

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, problem statements, the objectives of the research, the benefits of the research, and the scope of the study.

A. Background of the Study

In this era of globalization, internet is popular for Indonesians. It is undeniable that the internet is very easy to operate and very helpful to communicate. Dreyfus (2009) states that the internet is not just a new high-tech innovation: it is a new category of technology innovation; one that carries out the very essence of technology. Curiosity about information and communicating with other people makes the internet one of the right and easy technologies because it can be operated anytime and anywhere. The role of the community in the development of technology generated from the internet extends to various groups, ranging from officials, company employees and, students.

The use of the internet as a communication medium is closely related to the use of social medium such as messenger or chat applications. One country that is quite active in the use of social medium is Indonesia. The development of the internet accompanied by advances in technology made the human communication process more effective. Not only for communication, but the use of the internet can also be used to maximize learning or teaching. One of the things that people learn the most in the world is English. English is an international language. A unifying language that can connect various nations. Learning English, of course, is not an obligation. But mastering English is a privilege.

There are many ways we can do to make it easier to learn English by utilizing technology. One of them is Whatsapp. Beal (2018) states that WhatsApp is the name of a mobile messaging app for Android, iPhone, Windows Phone, or Windows PCs. Whatsapp lets users make free voice calls, face-to-face video calls or text messages. This application is used a lot to communicate. Both interpersonal communication and group communication. Whatsapp has helped people stay connected. The applications tend to be lightweight and very easy to use. Maybe that's

why so many people like it. Most people in Indonesia use Whatsapp messenger because Whatsapp is private and very easy to use and doesn't take up a lot of quotas.

Currently, the world is struggling to overcome a disease outbreak affected by a virus called corona or identified as Covid-19 (Corona Virus Disease). And the virus is causing Pandemic all over the world. Millions of peoples have been exposed to this virus worldwide, even hundreds of thousands have died. The complexity of handling this virus has made world leaders implement super strict policies to break the chain of the spread of Covid-19. Social Distancing is a tough choice for every country. The Social Distancing policy has a fatal impact on the wheels of human life, the most important thing is economic problems because it touches all levels of society. Especially in the field of education.

The Government's decision to close all schools in all countries or move learning from school to home make parent confused, let alone those who find it difficult with the learning process from home using the online method. Lack of readiness for school stakeholders hinders the learning process. This shift in learning methods forces various parties to follow the path that can be taken so that learning can take place. The best option is to use technology as an online learning medium. One of the schools affected by the pandemic and requiring students to learn from home is SMP Negeri 1 Musuk. Therefore, the school changed all learning methods from offline to online.

Most of the students at SMP Negeri 1 Musuk live in signal-constrained areas, and the internet quota is limited, which hampers learning there, especially learning English. Therefore, the school is trying to solve this problem with several existing social medium platforms. As a result, WhatsApp is the only learning medium used. Theoretically, Whatsapp is a simple application, a simple operating scheme makes the program available to a wide variety of people of all ages and backgrounds, especially students. WhatsApp allows communication with anyone who has a Smartphone, has an active internet connection, and has installed applications. On the other hand, this application does not always require a good signal to operate, and also does not take up much internet quota. There is also a WhatsApp group feature that makes the learning process easier. Therefore, WhatsApp is the right platform to be used as an online learning medium at SMP Negeri 1 Musuk.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the learning chosen is a learning method using Whatsapp messenger through group chat with a discussion system. So the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled **“THE USE**

OF WHATSAPP MESSENGER AS A MEDIUM FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH AT THE EIGHTH GRADE OF SMP NEGERI 1 MUSUK.”

B. Problem Statements

The researcher formulated problem statements based on the background of the study as follows:

1. How is the whatsapp used as the learning medium at SMP Negeri 1 Musuk?
2. What are the problems faced by teacher and students is using whatsapp in the teaching and learning process of English at SMP Negeri 1 Musuk?
3. How do the teachers overcome the problems?

C. Objectives of the Study

From the research problems above, the objectives of the research are to:

1. find the strategies applied by the teachers to use whatsapp as a learning medium in SMP Negeri 1 Musuk,
2. analyze the problems faced by the teacher and students in using whatsapp for learning English at SMP Negeri 1 Musuk, and
3. analyze the way teacher overcome the English learning problems in SMP Negeri 1 Musuk.

D. Benefits of the Study

In this research, the researcher expects that the research has benefits both theoretically and practically as follows.

1. Practical Benefits

a. For the researcher

This study gives information about the problem faced by teachers and students and knows the way how to solve the problems, specifically in term of the use of social medium (Whatsapp).

b. For the students

For the students, hopefully, this study provides information about Whatsapp Messenger as a good and,alternative medium to learning English.

c. For the teacher

For the teacher, hopefully, it can help the teacher to teach English with Whatsapp Messenger for the eighth-grade students in *SMP Negeri 1 Musuk*.

d. For the next researcher

Hopefully this research can be a reference for other researchers who has same research.

2. Theoretical Benefit

It is expected that the result of the research can give a contribution to the language teaching and learning in general so that the learning process becomes easy using WhatsApp Messenger.

E. Scope of the Study

The researcher gives the scope of this study to limit the focus of the research. For this study, the researcher focused on how to use Whatsapp Messenger as a medium for learning English at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 1 Musuk.