

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The implementation of online learning in several regions in Indonesia was first carried out in 2020. This is based on the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, Nadiem Makarim's mandate. He announced that teaching and learning activities are being switched online to prevent the spread of Covid-19 (Agung, Surtikanti & Quinones, 2020). Therefore, this situation has an impact on one of the educational programmes such as teaching practicum. It is held online in 2020.

Teaching practicum is one of the necessary programs that pre-service teachers need to conduct. This program aims to train pre-service teacher's teaching skills before becoming a real teacher after graduating from university. As stated in Darling-Hammond (2014), teaching practicum is a kind of strategy for connecting theory and practice. Besides having theoretical knowledge, a pre-service teacher must also have school experience training in order to acquire teaching experiences and develop positive behavior to conduct their teaching effectively (Özdaş, 2018).

Conducting teaching practicum online is not an easy thing for pre-service teachers. The current situation with technological developments has indeed made online teaching easier and is not something new anymore. However, if it applied simultaneously in all regions with different backgrounds, there will be a different story because not all parties are able to do it well in a brief preparation. There are several things that need to be better prepared in implementing this online teaching practicum. For example, learning media in the form of technology to support online learning runs smoothly and the ability to operate web or applications for conducting teaching. In fact, various issues arise in the implementation activities. One of those issues are challenges and opportunities, for challenges such in insufficient digital infrastructure, limited

social interaction, and motivation, thus for opportunities such in mobile learning, blended model, and new courses (Jindal & Chahal, 2020).

The previous study by Escobar and Morrison (2020), has investigated Challenges and opportunities of online teaching placement during the COVID-19 pandemic in Chile in an attempt to explore pre-service teachers' perception on the challenges and opportunities that appear during their online English teaching placement . Meanwhile, the present study examined challenges and opportunities of online English teaching during teaching practicum 2020 in Indonesian context. Three pre-service teachers who have taken their teaching practicum programme in one of the universities in Indonesia describe their opinions related to challenges and opportunities of online English teaching that arose during their teaching practicum experience.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

The research question addressed in this study is “What are the challenges and opportunities of EFL online English teaching during teaching practicum 2020 in Indonesian context?”

1.3 Operational Definitions

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

1.3.1 Online English Teaching

Online English teaching refers to conducting an English course by a pre-service teacher partially or entirely through the internet either in synchronous, asynchronous or combination of both through the web or by way of mobile apps that allow one to manipulate the online English course elements. (Ko & Rossen, 2017).

1.3.2 Teaching Practicum in Indonesia

Teaching practicum in Indonesia refers to a teaching practice program for pre-service teachers in Indonesia to apply the theory that has been learned in college to school. (Darling-Hammond, 2014)

1.4 Aim of the Research

The aim of this qualitative research is to examine challenges and opportunities of online English teaching during teaching practicum 2020 in Indonesian context.

1.5 Significances of the Research

1.5.1 Practical uses

This study provided the readers with challenges and opportunities of online English teaching during teaching practicum 2020 in Indonesian context. Hopefully, this study can improve pre-service teachers' teaching skills through online teaching practice.

1.5.2 Empirical uses

This study provided empirical insight into how 3 pre-service teachers from one University in Indonesia describe challenges and opportunities of online English teaching practice during their teaching practicum 2020 experiences.