

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher wrote about the research background of why she conducted this study, the investigated problems, and the importance of the study. Furthermore, an overview of the study arrangement and the definition of the key terms were also be provided.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people must possess many skills, to be able to compete in the globalization era. One of the most required skills is communication using English language. As we all know English is an international language and is widely used to communicate with other people around the world. In Indonesia itself, many young generations are already excellent in their English including oral and written communication. Many of them are aware of the importance of learning English therefore they start to learn English since a very young age.

Since the Covid-19 first outbreak in Indonesia, students are required to learn from home, and schools are closed. This situation forced the Ministry of Education in Indonesia to take a big step to adapt to a new learning system that can be run from home. The decision of switching to an online learning system somehow is not always easy for both students and teachers. Teaching and Learning English, in particular, through an online learning system can be seen as a big challenge for teachers out there, especially for those who teach young learners. Teaching English to young learners is complex. Teachers need to understand the learners' characteristics and understand their needs. Moreover, teachers also need to perform many different strategies or techniques in order to make them understand better during the online meetings. However, many schools succeed in creating a balanced environment of teaching English to young learners through an online learning system and still are capable of performing certain techniques.

Therefore, it attracts the researchers' interest in observing the teachers' techniques in teaching English to young learners through online learning system.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem/ Research Problems**

In line with the discussion above, the research problem would be as follows:

1. What are the teaching techniques that can be used by the teachers in teaching English to young learners through online learning system?
2. What are the challenges in performing certain techniques when teaching English to young learners through online learning system?
3. How can teachers manage to overcome the challenges of teaching English to young learners through online learning system?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study aims to find out the teaching techniques that can be used in teaching English to young learners through online learning system, the challenges of performing certain techniques when teaching English to young learners through online learning system, and ways teachers have done in overcoming the challenges.

### **1.4 Theoretical Background**

This study is based on the theories of Young Learners, Teaching Techniques for Young Learners, and online learning system. Many scholars and researchers have defined young learners with a variety of different statements. Lyn Cameron (2001) defines young learners as "those between five and twelve years of age" while Scott and Ytreberg (1990) defines young learners as "pupils (...) between five and ten or eleven years old." (as cited in Puskás, 2016) Apart from the age that defines them, young learners are all children that are unique and different from one another. In learning, young learners will possibly have variety of pace and approach. Therefore, teacher needs to be well-informed about the learner and

try his/ her best to provide the most suitable teaching techniques or strategy and also considered the one that can be performed in online learning to make young learners able to learn maximally but still in a fun way.

### **1.5 Limitation**

In order to make the research problem clear, comprehensible, and specific, the researcher limits the study and would like to focus on teachers' techniques in teaching English to young learners through online learning system in an elementary school in Surabaya.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to inform English teachers out there of what techniques they can use in teaching English to young learners through online learning system as well as inspire and encourage them to use those techniques. Moreover, it is expected that this study can inform some challenges teachers may face in using certain techniques when teaching English to young learners through online learning system so that they can choose the more suitable teaching techniques for their teaching.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

#### **Young Learners**

“Annamaria Pinter (2011) divides young learners into three groups. The first is children who start pre-school at about the age of three, the second is the group of children who start primary school at around the age of 5-7 and finish primary school 11 or 12, although in some countries it happens at around the age of 13 or 14. Pinter calls children from the age of 13 onwards ‘early adolescents’.” (Puskás, 2016, p. 10-11)

## **Teaching Techniques**

Teaching techniques are the distinctive ways of carrying out a particular task, in the teaching and learning process. As a result, it is the individual teachers' distinct way of implementing a strategy. (Dotse, 2017)

## **Online Learning System**

Online learning or is widely known as e-learning (electronic learning) is the way to educate learners through electronic devices such as computers, smartphones, tablets, or even cell phones that are linked to the internet (Lawless as cited in Fitria, 2020).

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

- Chapter 1 is the introduction which contained about the background of why the researcher conducts this study, the objective, theoretical framework, limitation, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.
- Chapter 2 is the related review of the literature. In chapter 2, there are two major points: a review of the related theories and related/ previous studies. For the review of the related theory, the researcher reviews theories of young learners, the characteristics of young learners, the challenges of teaching young learners, the principles of teaching English to young learners, and teaching techniques for young learners.
- Chapter 3 is the research methodology. The researcher states the research design followed by the source of the data, research instrument, procedure of collecting data, and technique of data analysis.
- Chapter 4 is the findings and discussion. The researcher presents all of the findings that have been obtained and discuss those findings.
- Chapter 5 is the conclusion and suggestion. The researcher concludes all of the findings and discussion then gives suggestion for the English teachers and future researchers.