CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the beginning of 2020, all countries had to face the COVID-19 pandemic for months. Since COVID-19 penetrated Indonesia, people have been unable to carry out their daily activities as usual. The Indonesian government appealed to the public for keeping a distance of at least 2 meters from each other in public places. Moreover, the government asked everyone to work from home to inhibit the spread of coronavirus disease. The COVID-19 has also had an impact on schools. Students are no longer able to do the conventional way of learning in school buildings. The government makes schools hold the learning process through online platforms. This dramatic action changes the teaching-learning system. Sudden pandemic mitigation rather than gradual evolution from the two systems create disruptions, which have not been expected before, caused this situation. All elements of education from students to teachers, from infrastructure at home to national infrastructure of ICT, and from educational staff to parents should be ready for this extreme situation.

Schools used to perform face-to-face learning in school buildings. Therefore, online learning is a new thing in Indonesia, especially for junior high school. According to Medford (2004), online learning includes a range of technologies such as the worldwide website, email, room chat, new groups and texts, audio and video conferencing delivered over computer networks to give education. In fact, students can adapt from face-to-face learning to online learning.

Studying from home does not mean that the students do the study by themselves without any guidance from the teachers. Students still get direction from the teachers, and sometimes, students get additional help from their parents. Hopefully, online learning could not make the students less active than they do in offline learning. Teachers may create active learning online, and they may use a new teaching technique.

Nevertheless, technical issues between students may occur in online learning besides the purpose and the concepts of online learning. Online learning is such a culture shock for the students since it is rare for them. In online learning, students tend to be active and doing many assignments. Other than that, sometimes teachers cannot explain clearly and provide maximum examples of the material to students due to time or media limitations. Consequently, students may be confused about the exercise given. Eventually, students finish their assignments as they can do, meaning that the lesson is not successful. Those obstacles can affect students' education performance if they are unable to adapt to the current condition.

According to Carliner (1999), online learning is described as educational variety presented through a computer or gadget. Even though the technology is well stated as a great thing nowadays, it could also be a terrible issue. Further, Orlando and Attard (2015) also believe that technical teaching is not a "one size fits all" approach as it depends on the types of technology used and the curriculum content taught. It means that the application of technology in teaching activity provides additional factors for consideration in terms of teaching pedagogy and the construction of learning experiences. In the globalization era, planning and implementing online learning need to be concerned. They may lead the students into many issues, for instance,

lack of communication with parents or friends, a sense of isolation, unmotivated stress, and many other things.

The students in Yogyakarta, particularly students from a public school in Gunungkidul, have been learning English starting from junior high. English is important nowadays. Besides, it is also useful for students in the future. However, many of them feel that English is difficult. This idea leads them to dislike English.

The researcher chooses SMPN Wonosari to obtain the data because it is one of the RSBI School previously in Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta. Which means it is the most favorable school in Gunungkidul. The researcher only involves eighth- grader as participants in this study. The researcher made this decision because those students are in the midst between seventh-grader and ninth-grader in junior high school. In other words, the participants were neither too young as seventh- grader nor too busy in preparing National Examination as ninth-graders.

1.2 Statement of Problem/Research Problem

This study was an attempt to determine the eighth-grade students' problems on online learning and the solutions for it. According to the discussion above, the research problems would be as follows:

1. What are the obstacles of online learning encountered by eighth-grade students?
2. What are the benefits of online learning according to the student's opinion?

1.3 The Objectives

In accordance with the problems which are mentioned above, the objectives of this study will be:

1. To analyze what the obstacles of eighth-grade students of junior high school in Yogyakarta in having online learning are.

2. To analyze whether there are benefits of online learning or not according to the students opinion.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

There are two main issues in this research: learning and the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), which have been synthesized into online learning. The idea of online learning comes from Rusman (2011) who believes that the characteristics of online learning include interactivity, accessibility, and richness. He also states that even if learning is done virtually, students and teachers can carry out the learning process interactively by maximizing the technology used (Rusman, 2011) learning include

interactivity, accessibility, and richness. He also states that even if learning is done virtually, students and teachers can carry out the learning process interactively by maximizing the technology used (Rusman, 2011)

Since the application of ICT is related to the selection of suitable learning media, this research also employs ideas from another study. Heinich et al. (1982) argues that the teachers need to concern about including objectives, content and material, motivation, technicality, ownership, and instructions used to create successful teaching and learning

activities.

1.5 Limitation and Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the obstacles in online learning faced by eighth- grade students of public junior high school in Gunungkidul. The researcher only investigates the main problem that may affect students' academic performance. The subject of this study will be 5 (five) students from a public junior high school in Gunungkidul.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that the result of this study is helpful for many people, particularly for teachers. This study can be a reference for teachers to analyze the obstacles students encounter in online learning. Online learning itself is the replacement tool for conventional learning during the pandemic of COVID-19. In other words, this research may help teachers to understand the obstacles students encounter in attempting online learning that affect their academic performances.

For students, the researcher hopes that the students can evaluate and improve the way they establish online classes in the future. By understanding their difficulties in online learning, then they may find solutions to improve their academic performances.

For last, this study hopefully can be used as a source of information for further research in the same discussion.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

a. Online Learning

Online learning is a learning activity which takes place partially or entirely over the Internet. The definition of online learning is suitable with the current condition.

(Gotschall,2000).
b. Obstacles

Generally, an obstacle is a task, a situation, or a person in a difficult situation to deal with or control due to complexity and transparency. In everyday language, a problem is a question proposed for a solution, a matter stated for proof.

c. Benefit

Benefit can be defined as the positive impact from the research to the parties directly involved (for example, research participants and those associated with them, researchers and research organizations)

d. Junior High School Students

Students attending junior high school are students between the ages of eleven to fourteen years old. Most students have begun developing the ability to understand symbolic ideas and abstract concepts. They are categorized as digital native students. They are familiar with

technology and able to use other learning approaches than former generations. Studies showed that brain growth slowed during these years. Then, the cognitive skills of learners may expand at a slower rate. However, refinement of these skills can certainly be reinforced (Heidenreich et al., 2011).

1.8 Organization of the Proposal

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is about the introduction which consists of the background study, research problems, objectives of the study, theoretical frameworks, limitation and scope of this study, study significance, definitions of key terms, and the organizational of the proposal.

The second chapter is about the study of related literature. It consists of several theories and related studies which support this study.

The third chapter examines the research methodology used in this study. It consists of the research design, respondents, and instruments of this study, data collection procedures, and findings of this study.

The fourth chapter consists of findings and discussion. This chapter presents the results of the data analysis of this study and the discussion of the findings.

The last chapter is about the conclusion and suggestion. It consists of the conclusion of the study and suggestions for future research.