MEDIATING MULTILINGUALISM IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

Students Perception of Online Learning in Speaking Class

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Abstract

The implementation of synchronous and asynchronous learning that occurs during the current pandemic needs more attention, especially on how students perceive changes in the way of teaching and learning through online learning. This study was conducted to determine students' perceptions of online learning in speaking class at SMK Walisongo Jakarta which carried out in recent years, because speaking is one of the skills in English that requires more interaction to be mastered. Semi - structured interview was conducted with 14 open ended questions and observation as an instrument to get a data, with qualitative method. It can be seen that mastering speaking through online learning has strength and weakness for the students, some of them agree that learning to speak online helps them to connect with each other during the pandemic, but others think that it is less effective and has a negative impact for their motivation and comprehension while studying speaking in online learning.

Keywords: Students Perception, Online learning, Covid-19.

Introduction

As we all know in the last few years, there has been a virus spreading that we thought would happen, and spread very widely, the virus also spread to all corners of the world, including in Indonesia, which affects every field of human activity, including field of education. Coronavirus is said to have a fatal impact on some people who have immune problems and congenital diseases, this virus was first spread in China, which is located in the city of Wuhan in December 2019. And the virus itself is argued to have occurred because of an infection caused by the consumption of food in the Chinese animal market. At first this virus spread widely in China, then the virus spread throughout the world (WHO, 2021).

Furthermore, WHO urges the entire community to avoid all types of activities that can increase the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, because it tends to get a crowd. learning activities that were

initially carried out offline, were eventually required to study at home or online learning, because it involved a crowd in the classroom.

In connection with the case that occurred in Indonesia, the Indonesian Ministry of Education announced to change the teaching and learning process (KMB) which originally occurred offline or face-to-face (PTM) into learning that was carried out bravely, in various countries having implemented this teaching and learning system, including in Indonesia.

SMK Walisongo Jakarta, is one of the high schools in Jakarta, which is able to quickly handle and make decisions to limit the spread of the corona virus, by changing the learning system that originally took place face-to-face, into distance learning and stopping all activities on campus at the beginning of the spread of covid – 19. In conclusion, many countries encourage their citizens to stay at home, or implement physical distancing, in order to help the country and the world to stop the spread of covid-19 (Chiou & Tucker, 2020)

From previous study, it shows that the use of e-learning in learning has a positive impact, and with the use of good and appropriate technology, of course there can be more benefits and various ways of teaching in terms of online learning, other reasons is the dominance of the use of social media that occurs among young people, that cause students familiar with the situation and use of online learning platforms.

Furthermore, related to learning that occurred during the pandemic, one of which is the English department, there are many skills that must be mastered, such as listening, speaking, writing and reading. The four English skills are very important in mastering English, one of which is speaking skills which currently must be learned online.

What is emphasized here is that speaking skills in mastering English are important, because when speaking someone will directly interact with other people at the same time, which is not easy for some students to master because of their background and starting line. and in the current situation all students have to learn online, which is something that must be faced, this study is conducted to figure out the perception of Students in SMK Walisongo Jakarta to learn speaking through online learning and the obstacles while they are learning to speak in speaking class via online.

Research methodology

The researcher utilized a qualitative research design in this study, and chooses a phenomenological approach. According to Crotty cited in (Qutoshi, 2018;217) Phenomenological research is a research framework that focuses on the search for reality, is a study that deals with the experience and perspective of an individual from life experiences, and subjective. This study also strongly seeks to find out the target's experience subjectively and using an assumption to describe the emergence of a phenomenon. Fourteen students were asked to be a participant using a purposive sampling, the students were being observed and interviewed with 8 open-ended questions, recorded one by one in the classroom using smartphone and taking notes while being observed.

Table 1. The Instrument of Interview

Sub topic	Question asked
Target experience	How is your perceptions about learning speaking through google meet during the covid 19 pandemic?
Emotional response	Do you feel enjoy learning speaking online through Google Meet, Zoom Meeting or WhatsApp during the Covid19 period. Why?
Teacher preparation	How do you feel about teacher's role in explaining speaking or English material through online media?
Effectiveness	What do you think about the effectiveness in learning speaking through online conference platforms such as google meet and zoom meeting?
Target knowledge	How would you explain your improvement and your motivation in learning English online?
Self - awareness	Do you find it easier when learning English related to the ease of repeating material online? How? Why?
Benefits	What do you think about the benefits while learning speaking online during a pandemic?
Difficulties	How do you feel about the difficulties when learning speaking online through Google meet, Zoom, WhatsApp group?

This study using interactive model data analysis techniques, proposed by Miles and Huberman cited in (Rijali, 2018, p.3) In this data analysis model, there are three parts of analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing.
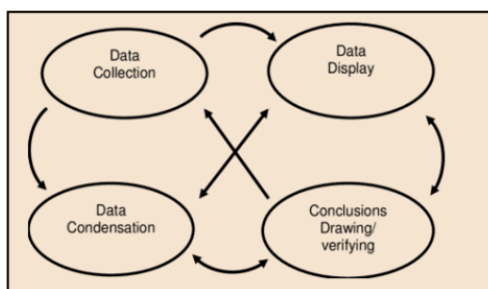
Picture 1. Interactive Model (Miles, Huberman &Saldaña, 2014)

The researcher collected the data by interviewing students as a source of information relevant to the teaching and observing learning process as supporting data. Then, the researcher gathered all of the recorded interview material and created a transcript of the audio, and taking notes from observing the learning process. In data reduction the researcher will minimize the amount of data needed and will

be stored in this study, the data will be summarized and adjusted to the category that the researcher wants. Then the data will be displayed and described to draw a summary and present it in the form of narrative text.

Result and Discussion

Result

The result is presented about how students perceive online platforms for learning speaking skills during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 11th grade students of SMK Walisongo Jakarta, which were obtained through interview and observation. The result of interview will be divided into a strengths and weaknesses to make it easier to summarize and comprehend from each side.

1. Positive result

Positive results are results where students get a good impact from learning speaking online, some of them answered that learning to speak at home is considered quite effective and good, related to the phenomena they are experiencing. experienced the past 2 years, which did not allow them to study at school and outside the home, the students thought that online learning was a good and effective thing to stay connected with each other during the pandemic. Besides that, it is also easier for us to access material that hadn't fully understood, because the material is uploaded online so we can re-read it easily on the platform that the teacher uses, plus it is easy to find additional material on the internet which certainly increases our knowledge about what is being taught in class.

> **SF** *'' I think the use of online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet and the like really helps us in learning and applying speaking, because we can directly learn to pronounce with friends in class even though we are not in the same place at the moment''.*

As **SF** said that the important point of applying an online platform in the midst of distance learning is you can still study properly in class even though you are far apart, so he thinks that it is a good thing from applying online learning as a media to learn speaking online.

> **AB** *'' When using online media, especially through google meet, it help us to still connected with each other, because we can see the faces of our friends and teachers in real time, so we know how their expression and responses on time when they are speaking with English''.*

AB said that apart from being able to listen to the teacher's voice, they can also see their faces at the same time and expression. They said it is an advantage of learning speaking through google meet.

FA *''I felt less anxious and comfortable when doing online learning, because I'm a type of person who prefer being alone and more motivated when studying online because the pressure is less than usual''.*

According to **FA**, when he learns speaking via online, it makes him feel more comfortable because he is a type of person who likes to goes silence, so it gives a motivation to him studying at home and avoid a pressure from his classmates.

BWM *''In my opinion is yes, because when we find material that we don't understand we can easily repeat the material without having to ask the teacher again, and can understand the material at home, because the material is uploaded on google classroom and others application, that's the benefit we got when we study offline''.*

BWM said that when she learns speaking online, it is so easy to find a material on google classroom or WhatsApp group, when she wants to look back or re-read the material, she can directly open it.

DK *''Apart from material problems, I think one of the advantages is that it is more flexible in terms of time and is more cost-effective, besides we don't have to spend extra money to travel out, pay for parking tickets or buy a lot of paper, because by learning online everything it can be saved more''.*

DK reveal that it is way more efficient than it used to, because when she doing online learning, it can save her money from taking a transportation. She also feels that it is so easy to open a laptop at her bedroom rather than going to school every morning like it used to.

LP : *''One of the benefits that I like is because we learn online through Google Meet, we don't have to stay in one place, sometimes I come to cafes to find a new atmosphere, and motivate myself, that's one of the benefits I know''.*

LP stated that she likes to learn to speak via online, because she can do it everywhere to find a comfort place, it also important to gain a motivation and mood when we are want to start learning speaking, and it is a positive things about online learning.

KW: *''the benefit I know is that because we fill out the answers via google forms or other applications, we can get a second chance to rework until the results are better, or we can repeat the recordings we made at home until the results are perfect''.*

It may sound cheating, but **KW** said that his score is increasing when learning speaking or English via online learning, because they can repeat and google it on search engine before the exam started, and it is a strength he felt personally from online learning.

Negative result

the second is negative perception, negative perception is where students have difficulty when carrying out online learning, some students think that they have problems in understanding the material, because when learning speaking online, there are materials that are difficult to understand when explained online, because when we study online we will find lack of interaction between students and teacher, plus there are some teachers who still cannot bring a good learning atmosphere and make online learning less effective when compared to offline learning. The second problem experienced is technical problems, everyone must prepare good connections and good gadgets, which not all students get these facilities at home, when these two things have not been fulfilled, we can be sure we will get a bad learning experience and affect our enthusiasm for learning online.

DM *'' Because I had time to go to my hometown while learning online, in my village there was a poor connection, which made me unable to listen to the material taught by the teacher properly, and the second was the problem of quotas which were more wasteful than usual''.*

according to **DM**, the main problem of online learning speaking is the internet connection, like we have discuss before that speaking needs more attention related to interaction, so when the student got a problem about the connection which is can affect their process to learn speaking effectively.

SS *'' I feel that online learning is not very effective, because we can't talk directly like we can do in class, so it limits my interactions in learning like every day, especially when we want to practice our speaking with others''.*

SS said that it is not effective to learn speaking via online, because they cannot talk with each other like it used to, it is important to speak directly with a friend in the classroom, to make the process of learning speaking more optimal.

SDW*'': umm I don't think so, because for me personally I'm not motivated when studying alone at home, in contrast to face-to-face learning offline we can feel the atmosphere of interaction with friends and other things''.*

according to **SDW**, he like to go outside, having some chitchat with their friends, and it gives him a motivation to learn at school and to learn a new thing especially speaking, but it different when he forcedly needs to do online learning, it is common response from several student who lose their motivation when learn speaking with google meet or online learning.

KP*'' lack of interaction, when we experience connection problems while studying with video conferences, sometimes we have to repeat what we have said, and this makes the learning process less than optimal''.*

like we have discussed before, the internet connection is still the main obstacles to learn speaking online, it gives a limitation when they got a bad connection, the student and teacher need to repeat what they have said before, and it is giving a bad feeling and less optimal''

ZM *'' because I have a lot of people at home and it's often noisy, when the teacher ask for zoom meeting, I can't focus on studying with a calm mood, because my house is also busy in the morning''.*

they are a lot of external factors when we talking about online learning, not every student have perfect and comfort place to learn at home, some of them are struggling with noisy stuff and other things at home, which make them cannot focus when studying speaking or English with video conference.

MR *''The difficulty that I really feel when learning speaking and English online is a sense of laziness that is difficult to get rid of, sometimes I find it difficult to really want to learn and rarely turn on the camera or off the cam''.*

according to **MR**, it is possible if some of the students feels lazy or unmotivated when they have to do google meet, zoom or video conference, we tend to get lazy if we are stay at the same place all the time, especially when the student is sitting down on their bed when doing video conference,

they don't have to wear a school uniform and it tend to get lazy in the morning, we can say that it is one of the weakness of learning speaking online.

> **MGA** *'' : the thing I often to feel is the slow response or feedback given by the instructor, when we study online and the lack of touch of interaction with each other, when we send messages via whatsapp or email, it is often slow to respond when we is in need of feedback from the instructor, for understanding or just asking about the value''.*

not to offending someone, but the teacher's role is one of the main important things when we talk about online learning, because teacher is a person who can gives and spread a positive feeling for the students, so they can have a better motivation to study.

Discussion

After conducting interviews, the researcher found out how the students' perceptions in the implementation of online learning for speaking skills during the pandemic in the eleventh-grade students of SMK Walisongo Jakarta in academic 2021/2022. The results obtained are in the form of positive and negative responses about how they use online learning as a medium for learning speaking. they said that the use of online learning was useful and good during the pandemic. because with the help of online conferences such as zoom meetings and google meet, they not only hear the voices of friends and teachers in class but can also meet face to face virtually, this can also be done anywhere and anytime according to the agreed schedule. Another thing is that when studying remotely, students are not too burdened to study at home and are given fewer tasks than studying offline, the time is more flexible and there are also groups who feel more confident when studying online, because they don't have to meet face-to-face with his friends in class when learning speaking. and it can be concluded that online learning provides benefits for students during a pandemic like some time ago.

Furthermore, no less important, is the perception of students regarding the readiness of teachers in bringing English material online, whether it is good or not. based on the results of interviews that have been conducted at SMK Walisongo Jakarta, it is known that when teachers teach online, they use power point or screenshare when holding a google meet or zoom meeting, which helps students to better understand the material being studied at that time. Because students not only listen to the teacher speak but also get help with visual explanations that make them not bored but also using PowerPoint or slide share makes the online teaching and learning process more interesting for students. From this data, researchers can conclude students' perceptions, the delivery of material provided by teachers during the pandemic is considered to be going well, because teachers not only give or burden students with assignments but also provide explanations during online learning.

Then, related to the implementation of online learning in learning to speak during the pandemic, students gave the opinion that learning to speak using online platforms such as google meet or zoom, they answered that this was not done effectively. That's because when they do online learning,

they tend to get less knowledge, and they don't get good interaction between teachers and students, they say when studying offline we can get better interaction with teacher, It is very important in the learning process. However, there was one student who answered that it was effective, because when we study online, we can learn anywhere and anytime. then, regarding the development of students in speaking skills during online learning, they answered that there was no significant development, because when we learn to speak online, it is very limited, the lack of interaction between friends and teachers makes speech development more difficult. But there are also those who think positively about the development of speaking skills during distance learning, because they take the initiative to study on their own at home.

Then, do students feel enthused and motivated to learn online during this pandemic? According to the results of the interviews, some students are excited and motivated to learn during the pandemic because, while we can't study offline for the time being, we can still continue the learning process that is done online, even though there is some habituation required at the time, it doesn't take long to get used to it. However, there are students who are not motivated or enthusiastic about learning online. It can be concluded that the students' enthusiasm and motivation during the process of learning to speak in online learning was quite good, and this is based on the students' desires and awareness of the importance of studying during a pandemic.

lastly, how do students assess and think about the perceived advantages and disadvantages of learning to speak online, of course the first advantage they get is the problem of flexibility, where they can learn without having to spend more money to transportation, saving time and money. secondly, they feel more comfortable and confident when studying online, because they are not as under pressure as in the classroom. the lack of learning to speak online, the first is the problem of internet connection, of course the internet is a very crucial link in the online learning process, because when the connection is bad, we have to repeat what has been said because it is not heard clearly, it makes the interaction not optimal, and we also cannot get the material in full as it is done in the classroom.

Through interviews and observations that have been carried out by researchers to get the explanation above, about how students learn to speak online, get various results, there are positive results that are good to be developed and there are also negative results that must be found a solution, it can be concluded that the use of online learning as a media for learning speaking skills is quite good and can help students learn during a pandemic such as the past few years, which of course must be assisted by the readiness of teachers in delivering material and support for surrounding facilities to encourage students' enthusiasm for learning at home.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the results of the discussion above, it can be said that speaking class in online requires many supporting factors both in external and internal factors, so that the learning process can run well. good internet access, the need of decent gadgets, the role of the teacher in preparing material during online learning, and awareness from within students to keep learning during the pandemic itself. In addition, the role of the government itself in supporting and facilitating educators and students, during the pandemic period, such as providing free Wi-Fi around residents' homes or consistent internet quota, so that online learning can run better.

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