

The Students' Perception on the Use of Online Platform in Studying English

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Abstract

In the pandemic of COVID-19, the teachers need to change their ways to teach the students from those who usually meet face to face and go to a class and meet their students or friends in one room, now because of the pandemic and because there is an obligation to keep a distance for each other, the way of learning is changed to learning that is not face to face again and can no longer meet in one room again. This research aimed to know the perception of fifth semester students of the English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus on the use of online platforms in Learning English and to find out what kinds of social media do the fifth semester students of the English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus to learn English. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research with a questionnaire to collect the data. The data in this research are 30 students of fifth semester who have online classes during the pandemic, questionnaire is adapted liker scale.

Keywords: *perception, online platform, learning English*

INTRODUCTION

In the pandemic of COVID-19, the teachers need to change their ways to teach the students from those who usually meet face to face and go to a class and meet their students or friends in one room, now because of the pandemic and because there is an obligation to keep a distance for each other, the way of learning is changed to learning that is not face to face again and can no longer meet in one room again.

This research investigates the consequences of the using several kinds of learning platforms during classroom activities cause of pandemic in the University of Muria Kudus when the students are expected to do classwork, assignment, discussion, and any process about the material when it delivered using an online platform because there is an obligation to keep a distance for each other by using online platform as a media that can be accessed anywhere or in other places.

This study focused on the media which belong to online platform the lecturer used as learning media that may be seen in every smartphone and is based on the software, the Internet, video, and other telecommunication devices that allowing one to deliver instruction at a distance like Whatsapp, Instagram, YouTube, and also about student perception on SUNAN and Zoom that a part in learning online activities. To support the learning process that is related to activities in the classroom also to know whether it is synchronous or not with the purpose of technology that makes anything easier and effective.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research with a questionnaire to collect the data. The data in this research are 30 students of fifth semester who have online classes during the pandemic, questionnaire is adapted liker scale. There are four categories in the questionnaire There are: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree. And the researcher did 5 steps to collect the data, that is:

1. read and analyze the questionnaire answer
2. count the total responses.

3. categorize the questionnaire answer.
4. Count the data with the formula:

$$\% = \frac{F}{N} \times 100$$

Note:

#: The Percentage

F: Frequency or the case number in each question

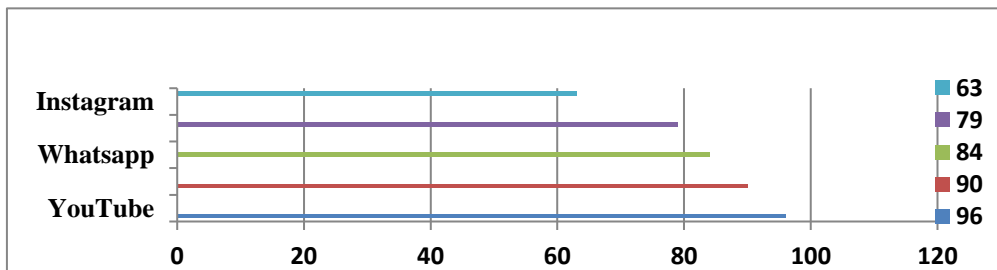
N: Number of the students

5. Interpreting the result and conclusion.

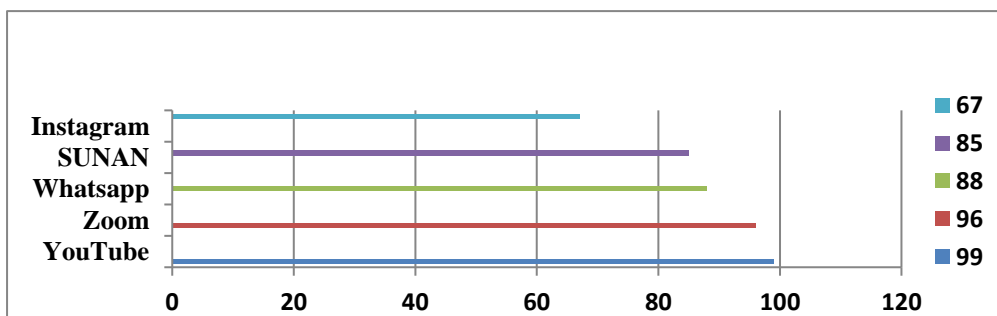
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher distributed the questionnaire to the fifth semester students of the English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus There were 30 participants who filled the questionnaires, the total number of the questionnaires is 15 on the Likert scale. There are four level scales, they are Strongly Disagree (2), Disagree(1), Agree(3), and Strongly Agree(4) and the result is shown in the table below:

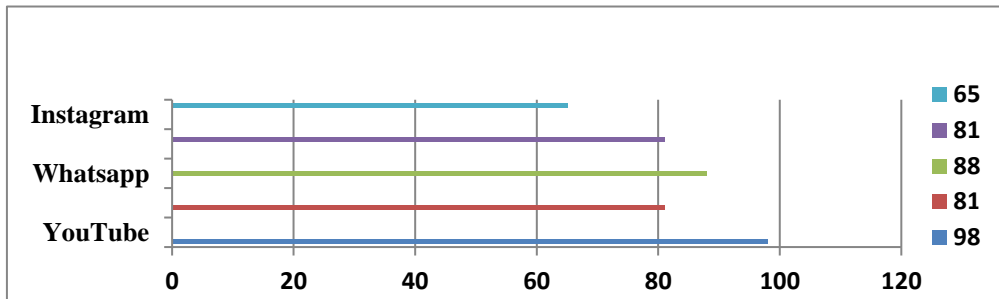
1. It is easier for me to understand the material if it is delivered using



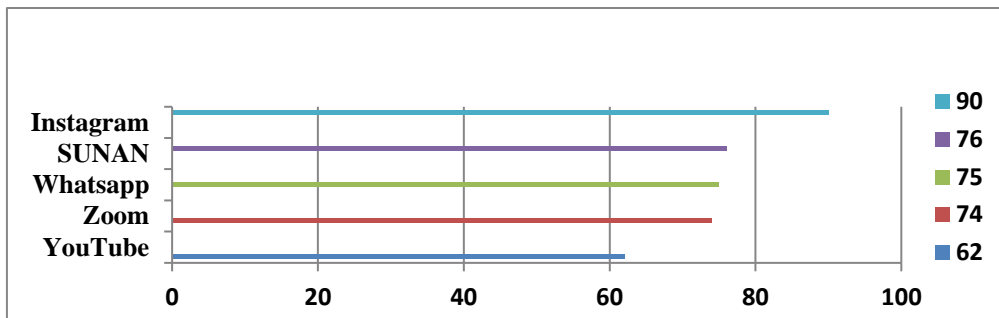
2. It would be helpful for me if the learning activities can be done using



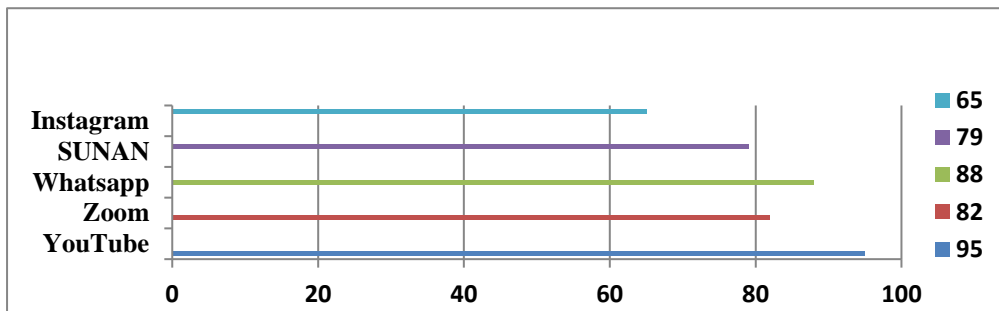
3. I consider the learning activity is more effective when is delivered using:



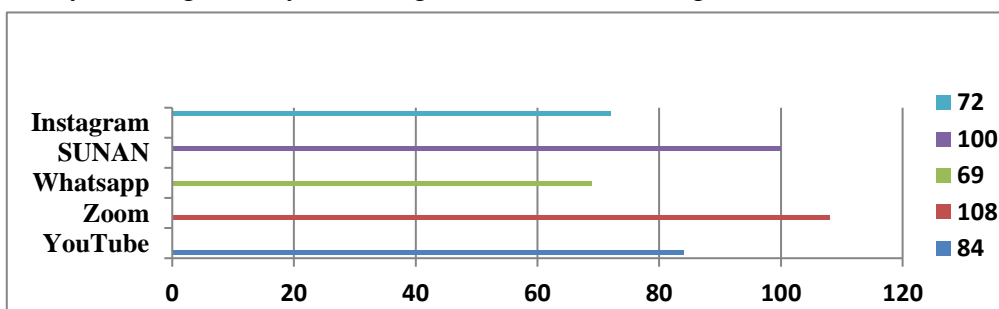
4. I find it difficult to understand the material when it is delivered using:



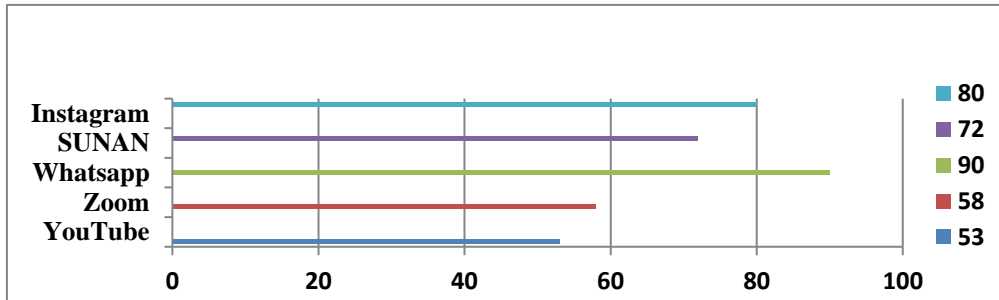
5. I find it easier to understand the material when it delivered using



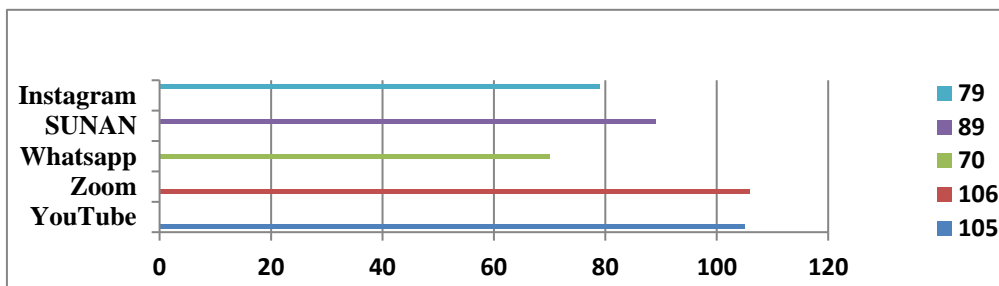
6. My learning activity is often got trouble when using



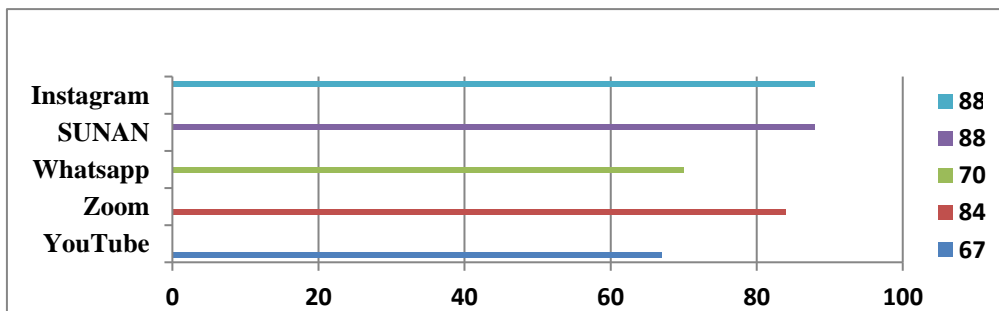
7. It consumed less amount of data usage if studying online using



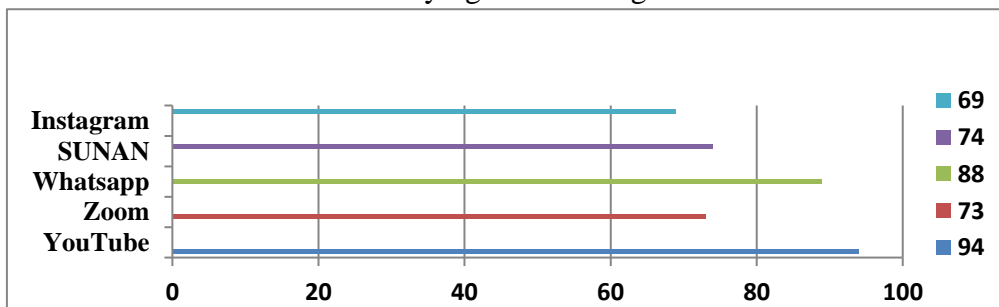
8. The massive amount of data usage cost when studying online using



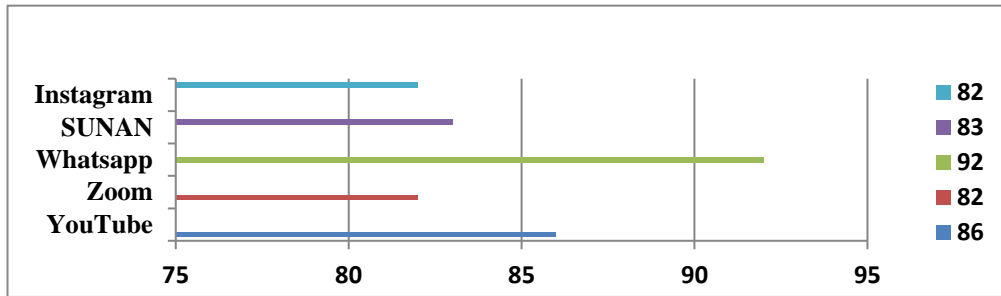
9. I do not enjoy when studying online using



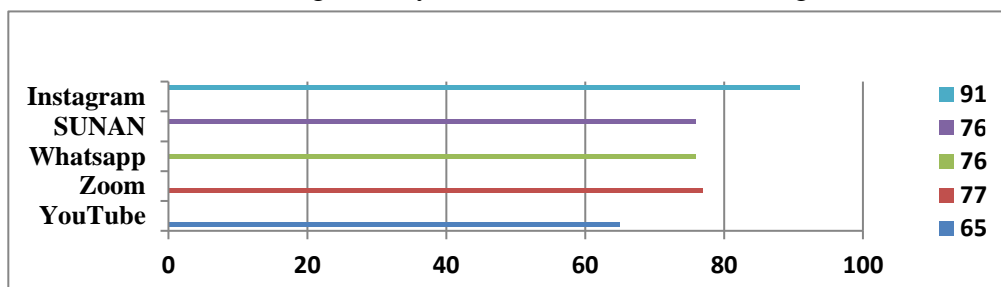
10. I feel enthusiastic when studying online using



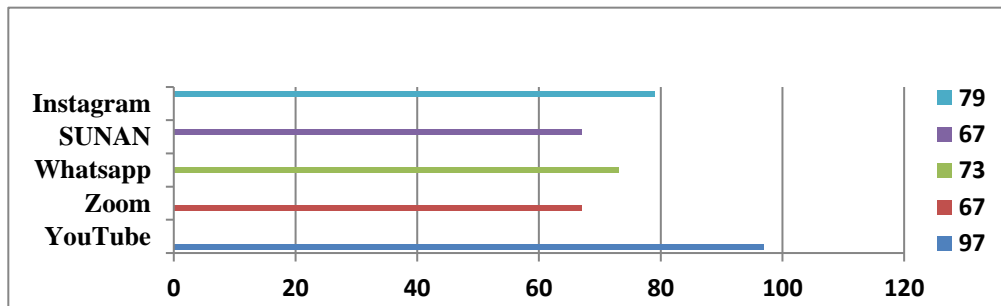
11. I Online platform that I often use for studying English



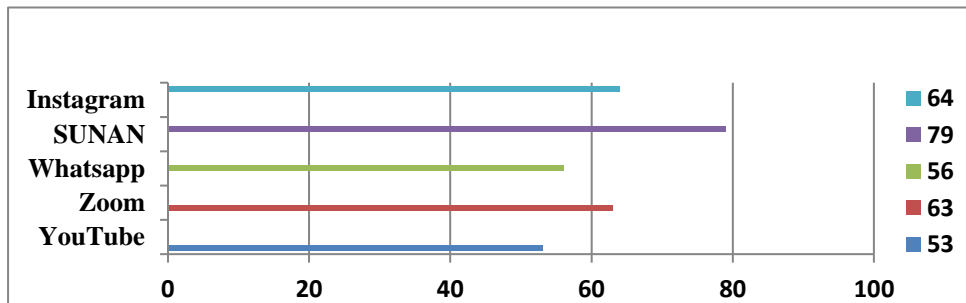
12. I assume the learning activity is not effective when it using



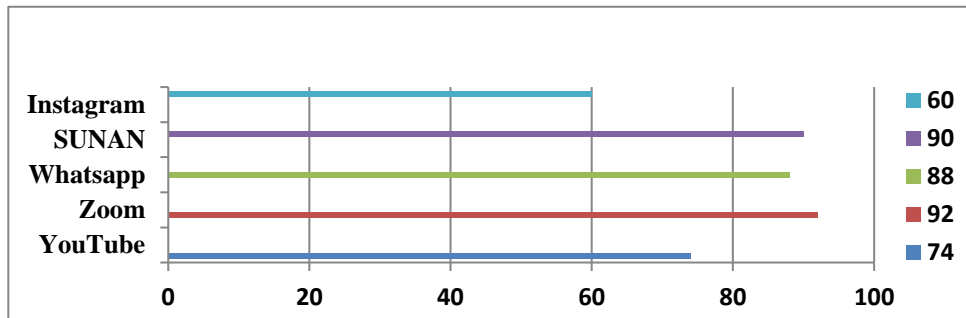
13. The online platform that attracts me to studying English



14. The online platform which is difficult to access for me is



15. The platform which I prefer to use



Aspect of Understanding

There are three points which develop in this aspect. The first is “It would be easier for me to understand the material if it is delivered using:”. YouTube is the highest score (96) with the percentage of 43% for Strongly Agree (SA), 37% for Agree (A), 17% for Disagree (D), and 3% for Strongly Disagree (SD) It means, 13 students choose (SA), 11 students who choose (A), 5 students who choose (D), and 1 student choose (SD). It means that YouTube is the easier platform for the students to understand the material

The next point of understanding aspect is “I find it easier to understand the material when it delivered using:” the highest answer of the students is YouTube (93) with 13% Strongly Agree (SA), 50% Agree (A), 33% Disagree (D), and 0% Strongly Disagree (SD). 10 students choose (SD), 15 students that choose (A), 5 who choose (D), and no one for (SD). It is indicated that YouTube is the easier Online Platform for students to understand the material

The third point is “I find it difficult to understand the material when it is delivered using:” with Instagram (90) it means that the students are difficult to understand the material when it delivered by Instagram, based on data there are 5% who choose Strongly Agree (SA), 70% Agree (A), 10% Disagree (D) and 3% who choose Strongly Disagree (SD) it means, in other words, there are 5 students that choose (SA), 21 for (A), 3 who choose (D) and 1 student that chooses (SD)

Based on the research of Arif (2019) tools provide some benefits to help the students understand English learning materials easily, and makes English language learning more effective

The result of understanding aspect based on the previous points and previous research is in line that YouTube is the online platform that makes students easier to understand and it is in line with the previous research

Aspect of Effectiveness

There are two points in this aspect, the first is about “I consider the learning activity is more effective when it delivered using:”. It is shown with statement number three, YouTube (98) is the dominant answer by 40% for Strongly Agree (SA), 47% for Agree (A), and 13% for Disagree (D), and 0 for Strongly Disagree (SD). The use of YouTube is effective for students

in learning activities. 12 students choose (SA), 14 students choose (A), 4 students choose (D), and no one chooses (SD).

The second is “I assume the learning activity is not effective when it using:” Instagram (91) is the dominant answer with 33% of students who choose Strongly Agree (SA), 40% who choose Agree (A), 23% Disagree (D), and 3% who choose Strongly Disagree (SD) it mean there are 10 students that choose (SA), 12 students that choose (A), 7 students that choose (D), and 1 student that chooses (SD).

Based on Prestiadi (2020) from the results of the meta-analysis, the implementation of e-learning can be effective to improve students' abilities if the teacher's role as a learning facilitator can provide ease of learning and design interesting learning

The result of effectiveness aspect based on the points and the previous finding above is in line with Prestiadi (2020) that YouTube is an online platform which effective in e-learning and student also think for study when using Instagram isn't effective for them and become the platform that hard to use for learning activity

Aspect of Trouble

There are two points in trouble aspect, the first is “My learning activity is often got trouble when using:” it showed by the data that most of the students got trouble when it using Zoom (108) by 67% that choose Strongly Agree (SA), 27% Agree (A), 7% Disagree (D), and 0% Strongly Disagree (SD) it means there are 20 students who choose (SA), 8 Students that choose (A), 2 for (D) and no one who (SD)

The next point is about “The online platform which is difficult to access for me is:” the data showed that SUNAN (79) is a dominant answer by the students, there are 10% that choose Strongly Agree (SA), 0% for Agree (A), 67% who Disagree (D), and 23% Strongly Disagree (SD), it means there are 3 students who choose (SA), no one (A), 20 students that choose (D), and 7 students who choose (SD). SUNAN become the Online Platform that is difficult to access for the students, poor server that cause problems to access the site make the students difficult to join or login and sometimes trouble when loading to the site

Based on the finding of Hamid, et al. (2020). The main supporting factors of the effectiveness of virtual learning in the Covid-19 period are the carrying capacity of network access and the ability of devices to access the internet

The result of this aspect is related on two points and from the previous finding, it is in line with Hamid et al that Zoom and SUNAN make it difficult for students as the learner to access because of the poor connection to the main server when loading some page when there are many students who accessed in the same time.

Aspect of Data Usage

There are two points in this aspect, the first is “It consumed less amount of data usage if studying online using:” Whatsapp (90) is the dominant answer by 17% who choose Strongly Agree (SA), 70% Agree (A), 10% Disagree (D), and 3% Strongly Disagree (SD) it means 5 students choose (SA), 21 students choose (A), 3 students (D), and 1 student who (SD). Whatsapp has become the Online Platform that students must choose for the consumed less amount of internet data usage than other platforms

The second is about “The massive amount of data usage cost when studying online using:” Zoom (106) is the most students choose when it comes to the massive amount of internet data usage after YouTube (105) because the platform is using video as well with 63% for Strongly

Agree (SA), 27% Agree (A), 10% Disagree (D), and 0% Strongly Disagree (SD) or there are 19 students who (SA), 8 students for (A), and 3 students that choose (D)

Based on finding from Budiman, Edy. (2020) reveals that Zoom can be a real data problem. The measurement results show that for group meetings, Zoom spends the total usage between 810MB - 2.4GB per hour

The result of this aspect is related to the two points above and also it is in line with the previous finding that Zoom has become the platform which is the top answer for the highest internet data usage and Whatsapp be the platform that has a low cost of internet data usage

Aspect of Enjoyment

In this aspect, there are two points, the first is “I do not enjoy when studying online using:” it showed the answer is SUNAN (88) and Instagram (88) that have the same score and be the most students choice. For Instagram, there is 8 (27%) student who chooses Strongly Agree (SA), 12(40%) student that chooses Agree (A), and 10(33%) student who Disagree (D), for SUNAN, there are 9(30%) students who choose Strongly Agree (SA), 11(37%) students that choose Agree (A), 9(30%) students who Disagree (D), and 1(3%) student that chooses Strongly Disagree (SD). It means both SUNAN and Instagram is Online Platform that most students can't feel enjoy when they are studying English

The second point is “It would be helpful for me if the learning activities using:” which showed by questionnaire statement number 2. This statement is dominated by YouTube (99) with a percentage of 47% for Strongly Agree (SA), 37% for Agree (A), 17% for Disagree (D), and 0 for Strongly Disagree (SD), which mean 14 students choose (SA), 11 students who choose (A), 5 students who choose (D), and no one that chooses (SD). It is shown that the students feel helpful in learning activities that using YouTube as an Online platform

Based on Selly, Irene(2018) who found in her research the students felt learning English using social media was so fun, flexible, and helpful platform to learn English

Based on the results of the enjoyment aspect by students in this research, it shows that it contradicts with the previous research because they do not fun in doing the online learning process that is carried out using social media

Aspect of Students' Interest

There are two points in this aspect, first is about “I feel enthusiastic when studying online using:” YouTube (94) with 30% Strongly Agree (SA), 57% Agree (A), 10% Disagree (D), and 3% Strongly Disagree (SD) or it means there are 9 students that choose (SA), 17 students who choose (A), 3 students who (D), and 1 student who choose (SD). It indicated that YouTube is the Online Platform that can make students feel enthusiastic when they are studying.

The second is about “The online platform that attracts me to studying English online:” YouTube (97) is the most student students choose by 37% that Strongly Agree (SA), 50% Agree (A), 13% that Disagree (D), and 0% for Strongly Disagree (SD) or in another word there are 11 students who (SA), 15 students that (A), 4 students for (D), and no one that chooses (SD). It makes YouTube is the Online Platform that can attract most students for studying English online in this pandemic of COVID.

Based on the research from Mulyani, Sri. (2020), students are motivated and excited by learning English through E-Learning, friends, and the internet (usually using YouTube)

On the two points above and from the previous research, it is in line that YouTube succeeded in attracting students' attention and also succeeded in increasing students enthusiasm for learning English

Mostly Used Online Platform

In this aspect, it showed "Online platform that I use for studying English:" the data showed that the dominant answer is Whatsapp (92) with 27% that choose Strongly Agree (SA), 20% that Agree (A), 23% Disagree (D), and 3% Strongly Disagree (SD), it means there are 8 students who choose (SA), 15 students who choose (A), 7 students who choose (D), and 1 student that chooses (SD). It makes Whatsapp is the Online Platform that students most used for studying English.

Based on the research findings from Ermawati, Nurul (2020) found several student responses related to the selection of applications used in the online learning platform WhatsApp used by almost all students in the learning process

The result of this aspect is related to the previous research findings, it is in line that Whatsapp is used by students very often as a communication tool or use as a means of discussion, making this platform one of the most frequently used.

Preferred Online Platform

In this aspect, it showed "The platform which I prefer to use:" This is the last statement and is dominated by Zoom (92) with 23% Strongly Agree (SA), 60% Agree (A), 17% Disagree (D), and 0% Strongly Disagree (SD) it means there are 7 students who choose (SA), 18 students that choose (A), 5 students for (D), and no one who choose (SD). Zoom has become the Online Platform which is students prefer to be used by a teacher to deliver the material because it can display the video and also have audio.

Based on Hamid (2020) the study provides evidence Zoom is commonly used as an online learning platform by EFL teachers and students during the pandemic

The result showed that Zoom as an online platform to replace face-to-face classes really makes this platform the alternative way most students choose and it is also in line with Hamid's (2020) statement.

The result of this discussion is for the material it is easily understood when it is uploaded on YouTube. Yet the students prefer to use zoom even they are often got trouble when used zoom in delivered the material and also has the high cost of internet data usage although the students interested in YouTube even it also has the same high internet data usage cost as zoom, another reason is maybe that this platform works synchronically that mean in here is learning event with participants that engaged at the same time or real-time feedback for the instructor and there is Interaction between participants by media such as videoconferencing and chat like Zoom itself that has the potential to support e-learners in the development of learning. Most students used the online platform WA and if it is used for learning English they do not enjoy it and do not feel helped because they feel helped when they used YouTube for their learning online activity

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes the result that the students in terms of understanding, the students got difficulty in using Instagram and the easiness is using YouTube. The second is about the effectiveness, it is effective when it using YouTube. The next is about the trouble

aspect, the platform that often got trouble is Zoom, and the platform that does not often get trouble in the learning activity is Whatsapp. The fourth is internet data usage, the highest of data usage is Zoom and the lowest is WhatsApp. The fifth is about the enjoyment aspect, dominated by YouTube and students do not enjoy the learning activity when it using Instagram and SUNAN. The next aspect is about students' interest, it is dominated by YouTube that succeeded in attracting students' attention and enthusiasm to learning English, meanwhile, most students cant enjoy their learning online using Instagram. The next aspect is the Most used online platform, dominated by Whatsapp, and the platform that rarely be used for studying English is Instagram. The last is an online platform that students prefer to use dominated by Zoom and the lowest score in this aspect is Instagram.

Based on the conclusion above, some suggestions are proposed as follows; First, the use of online platforms should be used to help the lecturers manage their teaching and learning process. The lecturer can use the online platform as a learning tool to help students develop their studies. Next, the researcher recommends for further researchers to conduct similar research and explore other aspects of using online platforms toward learning English and continue this research to investigate the perception of students because this study is using students at a college level as the population under observations. Furthermore, may take different student's perspectives of students from junior or senior high school.

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