

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a comprehensive description of the research. It comprises the background, formulation of the problem, operational definitions, aim of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The development of technology supported by the presence of the internet has various positive impacts on facilitating the process of teaching and learning between teachers and students or students and lecturers. This is in line with Raja & Nagasubramani (2018) that technology makes our work much easier and less time consuming. The impact of technology can be felt in every possible field; one such field is Education. Recently, Indonesia is conducting a social distancing policy due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, online learning is one way out to replace face-to-face learning. According to Anderson (2008) online learning is the use of the internet to access learning materials; to interact with the content, instructor, and other learners; and to obtain support during the learning process, in order to acquire knowledge, to construct personal meaning, and to grow from the learning experience. It is quite beneficial for students who are staying at home since the courses are flexible in time and place. Hence, various websites, applications and even social media have been presented by the developers to support the teaching and learning process.

One of the learning platforms which is recently popular among teachers and lecturers in Indonesia is Edmodo. Edmodo is a platform for social networking (Trust, 2012). Studies have also been conducted to investigate the use and the effectiveness of Edmodo. A survey conducted by Thien, Phan, Tho, Suhonen and Sutinen (2013) showed that Edmodo might serve as a space to collaborate between students and teachers. Edmodo is a social networking based learning platform intended for teachers, students, as well as students' parents. Edmodo was first developed at the end of 2008 by Nic Borg and Jeff O'Hara and Edmodo itself

is arguably as an e-learning program that implements an easy, efficient and more enjoyable learning system. Edmodo is one of the fastest growing social networks in early 2011, as evidenced by the presence of around 1 million users of it. According to Turmini et. al, (2019) only a few months later, users increased to 7 million people and finally in 2015 there were 50 million Edmodo users from various parts of the world. Edmodo provides a safe and easy way to build virtual classes based on a class distribution like in school. Edmodo's display design is almost the same as Facebook's design. With Edmodo, the teacher/lecturer can send grades, assignments, or quizzes to students easily.

However, the potential of learning via computer has greatly improved over the past decade providing new opportunities and avenues for students and teachers to interact virtually. In an educational setting, appropriate use of these tools can encourage collaboration, sharing of resources, transmitting new ideas, and the virtual expansion beyond classroom walls. Thus, unlike other social media communities, Edmodo generally focuses on helping teachers and educators along with learners manage their own strategies in working online regarding the tasks (Charoenwet & Christensen, 2016). This phenomenon makes researcher interested in examining students' perceptions in using Edmodo as an online learning media. Therefore, this research elaborates on a study which investigated EFL students' perception during online learning using Edmodo.

Enriquez (2014) stated that nowadays, many academic articles, virtual learning environments and other educational tools which are available on the internet for free can be accessed by everyone. Students can be specifically more focused on using the internet for learning environments with Edmodo and other related sites to support online learning discussions. Previous study concerning the use of Edmodo in online learning is well documented. Charoenwet & Christensen (2016) conducted an investigation into the computer-supported collaborative learning setting under Edmodo online learning network and its effect on learning performance, self-regulated behaviors and perception of students participating in the network activities. Edmodo is an opportunity for collaborative learning. While

the previous study discusses students' preference towards the use of Edmodo as a learning platform to create a responsible learning environment, this present study would shed light on students' perception towards the use of Edmodo. In particular, much less is known about whether or not Edmodo may be able to replace face-to-face discussion especially in English class (Ali, 2015). Thus, this research attempts to investigate students' perception towards Edmodo during online learning and focus on how it can replace face-to-face discussion.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

In particular, this paper examines one research questions:

What are students' perceptions during online learning using Edmodo?

1.3 Operational Definitions

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms set out in this study, the researcher provides three operational definitions related to this study as follows:

- 1.3.1 Perception : People's opinion toward a certain object that they thought is true. In this research, perception refers to students' perception towards the usefulness of Edmodo as an online learning platform.
- 1.3.2 Edmodo : An educational website that takes the ideas of a social network and refines them to make it appropriate for a classroom. By using Edmodo, students and teachers can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems and helpful tips.

1.3.3 Online Learning : Education that takes place over the Internet. It is often referred to as “e-learning” among other terms. The e-learning function is said to function as a supplement, if students have freedom of choice, whether to use electronic learning material or not.

1.4 Aim of the Study

The aim of this research is to examine the EFL students’ perception in using Edmodo as online learning media and how Edmodo can help the students in online learning.

1.5 Significance of the Study

- 1.5.1 Theoretical Use : This research will expand on EFL students’ perception in using Edmodo as online learning media.
- 1.5.2 Practical Use : The result of this study will tell about the benefits of using Edmodo as online learning media so that it can be implemented in online class settings.
- 1.5.3 Empirical Use : The result of this study will tell about how Edmodo can help students and teachers in the online learning process.