best choice available to ensure that diseases do not spread (Batubara, 2021).

E-learning is very crucial in a pandemic situation. To carry out without having to meet face-to-face between teachers and students (Ardiansyah, 2013). As a result, anyone can utilize e-learning as a medium for controlling learning. Chatting with friends or teachers, creating discussion forums, conducting learning consultations, and completing online assignments are just a few of the learning activities that may be done with e-learning media. Google Meet,

Google Classroom, Zoom, and other forms of e-learning are commonly utilized to give learning resources to students.

The formal education pathway at the secondary level consists of; high school (SMA/MA), and vocational high school (SMK). The difference between SMA/MA and SMK is that SMA/MA prioritizes theory while SMK prioritizes vocational practice or expertise in a particular field. The e-learning process in a pandemic situation such as learning materials, learning media and learning activities for SMA/MA and SMK is practically the same because it is based on a curriculum that has been set by the government.(Wijanarka, 2014)

There are two researchers that have conducted the research related with E-learning and Students' perception. Aboagye (2020) did a research entitled "Covid-19 and E-Learning: Challenges of Students in Tertiary Institutions". His finding was good in the challenges of students to use E-learning during Covid-19. Next, Triana *et.al* (2021) also did research entitled "An analysis of students Perception on the Use of Google Classroom in English Language Learning". She found that students' perception on the use of Google Classroom was good.

Because the researcher above has not yet done the research about the students' perception toward E-learning during Covid-19, So, the writer was interested to conduct a research entitled "An Analysis of the First Year Students' Perception Toward English E-learning During Covid-19 at SMK N 4 Padang". The writer wants to know the students' perceptions in e-learning English during Covid-19.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

There are several problems in e-learning for students at SMK N 4 Padang. The first problem is the learning material. Learning materials are printed and non-printed tools or media that contain and convey all learning events including learning instructions, learning objectives, topics, and subject matter. According to Aboagye, (2020) In e-learning situation, students find difficulties to understand the learning material due to the lack of direct explanations and examples from the teacher, so students are more silent and do not follow the lesson well. The second problem is learning media. In the current situation, the media that are most used by teachers are Google Classroom, Google Meet and Zoom as well as several video from You tube sent via WhatsApp Group. Some of media are not interactive. The third problem is learning activities. Learning activities are interactions between teachers and students during the learning process. Most of students are lazy to do interaction such as asking question to the teacher. This is related to student's focus, critical thinking, reflection and others. In the current situation, students' focus on learning is lack because the interaction between teachers and students are not good enough and students find difficulties to learn and they find difficulties to understand the material explained by the teacher.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited the study on the students' perceptions on the learning material, media used, and

learning activities during covid-19, especially for the first year students at SMK N 4 Padang.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the identification and limitation of the problem above, the researcher formulated the problem of the research namely “How is the first year students’ perception toward English E-learning at SMK N 4 Padang during Covid-19?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the research questions are as follows:

1. How is the first year students’ perception toward learning material of English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang?
2. How is the first year students’ perception toward learning media of English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang?
3. How is the first year students’ perception toward learning activities of English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang?

#### **1.6 Purposes of the Research**

The main purpose of this study is to describe the first year students’ perceptions toward English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMK N 4 Padang.

The specific purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the first year students’ perception toward learning material used in English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang.

2. To find out the first year students' perception toward learning media used in English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang.
3. To find out the first year students' perception toward learning activities used in English E-learning during Covid-19 at SMKN 4 Padang.

### **1.7 Significance of the Research**

The results of this study are expected to be useful for teachers, students of SMK N 4 Padang, and further researchers. For English teachers, teachers can have information about students' perception on English E-learning. For students, they knew their perception in E-learning. For further researchers, this research can be reference for the next research.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Term**

1. Perception is a person's opinion about E-learning
2. Positive perception is response that active, accept and support the object perceives.
3. Negative perception is response that passive, reject, and opposite the object perceives.
4. E-learning is a type of learning conducted digitally through electronic media, typically involving the internet.
5. E-learning materials are types of learning materials that are distributed through the internet.
6. E-learning media are media used in learning through the internet.
7. E-learning activities are synchronous online discussion activities, online self-assessments, and interactive learning objects through the internet.