

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some important parts to be investigated they are; (1) The background of Study (2) Research Questions (3) Objective of Study (4) Significant of Study (5) Definition of Key Terms.

A. Background of Study

Technology is not new thing in educational environment as a media or communication tools such as online learning, virtual class, internet, and computer. It has been introduced to the education environment in the recent years. This technology has been used by teachers in teaching learning process in both classroom setting and in online teaching learning process. These experience more focus on students centered where students can more active during participating in teaching learning process and teachers can change the roles as a facilitator. Teachers are expected to have require their experience to use technology in the classroom. It means that a technology has been a new trend that has affected teaching pedagogies and influence teachers' performance to make teaching learning process successfully (Al-Saai *et al.*, 2011).

Blended Learning is identic with the combination between face to face learning and online learning that supported by technology. However, some

researcher defined blended learning differently who all the definitions lead to one purpose. Some researchers define blended learning as providing teaching learning anytime and anywhere using appropriate technology. For example teachers and students can access learning materials anytime and anywhere using technology devices such as computer and smartphone to access the learning materials. Blended learning provides a flexible environment that students have opportunities to improve their performance in learning process. Blended learning also can define as a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning setting. It means that blended learning can be applied at the same time (synchronous) and also at different times and place (asynchronous). Blended learning can defined combination of synchronous learning activity as an effort to complement of asynchronous learning activity to get teaching learning effectiveness (Cheurman and Maudiarti, 2018).

According to Al-Saleh (2018) in his research about EFL teachers' attitudes towards blended learning in Tabuk city, Saudi Arabia. The result found that teachers have shown positive attitude toward blended learning. They get more benefits and new experience. However teachers still have difficulties to using technology. In his study also found that common obstacle such as internet access, technical support, and teacher technological skills. According to Bakeer (2018) in her research about using blended learning to develop students attitudes toward learning English that potential to develop technology skills and learner autonomy in a university environment was found that students have positive affect toward using blended learning to develop language skills and students motivation in communication skills.

Today, Corona Virus disease or COVID-19 was declared as a pandemic on 11th March 2020 by WHO (World Health Organization). According to Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) in Johns Hopkins University & Medicine (2020) said that for 12th June 2020 recorded 188 countries or 7.502.278 cases in around the world got infected. However, the spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) has become crisis for modern humans. In Indonesia has a big challenge handling corona virus. In 12th June 2020, COVID-19 disease was infected 36.406 people. In this case, World Health Organization recommends one of steps to stop spread is do social distancing and limiting all activities outside such as go to work, flock, and school to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Social distancing of course made everyone difficult to do activities and even school. Many schools in Indonesia closed because of corona virus. But teaching learning process must continue for meet the needs of students. Some institutions tried to change strategy teaching learning into blended learning as the new normal in education environment. Blended learning in new normal era purpose to keep everyone safe by avoiding or limiting physical contact between teachers and students. Some had succeeded and failed implement blended learning because there is not relationship building or interaction between teachers and students.

Blended learning have three part purposes are first, a formal teaching learning in which students can learn in part online, and can take control of time, place. Second, students can learn from home which is still supervised by teacher. And third, all methods can combine to create new experience in teaching learning

(Balida *et al.*, 2018). Blended learning also have two components are synchronous and asynchronous that each component divided into two categories. However, blended learning is very new in Indonesia. Several students and teachers feel difficult when they doing blended learning especially when use technology, teachers and students must need good internet connection, lack of mastering the technology make teachers and students difficult to do blended learning for teaching learning process, and technological disparities between schools in big cities and regions. Because of this situation teachers and students are required to use technology in teaching learning process during pandemic period where this is very influence teachers' teaching performance in future. Not only for using technology, when using blended learning, teachers might have challenge to keep students focused on learning materials and communication in classroom. That's why blended learning has to balance between part in classroom learning activities and online learning activities.

In the Quran surah At-Taubah verse 122 which reads:

وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُوا كَافَّةً ۚ فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِنْ كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ ۚ

In the verse has been explained that, Allah commands all humans to looking for knowledge and continue to deepen the knowledge. It is because knowledge will be very important and useful for all humans in every their life (Kemenag, 2022).

According to Balida *et al.* (2018), in her research about attitudes of higher teachers and students towards blended learning during COVID-19 Pandemic. Teachers and students have a positive attitude which is as self-readiness to teachers and students during this challenging time of the pandemic. Additionally, Blended learning gives effect to the teachers and students shown positive attitude in improve online learning compare to the face to face teaching approach. The interaction of students in group online learning environment is effect to their attitudes toward online environment (Al-Saai *et al.*, 2011).

SMPIT Ukhuwah Banjarmasin, teachers apply blended learning in new normal as new system to integrate teaching learning process between teacher and students during pandemic period of COVID-19. This activity purpose to teachers and students can still implementing teaching learning process effectively during pandemic period and also for knowing students' performance and understanding which is teachers can evaluate students in teaching learning process. Students also can ask about the learning materials to the teachers. Based on this phenomenon, the writer want to investigating to know kind of blended learning that teacher using during pandemic period and teachers' attitudes about classroom learning and online learning based on blended learning form with tittle "Teacher's Attitudes toward Using Blended Learning during Pandemic Period".

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of study, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What is kind of blended learning used by teachers in SMPIT Ukhuwah Banjarmasin during pandemic period?
2. How are teachers' attitudes toward blended learning during pandemic period?

C. Objectives of Study

1. To know kind of blended learning used by teachers in SMPIT Ukhuwah Banjarmasin during pandemic period.
2. To know teachers' attitudes toward blended learning during pandemic period.

D. Significance of Study

The result of research will be a great benefit for teachers which the method is still very new in Indonesia and can be effective to classroom instruction and teaching performance for teachers. Moreover, it can improve discussion, communication between teachers and students more active and teachers and students can get of information outside the classroom. This result

of research also purpose to develop teachers' abilities in using technology. The significant of study consist theoretically and practically, such as:

1. Theoretically

- a. The result of this research can be used for teachers especially for teachers of SMPIT Ukhuwah Banjarmasin to develop teaching learning process during pandemic period.
- b. The result of this research can be used to understanding knowledge about blended learning.
- c. The result of this research can be used as the reference for implementing blended learning during pandemic period.

2. Practically

- a. For the teachers, the result of this research is expected can give experience about the important mastery technology skills and improving their ideas in implement blended learning.
- b. For the students, the result of this research can be used as platform to express their perceptions about blended learning.
- c. For readers, the result of this research can be used to realize the importance of technology system in education environment now.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Teachers' Attitude

Teachers' attitude in this research means that the result of reaction teachers in implementing blended learning to achievement of educational goals.

2. Blended Learning

Blended learning is approach that combine face-to-face or traditional mode teaching based place on classroom and online learning experiences that supporting by ICT (Information Communication Technology) (Al-Saleh, 2018).

3. Pandemic Period

Pandemic period in this research means that the spread of a virus called the corona virus or COVID-19 which occurs almost throughout the world, causing everyone to have difficulties and restrictions in their activities outside.