

STUDENT'S PERCEPTION USING GOOGLE CLASSROOM IN ONLINE LEARNING IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC (A Survey at the Fifth Semester Students of English Education Department of Universitas Pekalongan)

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Abstract

The spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in many countries around the world has changed the learning teaching process in hisgher education sectors from face-to-face learning to online learning. Online learning platforms are solution to sustain the learning process such as Google Classroom. This study aims to describe how students' perceptions of Google Classroom and find out the benefits and challenges of using Google Classroom in online learning. The researcher involved 31 participant consist of students in fifth semester of english education of Universitas Pekalongan. This research study used a descriptive qualitative method and the data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. Five students were also interviewed to seek more information about their experiences during using Google Classroom. The result of the study showed that students' perception of Google Classroom share positive perception. Google Classroom was beneficial for students because very economical and affordable. Although this application not effective for discussion online, Google Classroom helped them in oline learning.

Keywords: Students' Perception, Google Classroom, Online learning

INTRODUCTION

In early 2020, the world experienced a mass pandemic. The pandemic is caused by a virus. Several countries in the world, including Indonesia, have been affected by a virus called Coronavirus. The pandemic has an impact on social activities and also impact on various aspects of life. The existence of this virus causes the entire world to experience a long-term pandemic. All daily activities are limited in order to prevent the transmission of the virus. The Covid-19 pandemic caused many workplaces to experience an economic downturn, where places of worship have closed. All activities whether working or worshipping are done from home. Instead of implementing a national lockdown, the government has focused on limiting social activities. Not only impact on several sectors, but the spread of this virus also has a major impact on the education system in Indonesia. This situation makes

the learning system change where every student still has to study even though it is limited by distance and time by applying online learning methods. To facilitate the teaching and learning process in the online learning, the teachers often use Learning Management System (LMS), a software application that can be used for administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and even delivering educational materials (Sibuea, 2018). With the development of technology in the 21st century, there are many choices of LMS that have been developed around the world, like Moodle, Schoology and many others. One of the LMS that is commonly used to facilitate online learning is Google classroom. One of the universities that have implemented an online learning system using Google Classroom as an online learning medium is Pekalongan University, especially in Semester 5 English Language Education program.

Google Classroom is a blended learning platform with interesting and simple features for schools. Google Classroom allows the teacher to create the classes, to provide students distribute the assignment, to send feedback easily and to see everything in one place instantly and paperless. Google Classroom also provides space to the students in the form of active and interactive learning which is packed in the collaborative learning. The choice of using Google Classroom is due to several advantages offered by the platform itself. On the other side, Google Classroom have many challenges. According to Pappas (2015) Google Classroom are limited integration option, too googlish, no automated updates, difficult learner sharing and editing problems. It is difficult for teacher to manage teaching materials and to set deadline for assignments because Google Classroom is not synchronized with Google Calendar or any other calendar. That is why Pappas define Google Classroom as too “googlish”. There is no auto-update feature in Google Classroom; it makes learners miss an important announcement because they should refresh it regularly. The existence of such obstacles will inevitably lead to a variety of perceptions from students, especially the major of English Education Department Universitas Pekalongan. Thus, the perception will arise because the learning system that usually uses the face to face method turns into total online learning. Student’s perceptions of this learning process will vary such as the pros and cons of changing this system from English Education Department student’s while using online learning application in their learning process during pandemic. So it’s important to identify the best platform to teach student. It could be shown by knowing the students’ perceptions toward using the platform that has been used as long as the online learning activity. It has inspired the researcher to focus on exploring more about the students’ perception of their learning process using

Google Classroom. In addition, this research also aims to reveal the benefits and challenges regarding the use of Google Classroom in their learning process.

1. Perception

Perception is preceded by sensing of human thinking about certain phenomenon, stated by Walgito (2003:87). Perception is started from the sense of organ. This process is related to the acceptance of message or information by human brain. In this process, a person interact with his/her environments using five senses. Those are vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. People interact with the environment using these sense, then the stimuli will be registered by brain and send them to nervous system. It is a kind of neurological activity that deals with associative learning. Humans percept something through their sense and interpret their perception through their action and ideas.

2. Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a tool that facilitates students and teachers collaboration; also teachers can create and distribute assignments for students in an online classroom for free (Beal 2017). Google Classroom provides several advantages for the users especially in teaching and learning process. Google Classroom does not need any cost. It is free for anyone because it can be installed for any types of smartphone. Lecturer can give some feedback related to the student’s assignment individually. The students can revise their assignment when it is needed. They also can get their mark after it has been checked by the lecturer. In spite of various benefits, Google Classroom also has some limitations. Students often get late notification whenever there is an update information from teacher especially when there is an online discussion. Students have to keep refresh the comment coloumn to get notification. In spite of some drawbacks, we can conclude that Google Classroom is a good thing for

students and teachers. With Google Classroom, learning process can be effective and efficient.

3. Online Learning

According to Mohammadi (2010), online learning is commonly referred to as the intentional use of networked information and communications technology in teaching and learning. Online learning makes it easy for users to access learning materials anywhere by using the internet. Online learning is emerging as the paradigm of modern education because it can be done in a very easy way without having to meet face to face in a classroom and just by relying on an application based on an internet connection, the learning process can take place. Online learning makes learning process easier, such as, sharing material or file, and submit tasks. E-learning also has been applied in many institutions (e.g. school and university). Through e-learning, both teacher and students can easily to communicate.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used qualitative research. This tried to explore the phenomenon related to student's perception using Google Classroom. the researcher used descriptive qualitative as a research design. The deeper and more detailed the data obtained, the better the quality of this qualitative research. The research involved 31 participants consists of students in fifth semester of English department in Universitas Pekalongan. The use of descriptive qualitative was appropriate for the research purpose because the researcher wanted to report the result. Furthermore, the participants of the interviewers were 5 students. The researcher had made sure that interview gave the detailed information about students' perceptions. In collecting the data needed for this research, two instruments were used; questionnaire and interview. They were asked to fill the

questionnaires using google form, all of them asked to share their perceptions of using Google Classroom. The interview was conducted to clarify some information from the questionnaire. In analyzing the data, researchers will use the Miles' theory, Huberman & Saldana (2014), suggesting that the activity in data analysis consists of three procedures. First is data reduction, researchers will collect the data about students' perceptions and find out the benefits and challenges faced by students of online English learning in the Covid-19 pandemic at Universitas Pekalongan. Second is data display the researcher will present the data in the form of narrative text. Third is drawing conclusion Researchers will conclude the main points from all the data that has been collected, so that it will become clearly. The conclusion will be an answer the information of problem in the beginning.

FINDING(S) AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is divided into three part, which is a student's perception using Google Classroom, the benefits, and the challenges faced by students.

Table 1. Students' Perception using Google Classroom

N	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	It help comprehend material better	6,5%	67,7%	19,4%	0%	6,5%
2	It has many useful features	12,9%	58,1%	29%	0%	0%
3	It made student more	0%	35,5%	41,9%	0%	22,6%

	active					
4	Always use this application during pandemic	35,5 %	51,6 %	9,7 %	0%	3,2%

From the table above, it can be seen that 67.7% of participants agreed that Google Classroom help them to comprehend material from lecturer better. Google Classroom has many useful features it can be seen that 58.1% of participant agree that Google Classroom support them in online learning process such as for submitting assignment, providing a material from leacturer and also can make a group discussion. By using Google Classroom, students become more active in online learning it can be seen that 41.9% of participants choose neutral because Google Classroom didn't make their communication and interaction comfortable for students. This statement result means there are students in the middle between agreeing and disagreeing with the statement. Google Classroom is the most used application during pandemic it can be seen that 51.6% of participants agreed with the statement. Because it has benefits and support those during online learning process. Based on the result from the interview about their perceptions while using Google Classroom, some students feel that Google Classroom really helped them a lot during online learning process. Because is helpful to supporting students online learning process. Google Classroom can be used for submitting assignment, receiving assignment, receiving material from lecturer, doing a discussion with group of friend and lecturer also it's very economical to use because doesnt require large mobile data.

Table 2. Students' Perception about the benefits using Google Classroom

N	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Easily to access	35,5 %	51,6 %	9,7 %	0%	3,2%
2	give assignment due date	29%	58,1 %	12,9 %	0%	0%
3	very economical	38,7 %	48,4 %	12,9 %	0%	0%
4	immediate feedback	3,2%	54,8 %	38,7 %	0%	3,2%

Based on the results of the questionnaire, majority of participant agreed that 51.6% students can easily access the material and submit or receiving assignment from leacturer without any obstacles. Because students already familiar with those features. Google Classroom give students running record of their assignment due date it can be seen that 58.1% students agreed with the statement. It made students didn't miss any assignment or information about assignment due date so students can submit their assignemnt on time. Google Classroom very economical and affordable in internet consumption, it can be seen that 48.4% of participant chose agree with the statement. Google Classroom is benefical to use in outside classroom because students can access it whenever they are. Google Classroom give students immediate feedback from lecturer, it can be seen that 54.8% of participants chose agree with the statement. for example

when students submitting their assignment or when they are in a group discussion, but mostly for their submitted assignment. Based on the result from the interview about their perceptions about the benefits using Google Classroom, students felt that Google Classroom can help students to support their learning process. For example, unsubmit assignment features. Students have a benefit to unsubmit their assignment when there is an error while doing the assignment. Google Classroom was quite helpful because with just one email only can connected to all Google accounts and Google Classroom itself was very economical and efficient to use. So the majority of interviewers agreed that Google Classroom is beneficial to use in online learning.

Table 3. Students' Perception about the challenges using Google Classroom

No	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	requires long time to master its use	3,2%	19,4%	32,3%	6,5%	38,7%
2	lack of access to any device at home	3,2%	25,8%	32,3%	16,1%	22,6%
3	Google Classroom has a less attractive design look	9,7%	35,5%	35,5%	3,2%	16,1%

4 needs a large data selular to access it 3,2% 16,1% 22,6% 6,5% 51,6%

From the table above, it can be concluded that 38.7% of participants chose strongly disagree that requires long time to master its use. Because students get familiar with the features so they can easily access Google Classroom without any obstacles. Students have lack of access to any device at home, it can be seen that 32.3% of participants chose neutral with the statement which means some students have an access to any device such as mobile phone or computer and some students faced difficulties with the device. Google Classroom has a less attractive design look it can be seen that 35.5% chose neutral and agree with the statement. So it can be concluded that for agree statement student agree that Google Classroom has a less attractive design look so can make students get bored easily while using Google Classroom for their online learning medium and for neutral statement students in the middle between agreeing and disagreeing with the statement. Based on the result from the interview about their perceptions about the challenges using Google Classroom. Students faced problems when it comes to discussion online because students have to keep refreshed the comments column to get an information update.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis about students' perception on the use Google Classroom, students gave a positive perception. According to the data result that Google Classroom make it easy to support students in online learning because it has features that can help students such as for collecting task, discussions between students and teacher and receiving a

material from teachers. Some students felt that Google Classroom make it easier for students to understand the material better and make students be active in learning process. So, the use of Google Classroom as a learning medium is very helpful for students during the pandemic. Beside, the use of Google Classroom has other benefits that can facilitate students in online learning. Based on result of the data showed that Google Classroom facilitates students to interact with teachers for discussion or online assessment. The benefits that students get from using Google Classroom is reduce learning cost beacuse Google Classroom is very economical and affordable learning platform which enable the students to learn anywhere and anytime with teachers and friends wihtout needing large cost data consumption. Another reason why students find using Google Classroom is affordable because they can doing an assessment via online which is it can save their time, it means they can do the online task anytime without having to go to school. On the other hand, students also experienced obstacles when learning through Google Classroom. Students felt that Google Classroom is less effective, especialy when conducted online discussion. The obstacles in discussions using Google Classroom make students have to refresh comment coloumn to get notification. The late notification made some students missed the information from teacher or when conduct a online discussion. Beside, Google Classroom appearence looks monotonous that made students feel bored when using Google Classroom in learning process. This research is expected can help teachers to choose online learning applications that suit student's need that can support them in digital or online-based learning so the distance learning can be carried out properly.

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