The Use of Media in Speaking Skills in The Classroom During the Covid 19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to share media information in learning English speaking skills during a pandemic. There are many media that must have become alternative materials in learning at school, such as WhatsApp. The media is used to share information when learning takes place. In this article, we will discuss several media that can be used in the teaching and learning process during a pandemic, namely, Vlog, WhatsApp, Storyline Articulation, and Hand Puppet media. The use of this media can make students and teachers active in learning. Surely, they will get an even more interesting experience in the application of the media.

KEYWORDS: *media online learning, vlog, WhatsApp, storyline articulation, hand puppet*

INTRODUCTION

At this time, we know that on earth there are various kinds of diseases, especially the covid-19 virus disease. The spread of this virus has made all the affairs of the world difficult, from an economic, social, cultural point of view, especially education. During the pandemic it is difficult to carry out activities outside the home, because the government has issued regulations for its citizens to stay indoors. If they want to go out, they have to keep their distance and wear masks, people are also prohibited from gathering because this virus will spread more easily if we gather together. Therefore, education during this pandemic is carried out online teachers, parents and students are required to understand using technology so that learning can run well. Technology has a relationship with the process of learning English. This has become a means of learning English in the form of software and hardware. Technology has also been equipped with the internet which can connect us to the outside world. Therefore, the Internet plays an important role in the world of education. (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019) In English classes the internet has become popular. for teachers and students. This is a challenge in conducting an effective learning process. In learning English, we need 4 skills that must be mastered, namely Writing, Reading, Listening and Speaking. Of the 4 mentioned, speaking skills are quite difficult if the learning is done online. Because these skills require hands-on training and practice. In online learning, we have many media that can be used to practice improving English speaking skills, such as vlogs. Safitri & Khoiriyah, (2017) state that this video blog can get a wider experience. Although learning is done through the media, English speaking skills are really needed.

English is a language that has been used in this world, therefore we really need English speaking skills to welcome a better world. Wijaya (2018) states that an application that uses

language is defined as "speaking". Speaking has a meaning where a language activity is used to communicate with other people or show a language skill. Lestari (2019) Speaking is a very important skill to communicate in language learning. Speaking skills must be trained continuously so that communication is carried out well. The teachers expect their students to communicate well using English, but many students also fail to develop their speaking skills in English. That's due to lack of vocabulary mastery, motivation to practice, fear of being wrong, and lack of attention in practicing in class or at home. In order for the training to run smoothly and effectively, the need for support and motivation from teachers and parents to assist students in learning English speaking communication, this is also important to prepare students for their future in the world of work later.

Teachers have been required to always make new innovations in learning English speaking skills, especially with this pandemic period, where learning is not done face-to-face but through online media. Speaking is the most difficult skill to teach in learning English during a pandemic. Then, (Pinatih et al., 2021) state that all basic speaking skills cannot do it alone but we depend on each other. Fahmi & Sidiq (2019) say that many language students feel embarrassed or have difficulty speaking not because they do not have language skills, but because they lack confidence. To avoid obstacles and complaints from students, it is necessary to make various pleasant efforts so that language students can master their self-confidence and reduce their shyness. Therefore, we need media to help students in practicing their speaking skills. Media can also make teaching and learning activities more creative, innovative and interesting. And now the use of technology has become a natural thing for the younger generation so that a teacher is also required to be able to innovate. (Gagne and Briggs, 1975) say that learning media includes the tools used for teaching materials. In other words, learning media is a tool used to convey the content of the subject matter. And now the use of technology has become a natural thing for the younger generation so that a teacher is also required to be able to innovate. With the continuous increase in technological knowledge, the need and digital ability to work and become a second language according to the changing face of the world. When learning is done online students will quickly feel bored in participating in learning without using interactive media according to (Sinta et al., 2021; Widjayanti et al., 2018).

Media updates continue to be carried out and applied in learning English speaking skills. Unconsciously in developing students' speaking skills. During the current pandemic, it is indeed very difficult to carry out teaching and learning activities, because it is limited by government regulations to keep a distance so as not to add people who are exposed to the Covid-19 virus. With these regulations, we as educators will certainly need a media that can be used for learning. Of course, the government also provides solutions to overcome this obstacle by providing suggestions for several media for activities in the learning process so that it continues to run well.

The purpose of writing this article is to provide a reference for teachers, lecturers and students in developing new learning innovations during the pandemic. Certainly, during a pandemic like this we need interesting media in the process of learning English skills. Various kinds of methods and evaluations in social media trials were carried out and definitely have advantages and disadvantages of each media. Therefore, we need other media to cover this shortcoming.

DISCUSSION

In this discussion, we will provide some suggestions of media that can be used by teachers and students in carrying out the learning process during a pandemic. Some of these media have been proven by many researchers who are believed to be able to provide an interesting and effective learning atmosphere. Platforms that can be used include Vlogs, WhatsApp, Storyline Articulations, and Hand Puppets. With this media, it is hoped that teachers and students can apply it well and make the learning process more effective and efficient.

1. Vlog (Video Blog)

Vlog is a video blogging that contains video, images, sound, and text. This vlog is made in the form of a video or entered into an event to be uploaded to a platform called YouTube. Baran (2007) vlogs have become a new way of communicating through media that is currently popular. (Harmer, 2001) states that videos can stimulate students' stimulation, they can provide feedback by evaluating and making students' thoughts realistic. In other words, videos can make the learning process short and simple. Several studies have tested the effectiveness of vlogs uploaded by the YouTube platform in learning English skills. Most of the results issued stated that vlogs can make it easier for students to speak. YouTube is a video sharing platform where people will make videos and be included as users, which can be used as a medium to communicate and socialize with other users, and they can vote and comment and allow followers to enter into users' lives (Burgess & Green, (2009); Chan & Lewis, (2011); Steve & Lawson, (2013)). This vlog can also increase their confidence when they practice speaking in English. And the vlog also makes it easier for teachers to assess them in English. These vlogs have been considered as effective tools in enhancing the learning experience. It is highly recommended for staff for tourist attractions to learn how to teach YouTube into the teaching and learning process (Moghavvemi et al, 2019).

So, the use of vlogs in the English learning process is very good. Using video blogs to teach speaking can improve students' speaking skills in terms of acceptable pronunciation, correct grammar, and proper vocabulary. Teachers should be able to take this approach as an alternative in overcoming barriers to learning English speaking skills during the COVID-19 situation. Teachers must also design assessment techniques that are comprehensive and authentic to determine whether students have achieved the ability to master the material or not. This has been based on a study (Ersan et al, 2022) that students have very high enthusiasm and feel happy when learning takes place and motivate students to communicate in English.

2. WhatsApp

Mobile-assisted language learning (MALL) has become popular among English language teaching and learning circles around the world. The incorporation of various technologies has increased the progress of students in the process of learning aspects that contain the context of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, listening, and speaking (Hwang et al, 2011; Hwang & Tsai, 2011; Hwang et al, 2013). There have been many mobile studies developed in the progress of students to be applied to learning such as Snapchat, BBM, Line, Kiki, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is an application that can be used to send messages (chat) / voice

messages, pictures, videos, and calls. The WhatsApp application is a software used for communication sources where most of the users are students (Khan et al, 2021). The use of WhatsApp in the application of learning English has been investigated to determine its effectiveness in understanding vocabulary and other language skills (Al-Emran et al, 2016; Dashti & Aldashti, 2015; Kiili et al, 2010; Njoku, 2016). Most of us certainly as educators can understand their students in the limited pronunciation of students in English. With a lack of vocabulary, students will find it difficult to explain and express ideas orally.

Therefore, teachers can use MALL in the form of a WhatsApp application as a learning and communication suggestion to add new vocabulary through pictures and illustrations, this is done to produce sentences in discussions. Based on the results of research (Sherine et al, 2020) efforts to create an interaction space in the target language through the WhatsApp social media application can have a positive impact on students. This WhatsApp application is able to communicate anywhere and anytime and can be used individually or in groups.

3. Storyline Articulation

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it had a huge impact on the world of education. Learning activities are carried out virtually and via the internet remotely. In order for the learning process to run smoothly and effectively, teachers as facilitators are required to be able to create innovative media so that students can be enthusiastic about teaching and learning activities (Saputro & Lumbantoruan, 2020). The lecture method and giving assignments were one of the problems found by the researchers. It is important now that teachers must create new media so that students are not bored and bored in distance learning. Updates need to be implemented to overcome this, indirectly improving students' speaking skills. The solution to this problem is to use storyline articulation-based learning media.

Articulate Storyline is a piece of software that can be used to create presentations. Having the same function as Microsoft Power Point, Articulate Storyline has several advantages so that it can produce more comprehensive and creative presentations. This software also has features such as timeline, movie, picture, character and others that are easy to use. Based on (Kartiani & Anam, 2019; Setyaningsih, 2017; Sindu et al., 2020) storyline articulation media is proven to improve students' cognitive abilities and skills in speaking English. Several studies have proven that storyline-based articulation learning media is very effective in learning. Storyline-based media can be used in terms of media validation and fourth grade students' responses to biodiversity and plant learning, effective in integrated thematic learning to increase learning motivation, can increase elementary school students' interest in learning science, valid in increasing learning independence in text material negotiation and storyline articulation have a positive effect on learning recitation with the easy method (Nugroho & Arrosyad, 2020; Sinta et al., 2021; Hadza et al., 2020; Artika, W., Ratih & Ningtias, 2021; Ummah et al., 2021) .

The use of storyline-based learning media online makes learning materials innovative and creative. This can increase the knowledge of teachers and students in getting to know new media and technologies. Strengthening teacher teaching competencies in

creating storyline-based articulation learning media innovations in schools is not without obstacles, teachers and students will definitely be enthusiastic in participating in this learning.

4. Hand Puppet

To improve a child's speaking ability, an educator is expected to act as a facilitator in developing students' ability to learn to speak. Asking students to stand in front of the class and tell stories without any variation in learning is monotonous. This causes a lack of enthusiasm and interest in the learning process and this will only lead to saturation in the learning process. An effective and efficient learning process will have a great impact on students. One of the learning media that can be used is hand puppets. Hand puppets can be used as learning alternatives that can support the process of developing English speaking skills. According to Sudjana (2010: 188) hand puppets are dolls that can be moved by hand. This media is tantamount to inviting children to play, we know that playing is a spontaneous activity where a child will use other people or objects around him voluntarily and imaginatively using his feelings or all his body parts. Without realizing it, students will learn to use hand puppets to develop their speaking skills. This hand puppet media is quite popular among children.

When playing with dolls, children will be stimulated to practice and develop brain career skills and children's imagination is also very effective in helping children learn language. Based on research (Hadi et al, 2019) this hand puppet media plays an active role in improving students' abilities in speaking English skills. The results obtained can be seen from the activeness of students when the process of teaching and learning activities takes place. Therefore, this media can be proven to be successful in improving students' abilities in speaking English skills.

CONCLUSION

The use of online media during the COVID-19 pandemic in learning English speaking skills has proven that the use of media is a good means of effective and efficient learning. Even so, online learning has a drawback, namely that there must be a stable internet connection. Because if not, the learning process will be disrupted. Learning using media will add extensive experience and knowledge for teachers, students, and lecturers. Learning using media has its own charm. It will motivate students and attract students to explore their talents and interests.
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