

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines the reasons for conducting research and discusses a number of things: an introduction relating to the background of the problem, identification of the problem, the boundary of the problem, the purpose of the study, the importance of the research, and the definition of the terms as will be described in the following section.

1.1. Background of the problem

Nowadays, people live in the world that mobile technology develops at so fast speeds that we have difficulty following. In only a few years the mobile market has changed drastically with the advent of smartphones with android system, apple with IOS system, Ipad and the number of people that own these kind of device growing at a fast rate especially among young people. The situation is happened in Indonesia. The report showed that there was a trend for the student (from elementary students to college students) spend more and more time on mobile application.

Mobile applications can help and make it easier for humans to do their jobs, so that, they can be done more effectively and efficiently. The development of technology in the modern era is very easy to access by anyone, anytime and anywhere. For instance, almost all communication tools nowadays such as smartphones provide applications that make it easier for users to access the internet.

Through the internet, users can access the desired social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Gmail, WhatsApp, and so on.

WhatsApp is an instant messaging application for smartphones. Its function is almost similar with SMS application commonly used on old cellphones, but WhatsApp does not use credit, but internet data. WhatsApp can also be applied by sending pictures, videos, discussions, sending documents in the form of words and much more.

However, with the existence of the *PSBB* (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) in Indonesia, all schools and those related to education must be closed so that they are not affected by the current epidemic. Teachers meet to find and provide solutions so that students can study safely and comfortably. After discussing, the teachers agreed to teach students to use WhatsApp online class. Teachers must think about the needs and goals of the learning process to improve the skills of their students. Therefore, WhatsApp can be one of the solutions used to have creative learning tools in language learning, especially in English classes.

MTSN Tamiang Layang East Barito is one of the junior high schools in Tamiang Layang in which students use technology to help the learning process. They are obliged to use a laptop or smartphone online as a learning tool at home, because MtsN Tamiang Layang is on vacation for health because the season is not good for health. So, students from grade seven to nine use whatsapp for all subjects learning including English.

Teachers must be creative in keeping up with developments in information and technology. Suwarsih (2013) in his book *Language Teaching Methodology on*

Curriculum 2013 reminds English teachers to be creative in finding various ways to help students. The goal is to strengthen their memory of the target words by continuing to practice new words regularly with interesting media. One of the applications used by the researcher based on experience is the use of the Whatsapp application to enrich the English learning experience which can accommodate the four skills learned without time-space limitations.

Thus, based on the explanation in the background of the study, the researcher is interested in conducting research on the use of whatsapp as the substitute of offline class in learning English in order to describe students' respond toward this application.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the problem limitation above, formulate the research problem as follows:

1. How do the students' respond to the use of whatsapp as the substitute of offline class learning English?

1.3. Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above the purpose of the study is:

1. To describe the students' respond to the use of whatsapp as the substitute of offline class learning English.

1.4. Significant of study

Hopefully this research can enrich the theory of English teaching, especially in teaching English using the whatsapp online system.

1. Teacher

Researchers are expected to be able to assist teachers in improving English teaching, especially helping teachers in teaching students to learn Whatsapp Class Online.

2. Students

Researchers are expected to be able to use the WhatsApp application in learning English.

3. Other Researchers

The researcher hopes that this research gives the contribution or any benefit to other researcher in conducting the further research of the similar topic.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms, which is Necessary to clarify briefly in order to avoid misunderstanding, can be mentioned as follow:

1. Response

The perceptions in this study are in the form of response from students who use the whatsapp application as learning English.

2. Whatsapp

This research is Whatsapp used by students MtsN Tamiang Layang in learning English during the implementation of the PSBB.