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TEACHERS' CONSTRAINTS IN USING THE WHATSAPP APPLICATION AS AN ONLINE LEARNING MEDIA IN TEACHING ENGLISH AT MTSN 2 PASAMAN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected several aspects of the teaching and learning process. MTsN 2 Pasaman is one of the schools that participates in online learning in English subjects. This study aims to describe the teachers' constraints in using the *WhatsApp* application as online learning media in teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, while the data collection techniques are carried out by interviews and documentation. Interviews were conducted with English teachers class VIII at MTsN 2 Pasaman. The teacher sends learning materials in the *WhatsApp* application by using the *WhatsApp* application features such as audio, photos, documents, and videos. The teacher's online learning activities also carry out introduction, observation, questioning, experimenting, associating, communicating and closing. the application that is mainly used for teaching and learning English online is *WhatsApp*, that the *WhatsApp* application is not effectively used for teaching and learning English online, teachers and students experience problems in online learning in learning English consisting of networks that are less supportive, lack of student understanding on the material, and the limited internet quota that students have. From the results of this study, it was concluded that teachers' constraints in using the *WhatsApp* application as an online learning media in teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman during Covid-19 pandemic was not effective. (220 Words)

KEYWORDS

Online Learning, WhatsApp Application, Covid-19 pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

Education has an important role in the development of one's personality, in accordance with Law No. 20 of 2003 which states that education creates potential in oneself in the form of religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed to be able to live in society with effort, conscious and planned.

WHO has issued an appeal to prohibit events that enable people to congregate in order to prevent the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid 19). As a result, face-to-face learning that involves a large number of students in a class is evaluated for implementation. Milman (2015) claims that the usage of digital technology can enable students and teachers to continue out the learning process even if they are in separate locations.. Therefore, at this time, tools or tools that can help in the learning process are needed, such as smartphones.

The majority of pupils previously indicated that learning in class was dull and stressful. As a result, researchers are working to develop new methods of teaching English that will allow students to enjoy the learning process and continue studying after class by using their smartphones. The purpose of this study was to find out how students felt about using the WhatsApp application to learn English. The school has been using WhatsApp since the beginning of the covid 19 epidemic, while the government implemented online classroom restrictions for all educational institutions during the pandemic. Nadiem Anwar Makarim (2020), as minister of education and culture of the Republic of Indonesia, has issued a policy to regulate learning activities during the pandemic. However, there appear to be some communication issues in the distribution of learning information, with parents of kids who do not have WhatsApp having trouble getting information about their children's progress at school. One of the simplest and most widely used online learning media is the WhatsApp application. The WhatsApp application, especially the WhatsApp group feature, can be used as a teaching and learning space, so that teachers' and students' can still learn during this COVID-19 pandemic.

MTsN 2 Pasaman is an educational institution that implements online learning using the WhatsApp application as a learning medium. Based on the observations that the researcher has observed when doing PL (Field Introduction) from September to the end of November 2020 at the school, the researcher found that there were problems encountered in using the WhatsApp application during learning, especially in learning English. As we know, English is one of the topics taught from high school to higher education, must be presented in the most engaging manner possible; of course, as a teacher, it is crucial to do so. Furthermore, because daily language may be dull, this subject is frequently dismissed as insignificant. To create a love for learning English, it needs work and strong creative capacity to modify that impression. As a result, it is important to use the WhatsApp program to assist pupils in learning English in a pleasant manner.

This research is to know the using whatsapp application in learning English Teaching at the Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTS). Previously, researcher had

made observations in MTsN 2 Pasaman and found information that currently schools, students, and teachers had communicated and disseminated information related to learning activities through WhatsApp Application. After all, based on observations made by researcher in previous studies it was found that the English learning using WhatsApp application can facilitate students more active in the learning process. Therefore, this study aims to know the implementation of WhatsApp application in teaching of English at MTsN 2 Pasaman. Therefore the researcher considers that the subjects of the study are MTsN 2 Pasaman.

Based on the background described above, the researcher is interested in doing a research entitled: **“Teachers’ Constraints in Using the WhatsApp Application as an Online Learning Media in Teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman during the Covid-19 Pandemic”**.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research approach is a qualitative approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor (Moleong, 2017:4) qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written and oral explanations of the observed subject. This qualitative approach is used to describe the teachers’ constraints’ in using of WhatsApp application as an online learning media in teaching of english at MTsN 2 Pasaman during Covid-19 pandemic.

In this research the data was collected using observation, interview, and documentation.

1. Observation

Gorman and Clayton (2005:40) defines observation is a study that involves a systematic recording of a phenomenon or a certain behavior that can be observed in the natural environment. Observation is one way of collecting data by someone with the intention that someone can feel and then understand the knowledge of a phenomenon.

2. Interview

For a study, interviews or question and answer sessions are one of the best ways to learn or explore profound information from someone. In this case, the interview was done in the middle of a pandemic by face to face interview when the teacher got a picket schedule at school. This interview was conducted to get an oral response from English teachers.

Table 3.2 Interview grids

Data Source	Variable	Indicator	No. Item
Teachers'	The using of <i>WatsApp Application</i> as an online learning media by the teachers'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The using of WhatsApp Application as an online media 2. Number of Groups owned 3. WhatsApp advantages 4. WhatsApp Disadvantages 5. Constraint in using WhatsApp media 6. Solutions to overcome problems using WhatsApp media 	<p>1,2,7</p> <p>3</p> <p>4,5</p> <p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>9, 10</p>

3. Documentation

According to Sugioyono (2016: 329) documentation is used to complete the data from observations and interviews so that the results from observations and interviews can be trusted with documentation. In this study, the documentation selected was in the form of videos or interview recordings, screenshots of the use of WhatsApp as an online learning medium, and photos that support to complete research data such as syllabus, lesson plans and others.

FINDINGS

The data collection process was carried out before and during the research. This research was conducted by direct observation of the teacher's obstacles in using the WhatsApp application as a learning medium. The purpose of this study was to find out how the WhatsApp application process as a learning medium in the Covid-19 network was carried out by teachers in learning, the obstacles faced and the solutions taken to conquer the existing obstacles.. The interview was conducted with the class VIII teacher. The aspect that was asked was the impression when using *WhatsApp* in the midst of online learning at this time. This was in accordance with the conclusions of the researcher interviewed with Mrs. Jasmiwati, S.Pd as an English teacher for class VIII.1- on December 25, 2021 that:

Researcher: *"According to you, what is your opinion about the use of WhatsApp application as an online learning media in this school?"* Informant: *"Online learning activities are carried out in accordance with the Circular issued by the SE government No. 4 of 2020, demanding that learning activities be carried out independently at home, using WhatsApp which can be reached by all people, especially mothers as teachers. WhatsApp is very helpful for mothers in the learning process. The application that is presented is very friendly, practical and there are not many steps to be taken when operating it."*

Picture. 4. 1 Interview Documentation



DISCUSSION

1. Teachers' process in using the *WhatsApp* application as an online learning media in teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman during Covid-19 Pandemic.

Based on the results of research conducted from December to January 2022 in class VIII at MTsN 2 Pasaman, by conducting observations and interviews that researcher had described, and supported by documentation, it can be seen that teachers use *WhatsApp* as an online learning medium to support the learning process during At home, in this case, the teacher had implemented the policy issued by Minister Nadiem Anwar Makarim who issued Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020 in Education units through the Circular Letter of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 36962/MPK.A/HK/2020 concerning "Online Learning (On the Network) in order to prevent the spread of Corona Virus Diseases (COVID-19). This policy has been issued, forcing teachers and students to continue to carry out the learning process from home with the help of distance learning media, one of which is the use of *WhatsApp* used by class VIII teacher's at MTsN 2 Pasaman, all learning activities are accessed via *WhatsApp* both delivery of material, information, discussions and evaluation activities carried out by utilizing features such as photos and documents After conducting observations and interviews with the teacher and students, according to Mulyadi, according to the observation grid in the use of *WhatsApp* as a learning medium, the results of the stages carried out by The teacher in using *WhatsApp* as an online learning medium during the Covid-19 pandemic were obtained. are as follows:

a. Planning

Teachers need to make preparations before using *WhatsApp* as a learning medium in the network during the Covid-19 pandemic. Preparations made by the teacher such as creating a class *WhatsApp* group that will be used, the teacher preparing the Online RPP to be used, the

teacher determining the schedule and plan used, the teacher preparing material in the form of video or pdf form, preparing the Student Worksheet (LKPD), and preparing students' readiness in the learning process through attendance made online by utilizing *WhatsApp*.

b. Implementation

Implementation is the realization of the plans that have been made by the teacher. The implementation of the learning process based on the results of observations in class VIII MTsN 2 Pasaman, the researchers describe as follows:

1) Preliminary activities

In the preliminary learning activity, the teacher greets students through the *WhatsApp* group by greeting, then continues by sending online attendance using the Google form and sending a link to the class *WhatsApp* group. Core activities

2) In the core activity the teacher provides opportunities for students, and states that they understand the tasks that have been given, the teacher continues learning activities by giving assignments, the tasks given are in the form of LKPD that has been made by the teacher. The teacher gives the time for sending assignments until 21.00 WIB, this is because there are some students who use their parents' cellphones, and wait for their parents to come home from work first, after that they can only do the assigned tasks.

3) Closing activity

The learning activity was ended by the teacher closing the lesson by giving appreciation with a thank you, funny sticker, or *WhatsApp* icon in the form of a thumbs up to students who had followed the lesson well.

4) Evaluation

After the researchers made observations, the evaluation system carried out by the teacher was that after all the tasks given to students had been accepted by the teacher, the teacher would correct one by one the tasks that were entered in the *WhatsApp* group or personal chat and enter the students' scores into the score notebook as physical evidence of student assessment. Then the accumulated value will be obtained from the results of the test and also the tasks that have been done, for students who have not done or scored below the KKM, the teacher will provide information via personal chat directly to the person concerned.

2. Teachers' constraints in using the *WhatsApp* application as an online learning media in teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman during Covid-19 pandemic.

The teachers' constraints in using the *WhatsApp* application as an online learning media in teaching English according to the results of interviewed researcher and teachers' of class VIII MTsN 2 Pasaman were as follows:

a. Signal interference

Signal disturbances that occur during the implementation of online learning will certainly have an impact on the process of accessing learning. This factor occurs when the lights go out, or other factors that make the signal slow, causing learning to be late or not according to the specified time.

b. Memory's Phone is full

A full HP memory, of course, will make HP use slow. From the results of interviews with informants that the number of photos in the form of assignments and learning materials sent, makes HP operations not work well.

c. Lack of interaction

Based on the results of interviews, online learning has resulted in a lack of interaction between teachers and students, as well as students and their friends, especially in the use of *WhatsApp* as a learning medium, limited interaction. One of the factors is the parent's cellphone facility which makes it difficult for children to interact with teachers and students because their parents brought their cellphones to work.

d. It is difficult to know the seriousness of students

3. Teachers' solutions to overcome the constraints in using the *WhatsApp* application as an online learning media in teaching English at MTsN 2 Pasaman during Covid-19 pandemic

a. Signal interference

Through interviewed with teacher class VIII.7, it was found that the solution was to add more time in sending assignments, sending them until the evening at 21.00 WIB.

b. Memory's Phone is full

The solution was that the teacher tries to use google classroom media which contains learning materials and attendance, which will be accessed via a link shared in the *WhatsApp* group, or the use of Zoom Meetings and the use of Google Classroom.⁴⁴

c. Lack of interaction

The solution was to hold meetings once a week to school, and create discussion forums in *WhatsApp* groups to provide opportunities for students to interact with friends and teachers, with an agreement on a joint schedule with parents and the use of Zoom Meetings as a medium of interaction in the learning process but does not replace the use of *WhatsApp* as the main media. It is difficult to know the seriousness of students

d. Difficult to understand the material given

The solution was to look for sources of material from books or the internet, ask parents or directly ask the teacher concerned. Online learning is

a challenge for all teachers, face-to-face activities have been replaced with virtual worlds, therefore teachers certainly increase competence in understanding technology, especially in using media that support the learning process

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion described above, the conclusion obtained from this study was that the English teacher class VIII MTsN2 Pasaman had implemented online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Where the teacher had implemented online learning by carrying out stages such as planning, implementing, and assessing in online learning. The constraints experienced by teachers can be a challenge for teachers by providing appropriate solutions in overcoming the obstacles experienced by teachers

SUGGESTION

Based on the conclusions described above, the researchers provide suggestions to several related parties. These include the following:

1. For school principals and teachers, in order to maintain and further improve the implementation of online distance learning.
2. For students, they should learn more from home with the guidance of their parents.
3. For other researchers, it is hoped that this research can be used as a guide or reference for further research.

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