

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This study is intended to investigate the EFL students' challenges of online learning. This chapter depicts the background of the study, the scope of the study, the research questions, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, and the definition of the key terms used in this study.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A systematic research literature from 1996 to July 2008 identified more than a thousand empirical studies on online learning (Means et al, 2009). A survey of higher education in the United States reported that more than 2.35 million students were enrolled in online courses in 2004. The report also notes that online learning has become a strategy in the long term for post-secondary institutions (Kim, 2006). Online classes offer convenience and flexibility that cannot be found in face-to-face classes (Kauffman, 2015). According to Ferdiansyah et al (2020), online learning has been widely applied in the blended learning approach to support face-to-face learning in class and to mediate student interaction and involvement in online classes. Deploying online learning has helped education providers to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services (Su et al, 2014). The online learning system is referred to as electronic learning (e-learning) or mobile learning (m-learning), and their use in managing the processes of teaching and learning through information and communication technology (ICT) has become standard practice by many education providers worldwide (Anshari et al,

2016). This study aims to look at the challenges, responses, suggestions, and benefits of EFL students towards online learning during Covid-19 pandemic.

In International scope, there are several current studies about online learning. Song et al (2004) study confirms that the current study focuses on learners' perceptions of online learning. The study shows that most learners agreed that course design, learner motivation, time management, and comfortableness with online technologies impact the success of an online learning experience. In addition, Bernard et al (2004) conducted a meta-analysis that focused on student achievement, attitudes, and retention. The results show a small effect in favor of distance education (Michel et al, 2005).

In Indonesian scope, the current study focuses on the perception of online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic (Allo,2020). The study shows that the learners' perception of online learning reveals that it is good during COVID-19 pandemic. They perceived online learning as being very helpful in the middle of a pandemic. This study not only reports that online learning is good in the COVID-19 pandemic but also sheds light on the availability of internet access, financial issues, and online learning implementation. Another study was also conducted by Ambarwati et al (2020) which focused on the effect of variable conditions and user habits on the value of OLP behavior in Indonesia. Online learning in Indonesia cannot be separated from problems such as the lack of management support in implementing online learning. Study Panigrahi et al (2018) state that learning outcomes through online platforms are fundamental in ensuring that

technology in the world of education has been applied and gets maximum benefits.

In Indonesia, Covid-19 was detected and announced directly by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo on Monday 2 March 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact, not only in terms of health but also social, cultural, economic, and educational issues (Yunus&Rezki, 2020). Clinical analysis results of the virus showed person-to-person transmission (Li et al., 2020; Paules et al.2020). The Director General of WHO in March 2020 declared Covid-19 as a pandemic after an assessment of the rapid spread and severity of the deadly virus across the globe with additional announcements of social distancing as a means of curbing the spread of the pandemic(WHO, 2020).WHO advises social and physical distancing to prevent the chain of transmission of Covid-19. The Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia issued circular no. 4 of 2020 which discusses policies for the community, both teachers and students, to carry out online learning activities to reduce the spread of the covid-19 virus. However, In Indonesia, online learning poses challenges to students such as various sectors of society whose education system is also uneven, especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some schools or universities receive assistance, but some do not get assistance so many students are unable to do online learning because they do not have laptops, internet quotas, or poor internet access (Simamora, 2020).In this research, the present study was aimed at knowing what EFL students' challenge of online learning during covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, the research that focuses on EFL students' challenge of online learning during Covid-19 is necessary to be done. The information related to this can be done through scientific study data. This study will expect to contribute to an understanding of what challenges students experience in online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will provide information to lecturers and universities so that it can be taken into consideration in utilizing technology-based online learning.

## **1.2 Scope of the Study**

In this research, lecturers use online-based learning media such as Schoology, WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Zoom, etc. when teaching English classes. This study only focuses on students' challenges regarding the use of applications for online learning in Foreign Language Teaching Media classes. Lecturers use various applications in terms of teaching in class. The use of the application aims to facilitate students and teachers to share information and provide access to content or administrative features of certain courses.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates research as follows: What are the challenges of online learning EFL students experienced during Covid-19 pandemic?

## **1.4 Purpose of the Study**

Based on the research background, this present study aims to discover the challenges of learning EFL students experienced during Covid-19.

## 1.5 Significances of the Study

This study can be used as a reference for those who want to conduct research in analyzing EFL students' challenges of online learning.

Firstly, this study will be helpful for students. This study will reveal their experiences in using various platforms as learning media during the online learning process in EFL classes.

Secondly, for teachers or lecturers. With this research, teachers or lecturers can see the challenges, responses, suggestions, and benefits of using various platforms as online learning media during the Covid-19 pandemic. After knowing everything, the teacher or lecturer can add to the shortcomings of what happened during the application of online learning in the EFL class.

Thirdly, this study is a reference for schools or universities that some applications such as Schoology, Google Classroom and Zoom used in online learning are learning media to be used in the teaching and learning process as a better educational program in the future.

Lastly, this study will be useful for universities in illustrating the importance of online learning to overcome certain problems. Moreover, with this research, it is hoped that the use of online learning technology will not only be used in conditions like now (Covid-19 pandemic).

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

**EFL students' challenge** in this research refers to the anxiety of students majoring in English education, especially semester VI class A at IAIN Kendari

with the application of online learning in the EFL class during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Online learning** in this study is a way for students, teachers, or lecturers to continue learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. During a pandemic, students are directed to learn from home which causes students and teachers or lecturers to use several applications such as Schoology, Google Classroom, and Zoom as online learning media.

