



Teachers' Preparations in Teaching English through Online Learning

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Abstract. This research aims to know teachers' preparations in English through online learning at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk. This research used a descriptive qualitative research method which the researcher describes the data from the research. The data in this research were obtained by online interviews on the research subject which involved 9 students of 11th graders who have intention to teachers' preparations in teaching English through online learning. The results of this research show that the students' perceptions of teachers' preparation in teaching English through online learning. Researchers divided students' perceptions into 5 categories. The first is teacher' attitude and personality, the second is teachers' teaching method or strategy, the third is knowledgeable teacher, the fourth is the way teachers deliver material to students and the fifth is online learning. Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that teachers have an important role in the learning process, both in terms of attitudes and the way teachers teach, especially in online learning. Good and correct teaching methods will motivate and increase students' interest in learning. Vice versa, the wrong way of teaching will make students bored and lose interest in learning. Therefore, students are sometimes lazy to participate in online learning. Especially in SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk most likely caused by the online learning process and the teacher's teaching style factors.

Keywords: Students' Perception, Teachers' Preparations, Online Learning.

1 Introduction

In early March 2020, the government began implementing a social distancing policy for all Indonesians which was caused by the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019, known as Covid-19. It is a disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) viruses. Based on Circular No. 15 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Learning from Home in an Emergency for the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), all face-to-face learning activities have been temporarily stopped and switched to online learning system. Serious disruptions in educational activities created by the pandemic outbreak of Covid-19. The shift of transferring teaching and learning into online teaching obliged by Covid19 Pandemic has become an indispensable part to persist continuous learning for all students at all levels. Online

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learning is a flexible approach that allows students to study wherever they are aligned with other life commitments based on digital technology tools. The development of digital technologies opens up many opportunities in different areas of life, including education [1]. It is an internet and technology educational instruction that mediates and facilitates the learning process. [2] Online learning is also considered as e-learning. E-learning, correspondence education, flexible learning, and massive open online courses are online education changes and determination in learning system shifted from traditional teaching mode [3]. Tung in [4] mention the characteristics of online learning, among others; teaching materials are presented in the form of text, graphics, and various elements of multimedia, communication is carried out simultaneously and not simultaneously like video conferencing, chats rooms, or discussion forums, used for learning at virtual times and places, various CD-ROM based learning elements can be used for improving learning communication, teaching materials are relatively easy to update, increase the interaction between students and facilitators, allows formal and informal forms of learning communication, and can use a wide variety of learning resources on the internet. Another major factor for supporting online learning is platform usage such as Google Meet, Zoom, Edmodo, Cisco Webex, Google Suite for Education, and WhatsApp. Various online platforms widely used by teachers include Whatsapp, Quipper, Zoom, Google Classroom, Edmodo, etc [5]. By using WhatsApp, someone can chat online, share files, and exchange information. Online-based education certainly still requires the role of the teacher [6]. The role of teachers is very important to run an online successful learning [7]. Online learning requires teachers, including English teachers to make various preparations before teaching so that the material can be conveyed properly.

Teachers' preparation is highly demanded in online teaching. One way to determine the quality of a teacher can be seen from their readiness to teach. Teachers' readiness is revealed by their appropriate learning tools. The appropriate English learning tool is very important in the effort to achieve the purpose of learning English online [8]. Teacher must be able to plan and empower learning opportunities that allow all students to continue to develop. Teachers must use various strategies to learn the material with different skills and knowledge in each class and must have creativity in choosing material and motivate students to learn [9]. The teacher must also be able to anticipate and respond to the various ways students understand the material and must be able to anticipate and respond if the students misunderstand the material taught by the teacher in the online teaching and learning process. Teachers' ability during the implementation of learning is one requirement that must be owned a teacher [8]. The plan made by the teacher must be in accordance with the concepts of education and learning contained in the curriculum. During a pandemic, teachers should be well prepared to adapt to such conditions. This situation teaches us that learning can change based on the situation. Teachers are required to remain professional [10]. Teachers' knowledge and skills should be expanded and teachers should learn how to utilize technology effectively in their teaching [11]. Teachers' competence must also be continuously improved for the continuity of the learning process and the achievement of the learning objectives itself. An effective teacher can make students get greater achievement than those unfortunate enough to have a succession of ineffective teachers [12]. This pandemic situation is a

challenge for teachers. The teacher must be ready and be able to develop creativity in the use of technology thus learning is conveyed well. The readiness of human resources is an important part of the successful implementation of distance learning, this readiness is related to the ability of teachers and students to use and manage all technological systems used in the distance

learning process [13]. During normal times, a teacher prepares the material to be delivered, builds credibility as a communicator, recognizes student character, and understands rhetorical techniques. Whereas during a pandemic, the teacher is required to know and understand the types of internet-based information technology, how to take interesting pictures, use short and dense language so that it is easy to understand, recognize student characters, know the use of internet learning applications, and prepare tools technology as the basis for delivering the material. Technology has the greatest role in raising learners' awareness, providing knowledge and facilitating learning the English language stated revealed by educators and researchers [14]. Learning online is something new for students. Learning carried out through the online system has an impact on reducing the intensity of interaction between students to the level of saturation in learning. The saturation that generally occurs will affect the learning process so the researchers intended to find out students' perceptions of English teachers' preparation in online learning.

Perception is a process where students can make the process of observing something complex by responding to something and the information around them by using their own five senses so that they are able to know, understand and also realize something [10]. It is a process preceded by the sensing process [8]. Students' perception shows the teachers' pedagogical ability in relation with the effective online learning. Teachers' knowledge of general pedagogical activities, including strategies for motivating students, presenting information, student assessment, and classroom management [15]. The growing motivation for learning in each student is the most important thing to do before teaching [16]. The perception process itself also helps teachers become more aware of and connected to everything outside and transforms it into sensory information by collecting or interpreting it [10]. Students' perception is students' opinion or understanding of materials or information that has been received by students when learning activities occurred. Students had their own belief toward something that they catch from teaching and learning process and how they extend toward it [17]. The students' perceptions of e-learning are important since it can improve the motivation of material's understanding, and also to help the readiness in the lecture [18]. The learners' perception of English online learning will be needed to motivate and further improvement [7]. The important implication of learners' perception of learning a foreign language will influence further learning and teaching process [19]. It is also related with students' opinions about the effective use of the online teaching platform. Students' perceptions of the efficacy of learning platforms and online interaction, the improvement of language skills, and self-regulation skills [20]. The perception of students on online learning related to the advantages and disadvantages, and challenges of online learning [21]. The theory used in this research is derived from [8] argued several students' perceptions of teachers namely teacher's attitude and personality, teacher's competence, teacher's motivation, and teacher's learning method or strategy. In summary, online

learning provides a different experience for students either the knowledge or the atmosphere will create a perception in every student. Thus, in this online learning, the teacher must be more creative in choosing methods, strategies, approaches and ways to communicate with students, therefore students will not get saturated. Based on the aforementioned issues, it is important to know students' perceptions of English teachers'

preparations in SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk, especially in online learning. Therefore, the researchers are interested in conducting a research entitled "Students' Perceptions of Teachers' Preparations in Teaching English through Online Learning".

2 Method

The research design of this research was qualitative. Qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what research subjects experience holistically, and utilize descriptions in the form of words and language. By using qualitative methods in this research, in-depth and meaningful data can be obtained so that research objectives can be achieved. This research has been conducted at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk which is located at Jalan Lemuru No.118, Tombang Permai, Luwuk Selatan. The researchers were interested to take the 11th graders in SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk because one of the researchers has done the program of Magang III Terapan at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk and already taught the 11th-grade at that school. The researchers have used purposive sampling to examine this qualitative research. In this research, the researchers used the interview as the instrument. In this research, the researchers conducted online interviews with 9 11th grade students at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk to find out their perceptions of teacher preparation in teaching English through online learning. In the situation at that time, it was not possible to conduct direct interviews due to the spread of the coronavirus disease, the researchers applied the WhatsApp application to conduct online interviews. The data can be gathered online through WhatsApp from the responders [22]. The researchers used voice notes on Whatsapp to record the voices of the subject during the interview. The researcher asked several questions related to teachers' preparation for teaching English through online learning. The research data in the form of interview data have been analyzed through data reduction, data display/presentation, and conclusion drawing/verification.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 Presenting the Results

There is a wide variety of student perception result, but the researchers concluded the category of students' perception based on research theory used from [8]. The first is the teacher's attitude and personality, the second is teachers' teaching method/strategy, the third is a knowledgeable teacher, the fourth is the way teachers deliver material to students and the fifth is online learning. The research finding is answering the problem statements that were formulated before. The data are presented on observation through online interviews with the participants. In this section, the researchers presented the

students' perceptions of teachers' preparations in teaching English through online learning.

Students' Perceptions of Teachers' Preparations in Teaching English through Online Learning. The researchers conducted online interviews with several students of SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk from each class especially students who were interested in teachers' preparation in teaching English through online learning. The researchers analyzed and selected the data were important by doing reduction. Then the researcher determined some focuses and categories based on the data collected from the interviews.

Teacher' Attitude and Personality in Online Learning. The attitude of a teacher is also quite important and influences the student learning process. A good attitude will make students feel comfortable in receiving the material provided. Vice versa, a bad attitude will have an impact on the behavior and even psychology of students. This can be seen from the explanation of the students when researcher asked about "How do you feel during the lesson?"

(N): "*Senang tapi agak tertekan, karena depe guru itu kayak, agak jutek bagitu*" (Happy but a bit depressed, because the teacher is a bit unfriendly)

Teachers' Teaching Method/Strategy in Online Learning. In learning process, of course it will be very tedious and boring if only done with the same way continuously without any variation or entertainment. Moreover, through online learning. Besides being boring, online learning also makes students lose interest and enthusiasm in learning. This was revealed when researcher asked about "Do teachers use various method every time teaching?"

(B): "*Kalo ini sering sih, biasa tanya jawab tanya jawab atau biasa yang bisa jawab bisa keluar duluan bagitu*" (This often happens, usually asking and answering questions or usually those who can answer can come out first).

(B): "*Iyo beda skali e. Sa cuma suka pas pelajaran bahasa inggris pas depe barmain saja. Yang manganto jadi te manganto.*" (It's totally different tho. I only like English lessons when I'm just playing games. Those who were sleepy at first became not sleepy)

(AJ): "*tidak cuma mengajar to*" (no just teaching)

(AJ): "*Suka lah, malah lebe bagus kalo game jo turus supaya te bosan*" (I like it, it's even better if the game just keeps going so we don't get bored)

(B): "*Iya kadang guru saya suka memberikan game dan melawak*" (Yes, sometimes my teacher likes to give games and jokes)

From the answers of the students above, teachers who have various teaching styles such as giving games and quizzes can increase students' interest and enthusiasm in online learning.

Knowledgeable Teacher in Online Learning. Teachers are people who teach students about certain subjects that are relevant to their skills and knowledge. When teachers have good knowledge of certain subjects, they tend to have better communication skills in class. vice versa, teachers who have less knowledge, they will find it difficult to

explain the material and make the explanation difficult for students to understand. This was revealed when researcher asked about "Do you think the teachers master the material well?"

(B): *"Iya"* (Yes)

(B): *"dari depe ba jelaskan"* (from her explanation)

(MS): *"Iya menguasai"* (Yes she mastered)

(B): *"Iya karena dia mampu menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan siswa dengan jelas"* (Yes, because she was able to answer students' questions clearly)

(S): *"guru bahasa inggris sudah menguasai materinya dengan baik karena mampu menjelaskan dan menjawab dengan baik"* (The English teacher has mastered the material well because he is able to explain and answer well)

The Way Teachers Deliver Material to Students in Online Learning. Different from face-to-face learning, in online learning teachers are required to be more creative in teaching. This is because online learning makes students easily bored and do not even understand what is being conveyed. Thus, the teachers' way to delivers material to students is very important thing and also can influences the level of student understanding. This can be seen from the explanation of the students below:

(J): *"Saya merasa sedikit sulit karena terkadang guru tidak menjelaskan materi yang diberikan akan tetapi guru biasa memberikan video penjelasan dari berbagai sumber tentang materi tersebut"* (I find it a little difficult because sometimes the teacher doesn't explain the material given, but the teacher usually gives explanation videos from various sources about the material)

(J): *"Biasa torang yang disuruh cari sendiri, kalo guru biasa cuma bajelaskan sadikit baru dikase tugas"* (Usually we are instructed to find the material ourselves, the teacher usually just explains a little bit and then gives assignments)

(MS): *"Slow beh hahah apalagi lewat online bagitu bikin malas maso"* (too slow hahah especially through online makes lazy to join the class).

(D): *"Kalo menurut saya mungkin karena cuma lewat wa makanya itu mam bajelaskan te banyak kayak cuma singkat-singkat bagitu"* (In my opinion, maybe because it's only through wa, that's why the teacher explained not much, just shortened it).

(S): *"Ada biasa di poto akan materi den soal dibuku baru torang di suruh kerjakan. Cuma itu"* (Usually she takes pictures of the material and questions in the book and then she told us to finish it. That's it).

Teacher Interaction with students in Online Learning. Online learning is learning that is carried out by media intermediaries. The limitations of interaction when learning online can make it difficult for students to understand the explanations presented by the teacher. This can be seen from the explanation of the students below:

(B): *"Bagini ka alma e, kalo tatap muka langsung biasa sa langsung paham sdikit-sdikit hahaha. Cuma kalo online bagini jangan kan paham ka alma, itu ibu saja sa tetau bacarita apa hahaha"* (So it's like this ka alma, if I meet face to face, I immediately understand even though it's only a little hahaha. But, if only through online like this,

not only don't understand ka alma. That teacher, I don't know what she talking about hahaha).

(MS): "*Sama saja, tapi kalo dibandingkan dengan belajar di kelas macam lebe paham. Barang kalo lewat online bagitu depe guru macam mager*" (It's the same, but when compared to studying in class it seems more understandable. Because if through online, the teachers seems like as sluggish).

(B): "*Tatap muka. Banyak teman-teman yang lebih suka tatap muka daripada online karena banyak yang malas masuk kelas*" (Face to face. Many friends prefer face-to-face rather than online because many are lazy to take classes)

(B): "*Bingung karena cuma lewat wa*" (Confused because only through wa)

(S): "*Barang kalo lewat online cuma di ketik te bacarita langsung jadi susah.*" (Because online just type it in, don't speak directly, so it's difficult).

3.2 Create a Discussion

After finding some of the desired data above in the form of interviews, the researcher analyzed the findings and results of the research on students' perceptions of teacher preparation in teaching English through online learning. As explained in the data collection technique, the researcher used a qualitative analysis method on the data obtained by the researcher through online interviews. Qualitative methods are used as research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of words or spoken from people and observable behavior [23].

Based on the results of the research, the researcher focused on 11th graders' perception of teachers' preparations in teaching English through online learning at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk. The researcher interviewed 9 students of 11th grade from each class of TDPIB, TP, TL, TBSM, TKRO, TITL and TKJ. Before the process of collecting data through online interviews, the researcher made sure in advance that the students were ready and willing to be interviewed without any coercion. Thus, the opinions expressed by the students were truly valid. In this research, the researcher chose 11th grader as the research subject. The researcher selected students who were interested in teacher' preparation in teaching through online learning. From 8 classes of 11th grade, the researchers got 9 students from each class. 2 students from TL class, 2 students from TDPIB class, and 1 student each from TBSM, TKRO, TP, TITL, and TBKP classes.

- a. Teachers' Attitude and Personality in Online Learning. Teacher is the key to the success of students in teaching and learning activities, thus the teacher must be able to create an interesting atmosphere in the classroom by paying attention to their behavior and attitudes when teaching. Teachers' personality will appear as a hidden curriculum, which affects how to teach and educate [24]. Being kind and friendly to students will make students feel relaxed and comfortable while studying. Students spend a lot of time with their teachers and therefore, teachers become role models for them [25]. As a consequence, the teacher's bad attitude will affect the psychology of the students. This can be seen in the results of the interview above. In the interview, it showed that the teacher's unfriendly attitude resulted in students

being a little depressed. Of course, it will have an impact on student learning outcomes.

- b. Teachers' Teaching Method/Strategy in Online Learning. Students' motivation and interest are also influenced by the teacher's teaching method. Teachers who have various and interesting teaching method will increase students' enthusiasm and motivation in learning. It also can reduce the level of students' saturation during online learning. The use of mix platforms can be as a strategy to help both teachers and students to reduce the obstacles and getting increasingly comfortable with the use of online learning resources [22]. According to the results of interviews with several students above, most of the students stated that various methods such as doing some games and quizzes were fun and could entertain students.
- c. Knowledgeable Teacher in Online Learning. Teacher knowledge is the total knowledge that a teacher has at his or her disposal at a particular moment which, by definition, underlies his or her actions. Knowledgeable teachers can make the learning process in the classroom more interesting and fun. They are usually more relaxed in delivering material in class because of the breadth of knowledge they gain. In addition, they can bring many simple examples to illustrate a concept for students to understand. People who know a certain field well will be able to explain the concept in the simplest way. From the results of the interview above, it shows that the teacher has quite mastered the material. As stated by [26] to be an effective English language teacher, the teacher should be right on subject matter knowledge. This can be seen from the way she explains the material and answers students' questions.
- d. The way teachers deliver material to students in Online Learning. In another interview also showed that the teacher's teaching style, especially in delivering material to students also had an impact on students' understanding in learning. The chosen teaching methods must correctly reflect the learning process, to ensure that students successfully acquire competencies, knowledge, and skills [27]. Thus, the teachers were required to be more creative in choosing ways to deliver material that could make it easier for students to understand the material.
- e. Teachers' Interaction with Students in Online Learning. The transition to online learning has been a difficult time for students around the world. For students, the new format for their classes has left them with a lack of motivation which can affect their academic performance throughout the semester. Problems in students' own responsibility for learning, lack of time, bad course content, lack of motivation, low quality of instruction and/or family issues [28]. There are students who quickly understand and there are also those who don't. From some of the statements of the students above, most of the students said that online learning made it difficult for them to understand the material presented by the teacher. It makes most of the students not interested in attending class.

Online learning is very different from face-to-face learning, because the duration of time is different. If doing face-to-face learning, the teachers have enough time to explain the lesson to the students. On the other hand, online learning does not have much time, Even the time used is very limited. This will certainly make it difficult for teachers and students in learning, because the teaching materials are not absorbed properly as a

whole. This certainly makes teachers need to be more creative in planning a more effective learning process for students. Each student has different abilities in understanding the material presented by the teacher.

4 Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion that has been described in the previous part, there are two conclusions. First, motivation is an important part in the learning process. Each student has a different learning motivation. In this case, most of the 11th grade participants at SMK Negeri 2 Luwuk have low motivation and interest in English lesson. Thus, it affects their enthusiasm during the learning process. Second, Teachers' teaching styles play an important role in the learning process. In online learning, competent teachers are needed who are able to process the classroom and liven up the atmosphere in a variety of creative ways in order to build student motivation and reduce student boredom. Beside of the way of teacher teaching style, one of the difficulties for students in understanding the material it causes by online learning factor.

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