

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the study, research question, definition of key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the thesis.

A. Background of the Study

The COVID-19 pandemic is a worldwide phenomenon of the spread of coronavirus disease in all countries. It was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) and detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The COVID-19 has derived combining several words, where 'CO' for the corona, 'VI' for the virus, 'D' for the disease, and 2019 is the year the virus was detected. Many countries whose citizens have been affected by the virus.

Indonesia is one of the big countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first two COVID-19 cases were announced early in March 2020. The Indonesian government decided to set several rules to mitigate the impacts of coronavirus. The first, physical distancing or known as social distancing. The second, washing hands frequently. The third, wearing a face mask while going out. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts most aspects of life, such as the economy, society, tourism, health, education, and others. In the education sector, students should study from home (SFH) and would be virtual. Teachers and students are

obliged to do a teaching-learning process using online/ digital platform known as online learning or E-learning (Electronic Learning).

E-learning is internet-based online learning that can be accessed wherever students are located, including from home. This E-learning model functions as an educational course or distance learning. The term of E-learning means an effort to transform the learning process in schools or colleges into a digital form through internet technology (Munir, 2009:169).

E-learning is becoming a new trend of teaching-learning methods that are most relevant today, where citizens are encouraged to conduct social distancing and avoid crowds as pandemic prevention strategies.

This method is not new in Indonesia. Several universities that complete facilities have applied this model to support online learning. Recently, E-learning is frequently needed and appropriate to the current situation to slow the spread of COVID-19. It is also in line with the circular letter of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 302/E.E2/KR/2020 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic states that schools or universities should implement education programs from home (study from home).

E-learning is a model that can apply to almost all subjects, including English. There are four skills in teaching-learning English: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are correlated to one another and cannot stand alone. Hence, students need to master these

four skills. The receptive skill consists of listening and reading, while the productive skill consists of speaking and writing.

One of the productive skills which are very important to be mastered by students is writing skill. Richard and Renandya (2002:303) state that writing is the most difficult skill for second language and foreign-language learners. Furthermore, they claim that writing is not only generating and organizing ideas of our mind, but also translating these ideas into a readable text. Therefore, some efforts need to be done in order to maintain or improve the students' writing ability.

The writer is interested in conduct research in SMKS Kerabat Kita Bumiayu because there is a problem with students' writing ability. The students of class X AKL3 (Accounting and Finance) in SMKS Kerabat Kita Bumiayu have difficulties writing narrative texts. They have low motivation in learning English. They are also less enthusiastic and less active in teachers' questions. Then, the writer finds that they are difficult to organize texts, relate the texts to context, apply grammar, and also use vocabulary. From the test result conducted by the writer, the data show that 12 students pass the Minimum Mastery Criterion – *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM)* 70. Meanwhile, 20 students do not pass the *KKM*.

One strategy that can involve teachers and students in teaching-learning activities is the use of the Edmodo. It was created by Nicolas Borg and Jeff O'Hara in San Mateo, California, in 2008. Edmodo is a

social networking site with a layout and design very similar to Facebook, where the member has a profile page that displays groups, communities, and the latest posts. Members can also upload profile pictures and share links and videos. Each member has a personal library and can add resources shared with other members. Members can view their libraries from anywhere.

Due to the phenomenon above, the writer is interested in conducting research entitled: Improving the Students' Writing Ability in Narrative Text using Edmodo during COVID-19 Pandemic (A Classroom Action Research on the Tenth Grade Students of SMKS Kerabat Kita Bumiayu in the Academic Year 2021/2022).

B. Research Question

Based on the problems found in the background of the study above, the writer has formulated the research question: How to improve students' writing ability in narrative text using Edmodo during the COVID-19 pandemic on the tenth-grade students of SMKS Kerabat Kita Bumiayu in the academic year 2021/2022?

C. Definition of the Key Terms

To make it easier for readers to understand the terms in this thesis, the following is the clarification from these terms:

1. Improving

Improving is to make better in quality or make more productive to become better (Webster, 2004:487). In other dictionary, we can find the word of improve which means the process of becoming or making to the better (Oxford University Press, 2008:222).

2. Edmodo

Gay and Sofyan (2017:2) deliver that Edmodo is as a social learning platform to make easier for teacher and students in the teaching-learning process that would be virtual.

3. Writing Ability

Yi (2009:60) says that writing ability is defined as the ability to initiate and evolve ideas and then use certain revising and editing practices to develop them to maturity in a given context.

4. Narrative Text

According to Pardiyono (2010:10), narrative is conversation or writing with the purpose to tell about action or human experience based on the development of time. In this study, the writer focuses on the generic structure and language feature of narrative text.

5. COVID-19

Based on Osler (2019:7), COVID-19 is a new virus that attacks the respiratory system. It first appeared in Wuhan China, in December 2019, was then named Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2), and causes Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19).

6. Pandemic

“A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people” (W.Qiu et al, 2016:3).

D. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to improve the students' writing ability in narrative text using Edmodo.

E. Significances of the Study

It is supposed that this thesis can be helpful for teaching-learning English. The significances of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretically

This study can become a reference for further research about alternative media to improve students' writing skills in narrative texts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Practically

a. For the students: The students are motivated to write and enjoy writing narrative text.

b. For the teachers: The research result can become an input to determine the steps and strategy teach writing using Edmodo.

3. Pedagogically

This study can be helpful for the English teachers using Edmodo. They can explore more about the use of Edmodo in learning, particularly of its methods or material design.

F. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters, where each chapter explains different matters with the topic being discussed. Chapter I is the introduction that delivers the background of the study, research question, the definition of key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents the review of related literature that contains theoretical study, previous studies, theoretical framework, and hypothesis. Chapter III is the method of investigation that consists of research design, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV deals with findings and interpretation. Chapter V consists of conclusions and suggestions.