

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Concerning to the condition of education specifically in Indonesia, where is facing pandemic COVID-19. Minister of Education and Culture of Republic Indonesia has instructed schools to carry out online learning since 17 March 2020 for COVID-19 affected area (Mendikbud, 2020b). Soon after that the minister of Education and Culture of Republic Indonesia has ordered all education units to run online learning from 24 March 2020 due to the increasing spread of covid-19 and maintaining the health of students, teacher, and all educations staffs (Mendikbud, 2020a). This policy directs student to learn from home and also teachers work from home, so that this policy indirectly makes the students to study in their home independently and require more responsibility and autonomous students (Atmojo and Nugroho, 2020).

An interesting thing, this policy about “learning from home” is a great idea to promote autonomous learning in Indonesian students, because the teachers are commanded to teach their students in long distance so that students have to be self-directed learners with high motivation who spend

effectively to prepare maintain, manage, and reflect on their learning and participation (Gonzalez & Louis, 2018 cited in Atmojo and Nugroho, 2020). Holec (1981) said about the definition of learner autonomy, he defines it as an ability to take charge of owns learning (Ivanovska, 2015). In further explanation, learner autonomy is a learner who has an ability to control their learning such as they can determine the objective, define the content and progression, select method and technique to be use and evaluate what has been acquired (Wulansari, Yufrizal, Hasan 2014). In the Koran, there is a verse which directly explains about a point which is in the meaning of autonomy, it about evaluation, the verse reads:

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
 إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

This verse is the principle of self-introspection, where an individual is instructed to evaluate as a whole what has been done, and if there is an error, do self-reflection by admitting the mistake and determined not to repeat it in the future. The message in this verse has sameness with the meaning of learner autonomy which the meaning is to encourage student to evaluate what has been acquired.

When learners are already an autonomous learner they can be a competent learner in the future, not stop on it, they also will be a wise individual because they can take something from their failure and success so that they will be a competent learner. An expert said about the significant of learner autonomy “Autonomous learners are able to learn from their own successes and failures by strategies that will help them to be more competent learners in the future” (Grabbe 1999 cited in Alonazi 2017).

Talking about “learning from home” in this pandemic situation, learning process which teachers do in this situation is teaching their students by using several application and platforms such Schoology, Google Classroom, WhatsApp, YouTube, and other application and platform (Atmojo and Nugroho, 2020). Some activities like checking the attendance which is just same like face to face have done by the teacher, then the teaching materials are uploaded in management system such as Google classroom or and Schoology. Also the teacher explains the material by utilizing a video streaming and sharing for example like zoom (Atmojo and Nugroho, 2020). These teaching activities describe teaching process in Indonesia during Covid-19 including in Banjarmasin city where the researcher want to conduct the research.

In addition, the researcher has already asked a junior high school student in Banjarmasin city about their learning process specifically in English subject, he told that their learning process is through online learning. Using WhatsApp is the way that his English teacher teaches him and his friends in this situation. Such as video in YouTube also be one of the material in learning process, the teacher ask him and his friend to open the YouTube video and try to understand what does video discuss about. All in all, this situation can be a good time for the teacher in promoting learner autonomy in Indonesian language learner.

However, concerning about promoting learning autonomy, it is important to know the teachers' perception about learning autonomy. Because it is possible that teacher has different interpretation about the concept of autonomy. As we know that learner autonomy originally from western countries whose teaching tradition different from non-western countries such as Indonesia. So that there will be a possibility that teacher has misunderstanding about learner autonomy and struggle in promote it in their class. Then it will be an appropriate decision to investigate teachers' perception about learner autonomy and also how they promote learner autonomy in their class. So that by doing this research the situation in the field will describe 'how teachers understand autonomy' and 'how they view and

promote it in the class'. As like a research from Agustina (2017) she has conducted a research about learner autonomy in Indonesia specifically in teacher belief on learner autonomy, the finding of her research revealed that Indonesian teachers had positive perception about autonomy.

According to the case above the researcher necessary to do an investigation to know further about the teachers' perception on learner autonomy and how teachers promote learner autonomy in the situation of covid-19 upgrade, this research will focus to do a research to English teachers in junior high school who teach in a school where located in Banjarmasin city.

A. Research Questions

1. How do English teachers understand autonomous learning?
2. How did the English teacher view and promote autonomous learning in English class in the situation of covid-19?

B. Objectives of Study

By the end of this research

1. To describe how English teacher understand autonomous learning.
2. To describe how the English teacher view and promoted autonomous learning in English class in the situation of covid-19

C. Scope and Limitation

To avoid misunderstanding in this research the researcher only focus to the teachers' understanding and how teachers' view and promote autonomous learning in the situation of covid-19.

D. Significance of Study

By the end of this research, this research expected that its positive components can be taken by readers. This research may reveal to what extent English teachers understand autonomous learning that traditionally apply in western countries. Furthermore, this research may raise teacher awareness and can be their reminder about the concept of autonomy and it significant for language learning.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Understanding means to be aware of the meaning of learner autonomy.
2. Autonomous learning defined as an approach to learning with which learner hold the power or responsibility to control their self-learning.
3. Promoting means what English teacher do in promoting autonomous learning to English students in this situation of COVID-19