SKYPE APPLICATION: LEARNING MEDIA FOR EFL STUDENTS IN ONLINE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Skype is one of internet applications as communication media for the users. It facilitates direct communication among the users. Besides, Skype can be used as learning media in online learning when the lecturer and the learners discuss or learn English as a foreign language during Covid-19 pandemic. This paper will discuss about the advantages of skyping based on EFL students' perception when they used skype application during their online learning in Covid-19 pandemic. Skype application could help the lecturers and the EFL students when they did English teaching and learning process. They could meet in that application by using Group video of skype application although they could not meet in the classroom. It could be solved by using skype application during online learning in Covid-19 pandemic.

KEYWORDS: *EFL students, online learning, skype application*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, Technology usage in teaching and learning process becomes a trend way. Many educational sectors have to use technology as learning media which will be used by lecturers and students so they will be more familiar with the technology. The university level needs to prepare the learning media when they do online learning for the students. Besides, technology as an important role in education sector to make the lecturers and the students in communication.

Online learning must be done by the lecturers and the students during Covid-19 pandemic. online learning as an innovative approach to provide instruction and to remote students and it needs to use the web or internet as an intermediary media. Online learning is a type of instruction created with computer tools (Michael, 2020). Besides, online learning must have high authenticity. It means that the students must learn in the context of a work environment, high interactivity, and high collaboration.

Online learning is a teaching and learning process that utilizes the internet and digital media in delivering the material. Putria et al. (2020) found that online learning is a type of learning that takes place remotely using media like the internet and devices like computers and cellphones. The online learning method is considered closer to the current generation of students who are known to be very integrated with technology products. This is one form of digitalization in the world of education that has many benefits. In recent years, online learning methods have begun to be in great demand by various groups. This method is an alternative for a more flexible and practical learning process and it is preferred by the current generation of

students especially in Covid-19 pandemic.

In doing online learning, the lecturer and the students need to use innovative media to support their activities. Learning media is one aspect of learning that participates in determination of the success of the learning process other than lecturers, students, materials, methods, learning evaluation and learning environment. As one of the aspects in learning and teaching, the use of media often does not absolutely determine success or learning failure but more as a supporting aspect. That is, learning media is often only limited to increase the level of learning success to be better.

Monica and Fitriawati (2020) stated as a link between instructors and students, learning-supportive technologies like WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Skype, and Zoom Cloud Meeting are required. One of applications which can be used as media in online learning is skype application. Skype is an internet site which provides direct communication service where the speaker can contact the interlocutor with telephone facility and online image so the limitation of communication distance can be solved. Besides, skype is general application, it means that it is made not only for learning media but also for other interests. In fact, skype application can be used as learning media especially in online learning. It can be used as learning media when the lecturer and the EFL students teach and learn English as foreign language in their daily learning. So it is formulated that skype can be used as teaching and learning media and as a communication media for teachers and students.

2.0 METHOD

This research paper used descriptive qualitative research. The subjects of this research were the English as Foreign Language (EFL) students in State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri. They consisted of four students who used skype when they did online learning. The data collection technique which was used in this research paper was interview. The interview was done to the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PASKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri to get the data based on the purpose of this research paper. The data collection techniques were identifying the data based on the data collection, analyzing the data based on the purpose of the research and evaluating the data based on the results.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

Based on the results of the interview to the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri, there were some EFL students' perception in using skype application as a learning media in their online learning. The EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri had some perceptions based on their experiences during using skype application in their online learning. First, skype application could make easier their online learning process. They felt that their lecturers could deliver the purpose of the learning through skype application and the outcomes of online learning in the end of the semester. They could start the class meeting through skype application and they could get spirit from their lecturers in their first meeting when they did online learning during Covid-19 Pandemic. Besides, the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri could get their lecturers' explanation that they had to understand the condition during Covid-19 pandemic so

they could use skype application in doing online learning process.

Second, the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri had perception about skype application that could help the EFL students in getting interaction with their lecturer. Skype application could facilitate all of the EFL students in one meeting. The EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri also said that in their online learning, skype application could help them to communicate with their lecturer when they learnt English by using video conference of skype application. Besides, there were many features that support online learning more easily conveyed well to the EFL students at home. The EFL students also could get the material as well as explaining by their lecturers directly via skype application. The EFL students could ask questions directly to the lecturers like in classroom meeting. Learning was not only monotonous just doing assignments, but the EFL students also could get quizzes from the lecturers.

The third EFL students' perception about skype application in online learning was it could give the variation in online learning. The use of Skype application became one of variations which was used by the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri in learning English to support online learning. The EFL students usually used WhatsApp in her learning with their lecturers. Then, they tried to use skype application in their online learning with their lecturers. They also had opinion that they got innovation media from their lecturers their online learning. It could make the EFL students did not feel boring during online learning. The EFL students also felt that skype application had many benefits for them.

Another the EFL students' perception about skype application as a learning media in their online learning was it could make the situation of online learning to be more active. The online learning process was more active although it did not happen in the classroom. The situation was not boring and monotonous online learning. The EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri were not only doing assignment in their online learning activity, but also getting interaction and communication directly with their lecturers and other EFL students in the discussion. Before the lecture was started, they had opportunity from their lecturers in calling each other while waiting the others joined the video conference of skype application. Besides, the EFL students also got the opportunity to ask some questions after their lecturers explained the material. They could get the active participation score during online learning process through video conference of skype application.

3.2 Discussion

The use of skype application as learning media for EFL students has many benefits in online learning during Covid-19 Pandemic. The English lecturers did online learning during Covid-19 pandemic had purpose to do English learning process for EFL students. According to Kurniasari et al. (2020), whether teaching offline or online, the lecturer needs to be aware of the learning objectives. In addition, Kuntarto and Asyar (2016) stated that media was required as a result of technological advancements in order to accomplish the learning goal and increase the effectiveness of the learning process. The learning media which could be used in online learning for EFL students in learning English during Covid-19 pandemic was skype application and it could motivate the EFL students to learn English. It was related to the research which was done by Hidayati et al. (2021), skype could provide opportunities to stimulate student's learning motivation.

In Febrianto et al. (2020) also said the interaction between the lecturer and the student was one of the learning principles in online learning, and it was interactive. The English lecturer

and the EFL students could use skype application to get interaction among them via video conference of skype application in their online learning. Besides, Nuhadi (2010) found that skype media can overcome the limitations of class distance between lecturers and students because it can be done from remotely with an internet connection.

Nowadays, online learning might occasionally make for a boring situation. To keep the EFL students' interest high, the English lecturers needed variety. One of the English lecturers' efforts to make a variety in English online learning was using skype application which could help to make an innovation in online learning although the English lecturers could not meet the EFL students directly. So it could take the online learning's benefit. It was related to Siahaan (2020) who stated that ability to learn in a variety of ways allowed the students to advance their thinking, which was beneficial for learning.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Skype application was one of the technology developments in the online learning and it could use as the learning media. The online learning during Covid-19 pandemic needed skype application especially for video conference to do English teaching learning process which was done by the lecturers and the EFL students. The English lecturers and the EFL students of State Polytechnic of Malang PSDKU Kediri and university of Nusantara PGRI Kediri used skype application during online learning.

Skype application which was used as learning media by the English lecturers and the EFL students gave the benefits in their online learning. The benefits of skype application based on the EFL students' perception were making easier to achieve learning outcome, making easier to get interaction with the lecturers and giving variation in online learning.

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