CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Islam obliges its people to learning, not only learning about religious knowledge, but also have to study such as social sciences, natural sciences, technology, languages and other sciences. To get this knowledge, students must study at formal, informal and non-formal educational institutions. The formal education includes the levels of kindergarten, elementary, junior high, high school and college. Now, the times are constantly developing, so that it requires humans to improve their abilities. Likewise with the world of education which has greatly improved and developed, so that both teachers and students still have to continue to develop their own abilities and continue to learn to keep up with the times, one of which is the development of technology.

Basically, the aim of national education is to increase the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens. Of course, in achieving these efforts, it requires optimal conformity and performance of all the components involved. The education component includes educational objectives, educational content, educational methods, educational tools, educational environment, teachers and students.

All of these educational components constitute an integrated system so that they cannot be separated from one another. Teachers are a central component who have an important role in controlling other components of education. Undang-Undang No. 14/2005 states that the role of teachers is to carry out their duties with professionals which include educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing and evaluating students.

Nowaday, Indonesia is being hit Covid-19. Lockdown is a way of limiting the movement of people, limiting crowds, restricting people's movement for the safety of everyone. With these rules, people's lives will automatically change. The use of masks and always washing hands with soap with running water, using hand sanitizers and maintaining distance are new habits that must be obeyed so that the spread of the Covid-19 virus can be prevented as much as possible. With the implementation of the above policy, the education sector also has an impact where learning process activities are usually carried out in the classroom face-to-face and directly between teachers and students, now turning into online learning using electronic media where teachers and students interact in the learning process. This learning is from their homes so that the learning process can be through well during this Covid-19 pandemic.[1]

The learning process from home requires teachers to continue to carry out their duties and roles. Teachers are required to be able to present a learning atmosphere even though learning is not carried out in the same room. This is based on a circular issued by the PERMENDIKBUD number 36962 / MPK.A /

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[1]Daulay, SH. (2021). Literasi Digital: Pentingkah Di Masa Pandemi Covid-19? . In A.Wijayanto, AW.Kurniawan, Muhajir & Yulianti (Eds.), Waktunya Merdeka Belajar. Tulungagung: Akademia Pustaka. p.180.

HK / 2020 related to Online Learning in order to prevent the spread of Corona Virus Diseases (Covid-19). One of the points stated in the letter is that all indoor and outdoor activities in all sectors have been temporarily postponed in order to reduce the spread of corona, especially in the education sector.

The issuance of the letter led to new policies such as social distancing, hand washing and the use of masks as a new habit. Of course, the policy will also touch the education sector as one of the domains of the central government. The circular letter indicates that there are new policies in the face of education in Indonesia, which include using today's technology and implementing online learning to provide meaningful learning experiences.

Using technology in learning in the present (modern), of course, has a difference in its form. Nowaday, media is more sophisticated and attract the attention of students in learning, such as television, handphone, magazine, newspaper and many others. Where learning activity can be carried out online. This learning activity also have an impact on the transfer of educational goals that emphasize more on providing meaningful learning experiences, providing a focus on life skills, as well as learning activity that vary according to the interests, conditions and facilities of students.

The implementation of online learning as stated in Circular No. 4 of 2020, Circular Letter *(Surat Edaran)* No. 15 of 2020 was issued regarding guidelines for organizing Learning from home, where the learning process is through online learning in accordance with the guidelines for organizing learning from home, starting from pre-learning activities, during learning and after learning. The distance education system is one of the current learning alternatives.

The focus of distance learning is students, they play an important role in their success, by being responsible for doing the tasks given.

Teaching and learning activities are usually implement at the same time and place, the interaction process between teachers and students in one room begins to change in a different form, namely through online learning. This of course requires the teacher's ability to be able to manipulate the learning process as if it were in a classroom through the use of online learning facilities, namely the use of e-learning platforms.

Education at this time requires students and teachers to implement the online learning process, this is because in Indonesia itself the need for vigilance and so as not to be infected with the Covid-19 disease, it is necessary to quarantine at home and the learning process to be carried out at home. Based on this explanation, it is based on Circular Number 15 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for organizing learning from home in an emergency period for the spread of Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19).

In the circular, it is explained that students have the right to education which is implement at home through online or offline distance learning in accordance with applicable regulations. Online learning at home can be used via gadgets or laptops through several portals and online learning applications. While offline can be obtained from television, radio, textbooks, learning modules, teaching aids obtained from the environment and so on. Currently, online learning is mostly carried out using laptops or gadgets, this is because almost all students have handphones and can access learning through these handphones. There are many applications that can be used from gadgets to make it easier for students and

teachers in the learning process. The applications such as zoom, WhatsApp and other applications.

WhatsApp is one of the application, almost all Indonesian people use it also for students. This application is a must-have because it is easy to use in communicating and exchanging visual, audio-visual and other information. Barhoumi defines WhatsApp as a good online learning application when used in an integrated strategy so that learning activities through WhatsApp bring benefits to student achievement of WhatsApp-based learning.[2] Almost all formal educational institutions use the WhatsApp application to run online education, besides that with this application, subject teachers can also easily provide information to students, including the field of English studies. The online learning process requires teachers to be more creative, this aims to increase students' interest in learning, especially in the field of English studies. In junior high school or equivalent, the field of English studies is considered one of the difficult subjects to learn, this is because English has never been taught in elementary schools, so that when students start learning it is a little difficult.

Through the initial observations that the researcher conducted at MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah, the researcher found the ease with which teachers in the field of English studies carried out the learning process using *WhatsApp*. As for the results of the initial interview with a teacher in the field of English Studies named Ibu Rati, she said that *" salah satu cara kami di sekolah ini untuk tetap belajar di rumah, kami menggunakan whatsapp, karena hampir semua siswa*

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[2]Chokri Barhoumi, (2020). 'The Effectiveness Of WhatsApp Mobile Learning Activities Guided By Activty Theory On Students' Knowldege Management', Contemporary Educational Technology. The Effectiveness Of WhatsApp Mobile Learning Activities Guided By Activity Theory On Students' Knowledge Management, 6.3 . p.223

sekarang memiliki ponsel. Aplikasi ini sebenarnya sangat mudah, karena dapat membuat Grup Baru dimana siswa tidak campur aduk dengan kelas lain, selain itu juga dapat mengecek kehadiran siswa, mengirim video dan masih banyak lagi."

It is very clear that using WhatsApp media greatly facilitates the learning process at home. But besides that, there are also problems if users can't use WhatsApp optimally, as explained by Wiji Lestari in his research that he found ineffectiveness in using WhatsApp media, including because the distance learning process of students became less focused in learning at home. This is caused by the atmosphere of the home and place of learning that may not be conducive, in addition to the limited internet quota, parents who complain a lot because the tasks given by the teacher are not understood by students, and also many things happen due to teachers who do not communicate with students. Which makes students complain a lot about the assignments given, so the assignments given are often done by parents.[3]

Based on the problems above, teacher in the field of English studies must try to be as creative as possible in using WhatsApp media so that learning at home is more memorable, interesting, and easy to understand, this is in order to improve students' English language skills. Through this problem, researcher are very interested in carrying out research which is being hotly discussed with the title *"Teachers' Creativity in Using WhatsApp to Increase Students Ability in English in grade 8-1 at MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah Percut Sei Tuan, Deli Serdang."*

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[3]Wiji Lestari. (2021). 'Pemanfaatan WhatsApp Sebagai Media Pembelajaran Dalam Jaringan Masa Pandemi Covid-19 Di Kelas VI Sekolah Dasar', Journal Of Chemical Information And Modeling, 53.9, 1689–99.

B. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the above background, the formulation of the problem can be described as follows:

1. How is the teacher's creativity in use *WhatsApp* to increase students' ability in English at grade 8-1 of MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah?

2. What are the inhibiting and supporting factors for teacher's creativity to increase students' ability in English at grade 8-1 of MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the problem formula described above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the implementation of teacher's creativity to use *WhatsApp* to increase students' ability in English at grade 8-1 of MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah.

2. To find out the inhibiting and supporting factors of teacher's creativity to increase students' Ability in English at grade 8-1 of MTsS Parmiyatu Wassa'adah.

D. Benefits of the Research

The benefits of this research are:

1. For researcher

   This research is expected to provide and at the same time add experience both in terms of cognitive and psychomotor in using WhatsApp as

creatively as possible to improve students' English skills. It is also hoped that this research can serve as a guide or example for further research.

2. For students

This research is expected to be more active in learning and increase students' learning motivation and English skills while studying at home online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. For teachers and school headmasters

This research is expected to be used as a new insight to increase knowledge in using WhatsApp to improve students' English skills. In addition, it is also hoped that this research can be considered for teachers to prioritize creativity in choosing effective and efficient media for online learning and is also expected to improve the quality of education during the Covid-19 pandemic.