

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

English is one of the languages used by many countries in the world. Every day people in all parts of the world use English whether in a formal or informal situation. English becomes the language that is always used to communicate among people in a different country. Some countries are using English as their first language. It showed the importance of English in the world. Even though in Indonesia the position of English as the foreign language, in reality, English is very necessary. In this era, English is the language studied by every level of learners in Indonesia whether low or highest learner level. That is why teaching and learning English is used to train the students' ability in understanding and produce that language correctly.

In English, there are four basic skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing that can be learned in language development.¹ These skills are very important to be learned especially for English learners. These are the basic parts before learning the higher part in English and influencing the learners' ability to mastery English. Besides that, these four skills are related to each other in acquiring the language for humans whether the first language or the second language acquisition. Listening is the first skill that is used by humans in learning a language then followed by speaking, reading, and writing. Human usually uses those skills sequentially without separating or just studying one of the skills for

¹Safiye Bilican et. all, The Factors that Predict The Frequency of Activities Developing Students' Listening Comprehension Skills, *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol.5219-5224. no. 46, 2012, gpp.5219-5224.

communicating. It means that communication delivers the message from one person to the others and receiving feedback from them.² The communication process must involve those four skills. In learning at the school, the students are taught those four skills and also practice them to improve their knowledge related to that skills but in reality, the students have not practiced it well because of some difficulties such as less understanding and always using their first language in the class even in English class.

Regardless of those problems, many ways are used in learning by English learners to mastery those skills in both formal and informal education. Joining a course or English class is one of the ways to improve English skills. Different from the school, students can manage and set the time based on the leisure time that they have. So it will not be a problem in learning English at the course. Besides that, learning at the course as a solution for the student has less understanding in studying English at the school. Most of the students share their homework at the course and the teacher helps the student to discuss with more explanation about the homework and finish it.

Nowadays, the situation does not allow to go outside and join in the crowded place because of Covid-19. The daily activities of the community have changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this virus has not only attacked one country but also has spread in 215 countries throughout the world. This virus has a significant impact on society, almost all residents in Indonesia have diverted all activities that are carried out outside and do those activities at home instead. All

²Sholihatul Hamidah Daulay, *Languange and Society*, (Medan: Lembaga Peduli Pengembangan Pendidikan Indonesia (LPPPI), 2019), p.10

age levels including children, adults, and middle age should carry out the physical distancing where each individual always stays at home and works at home, without meeting or keeping in touch with the other people directly. This government policy is an effort to break the chain of Covid-19 transmission because without realizing it if one person has been indicated positive infected Covid-19 meeting a person is negative in Covid-19 infection. It is going to happen that the negative one becomes the positive or infected in the Covid-19 virus. For this problem, people are encouraged to wear masks if they want to buy something or finishing an urgent business outside.

On the other hand, the Covid-19 virus had an impact on Education Field. This situation gives new challenges to the Education system in Indonesia. Academic activities are stopped whether university or school because academic activity also involves many people include hundreds of students and teaching staff and that is considered as a crowded situation where it can cause the spread of Covid-19. For the solution, there is a significant change in teaching and learning activities in the school. Face-to-face learning was not allowed to be applied anymore and the school takes the policy of creating the virtual class instead. To reduce the infected people of Covid-19, the government warned the society to stay at home. The government has forbidden coming near a crowded place, social distancing, and physical distancing, using a mask and washing hands.³ The learning process must be able to follow the rules that can prevent direct physical contact among the students and between students and teachers. Hence, online

³Ali Sadikin & Afreni Hamidah, Online Learning in the Middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic, *Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Biologi*, vol 6. no.2, 2020, pp.214-214.

learning is one of the appropriate ways to be applied in the learning and teaching process because online learning can be carried out even though in a different and separate place. This is one of the advantages of online learning during this pandemic.

As time goes by, technology play the important role in many aspects, especially in the academic aspect. Technology becomes the necessary thing as the center of global knowledge for the student. According to Mizuho in this era, information from the various sciences is very easy to get quickly using the internet network. Almost all institution around the world utilizes it in every teaching aspect.⁴ It means that in teaching, technology is used as a forum for students and teachers to discuss and learn the subject material. This helps the teacher to provide the best possible care based on technology and following the current development in the education field. Technology can also be used as an effective approach for teaching and learning activities. Online learning can not be separated from technology because technology is the main tool in applying online learning for every level of students. The use of technology in education can be proven in the use of computers and Handphone.

In this Pandemic, students tend in using mobile phones. There are 2 kinds of mobile phone impact for students good and bad impact. In this case, parents or teachers have to lead the student to do the good activities as can as possible during their quarantine at home. Hence, some teachers lead a part of students' time every day during the online learning and some homework, and also the teachers make

⁴Mizuho Linuma, *Learning and Teaching with Technology in the Knowledge Society New Literacy, Collaboration and Digital Content*, (Tokyo: SpringerBriefs in Education, 2016), p.15

the interesting tool to the students are always consistent in learning English during this pandemic. That's why the teachers apply some applications for studying English because they have leisure time at home without going to school. Some applications are usually used to improve English skills namely Hello English, Memerise, Cake, BBC Learning English, and Duolingo.

Many users use Duolingo application as a learning English platform. This application is easily used by students in learning English and it is free to access on every Android mobile phone. it can motivate the student to improve their English skill. In Duolingo application, the student can learn by setting the time and place freely without any disruption. Besides that, Duolingo application also provides many activities to encourage the students to improve their English skills. The students will study vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and also grammar. The level of the material depends on the students. They can choose what level that they want to learn based on their ability until they understand and go to the next level for the higher the material.

Regardless of those things, every application must have advantages and disadvantages during the process of using it. The students may have their own opinion or perception in using it for learning English. The students may tell about this application in a different perception. Therefore, this research aims to know whether Duolingo application helps the students to improve their English or not. The students are asked to explain based on their perception honestly. The researcher expects positive feedback from the students' perception on the use of Duolingo application. This research is conducted under the title

***“STUDENTS’ PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF DUOLINGO APPLICATION
IN LEARNING ENGLISH DURING COVID-19”.***

B. Research Problems

Based on the background above, the research problems of this study are formulated as follow :

1. The students got difficulties in learning English during Covid-19.
2. The students were suggested to learn English through Duolingo application to study at home and school during the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Duolingo application has a bad and good impact on students in learning English. The students express their opinion about that application.

C. The Formulation of The Research

The formulation of this research is “What are students’ perceptions toward the use of Duolingo application in learning English during Covid-19?”

D. Objectives of the Research

The objective of this research is to find out the students’ perception toward the use of Duolingo application in learning English during Covid-19.

E. Significance of the Research

1. Student

This research is expected to be able to help and motivate English learners to improve their English skills by using Duolingo application.

2. Teacher

This research is expected as an experience and to be able to enrich the knowledge for teachers especially English teachers about the contribution of Duolingo application during Covid-19.

3. Further researcher

This research is expected to be able as the reference and experience to enrich the knowledge.

F. Limitation of the Study

This study focus on the perception of students about the use of Duolingo Application in learning English during Covid-19 at SMP Swasta IT Al-Fattah in Academic Year 2019.

