Students' Perceptions on Zoom Digital Media in Learning Speaking at SMP IT Fathona Palembang

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article History: Recieved : 20-01-2022 Revised : 14-04-2022 Accepted : 15-04-2022 **Keyword:** Students' perception; Aspects of speaking; Advantages and disadvantages of zoom.	The aim of this study was to find out how students perceived the use of Zoom application in learning speaking. This study used qualitative study as its method. Five eighth-grade students from SMP IT Fathona Palembang took part in this study. They were chosen purposively. The data from the interview was evaluated using thematic analysis. There were 4 categories of students' perception on Zoom digital media in learning speaking: 1) helpful in learning speaking; 2) costly application; 3) difficulty in internet connection; and 4) aspects of learning speaking. Finally, the findings revealed that the majority of students enjoy and are more engaged in learning speaking taught by using Zoom application.

How to Cite:

INTRODUCTION

The teaching of speaking skills has become increasingly crucial in the English as a second or foreign language environment, as English's status as a language for worldwide communication has strengthened. According to Amarsita (2017), it is the world's second most spoken language. Speaking, as one of the core skills of English, plays a significant role in the language learning process because it is one of people's habits. Speaking is the most crucial skill in English language education to develop in school, according to Amarsita (2017). Students communicate their thoughts, feelings, and desires to others by speaking. Students learn how to speak English more easily at school since there are teachers and friends who can function as facilitators and pairings for practice. Apart from the fact that speaking involves communication from one person to another, mankind has experienced different pandemics throughout history, some of which have been more destructive to humans than others. People were once again pitted against an invisible foe: the distinctive Covid-19 coronavirus. It was first identified in the Wuhan area of China and is now rapidly spreading over the world (Nadeem, 2020). The Covid-19 is causing the Indonesian economy to suffer, resulting in a drop in the rupiah exchange rate and a spike in product prices, particularly medical equipment. This has an effect on Indonesia's educational system, as well. The decision of the Minister of Education to undertake all school and college learning activities at home utilizing the accessible application. The Minister of Education published Circular No. 3 Year 2020 in the Education Unit for the Prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-l9), which indicated that schools and colleges should be closed (Kemendikbud, 2020). This was done to break the COVID-19 transmission chain. As a result, learning activities at all levels of school are carried out online. E-learning (online learning) is a type of technological development information that can be utilized as a medium of learning (Hartanto, 2016).

When implementing remote learning, it is critical to select media that can convey the learning process in a way that meets the objectives. Synchronous learning is one type of distant learning application. Synchronous learning is an online learning method in which students and educators interact directly (Shahabadi & Uplane, 2015). One approach of achieving synchronous learning is to use a teleconference system that is set up in such a way that it is possible. One of the platform popular in teleconference is Zoom. Some teachers have tried to integrate technology into the teaching and learning process in the classroom by using online instructional media such as Zoom. Because the online programs permit interactions between teacher and students even when they are not in the same room, they promote both inquiry-based learning and independent learning. Zoom, a free and user-friendly social learning platform, offers a variety of features that enable students to connect and work with teachers and classmates, as well as access courses created by teachers (Cakrawati, 2017). The teacher can assign the assignment, specify the due date, and keep track of the pupils' progress. Parents can also track their children's progress using the web platforms.

In the preliminary study, I conducted a personal communication with the English teacher at SMP IT Fathona Palemban. Based on the interview, the English teacher used Zoom application as a media in teaching and learning speaking during pandemic since March 2020 when education institution applying work from home and social distancing (S, personal

communication, 10th October 2020). From the explanation, I was interested to conduct research related to students' perception on zoom digital media in learning speaking.

Researchers have undertaken numerous studies on the implementation of this online teaching application. Guzagheva's (2020) first study in Uzbekistan addresses concerns related to the introduction of effective educational technologies to distant learning a foreign language at the university level. The author presents an evaluation of his usage of Zoom technology in medical education. It is shown that the teachers who took part in the survey thought of Zoom as a beautiful and user-friendly social learning network that allowed them to discover and use the site so that they could run their online lessons effectively. Students who took part in the study agreed that using Zoom was a fun activity. Another study of 2010 undergraduates in a Russian EFL classroom found that students saw Zoom as a useful additional learning tool since it can boost enthusiasm and participation in online learning activities (Pechency A, 2010). Second, Rinanda et al. (2019) in Indonesia discovered that students in Indonesia had a positive attitude toward utilizing the Learn English Conversation application to learn speaking. They stated that using the Learn English Conversation program would help them practice speaking, as well as provide excitement and enjoyment to the learning process. Furthermore, other variables influenced their positive opinions, including the mobile application's flexibility and novel learning experience, its ease of use, and the fact that it did not take a large amount of internet capacity when students used it. Some scholars in the Indonesian EFL setting have conducted studies on the use of online teaching. A study was also conducted by Ismail (2020). Zoom offers a plethora of alternate materials that can be used in a variety of instructional activities.

It also allowed students and teachers to engage, which enhanced students' enthusiasm to study. Teachers can use online learning applications like Zoom to introduce technology into the classroom, according to the theories and findings of the studies stated above. Nonetheless, little research has been done in the Indonesian EFL environment to determine students' perceptions of employing Zoom in learning speaking. As a result, the study aimed to learn more about students' perceptions regarding online learning by using Zoom. At SMP IT Fathona Palembang, students learned about the use of online learning platforms like Zoom in the classroom and the benefits of doing so.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Students' Perception

Perception, according to Michotte (2017), is a part of the overall action process that allows people to adapt their behaviors to the world we live in. In this case, the students' perception might be defined as their acquired view following a specific event that requires correction. As a result, the focus of this study is on the students' perceptions of involvement, accessibility, materials, and assignment delivery, as well as an online-learning platform that is tailored to their requirements and circumstances. These elements are required in order for students' perceptions of online learning to be more contextualized with the research's needs. This broad concept can be defined as a person's ability to see, hear, feel, present, or comprehend how they felt physically and cognitively about their social life.

Definition of Zoom

Bowen (2020) makes a point about Zoom is a popular video conferencing tool that offers a simple, effective, dependable, and efficient cloud platform for audio and video conferencing, chat, collaboration, and virtual seminars on PCs, mobile devices, and other comparable devices. This app's base subscription effectively provides free 40-minute meeting sessions. This plan is great for K-12 schools and is suited for them.

Advantages of Zoom

According to Bowen (2020), there are several advantages to utilizing Zoom for school:
1) Screen Sharing: Screen Sharing Zoom's screen sharing feature is extremely handy and beneficial for both educators and students. Zoom is used to show the presenter on one screen while also displaying a presentation on other screens. This incredible feature proves to be a huge benefit in the education sector, opening up a plethora of options. One camera may be directed at the presenter, while the document camera may be used to present the material. As a result, screen sharing appears to be quite useful.
2) Video Stream Recording: This feature is also incredibly useful and handy. You can effectively record live classes and lectures for use in the future. Each recording will be saved on the device, which users can then upload to the cloud and share with other pupils. To record, go to the bottom right-hand corner of the screen and click the 'Record' button. Users also have the option of stopping the recording at any time. The recorded video will be immediately converted to MP4 format once the online meeting is finished.
3) Using Annotations: When using Zoom's screen sharing feature to present anything, you may need to put notes or annotations on certain areas of the screen for reference. Zoom has an annotation tool that allows you to do this with pens, arrows, or highlighters. If you want to use this feature, go to the 'Stop Share' option and click the downward pointing arrow. You will receive numerous types of annotations for your work.
4) High Security: Zoom employs high security to ensure the safety and security of all users' data around the world. Zoom offers superior security and protection against online theft, hacking, and malware when compared to other similar services and applications. Furthermore, all Zoom users receive security upgrades on a regular basis.
5) Low-cost and affordable: Zoom is regarded for being very cost-effective and reasonable for businesses to employ their various programs. Furthermore, it offers its users some of the best features and perks available. In addition, the app's basic plan is absolutely free, however it does have some limitations

Disadvantages of Zoom

Bowen (2020) notes that, in addition to all of the above-mentioned advantages of employing Zoom, there are some disadvantages to be aware of, including:
1) For new users, Zoom can be rather challenging and perplexing at times.
2) Smooth operation necessitates a fast internet connection. It can be a disadvantage for those who do not have access to a high-speed internet connection.
3) The audio quality of the mobile Zoom app for iOS is poor.
4) Videos and audios can occasionally be shaky or noisy.
5) There have been some concerns about its internet safety and security.
6) This application is not entirely free. On the other hand, its basic plan comes with a limited number of features and a lot of restrictions.

The Aspects of Learning Speaking

Based on the explanation of some experts about speaking skill, the researcher can explain about the component of speaking in each theory as follows : There are four aspects below has a great influence in speaking skill Hormaililis (2003) as cited in Harahap (2015) they are:

1) Vocabulary: Vocabulary is one of the extreme aspects that support speaking activity. It deals with the right and appropriate words.
2) Grammar: Warriner in Ramli (2003) believes that communication in speaking runs smoothly if its grammar can be understood. Therefore, speakers must be aware of the grammar that they use in speaking. In other words, grammar is the rule by which we put together meaningful and part of words of a language to communicate messages that are comprehensible.
3) Fluency: Speaking is an activity of reproducing words orally. It means that there is a process of exchanging ideas between a speaker and a listener. Therefore, it is important to have fluency as having the skill of other components of speaking.

Pronunciation: Pronunciation is the production of speech sound for communication and it is very important in communication.

METHOD

Research Design

The design of this study was qualitative method. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is an approach to find and understand individual or group problems. Qualitative Research is also used to uncover trends in thought and opinions, and dive deeper into the problem. Therefore, there were three steps in conducting this research. First, I took information by an interview with the students to find students' perception in learning speaking. Second, I analyzed and identified the receiving data to get the interpretation of the findings by using thematic analysis interviews. Last, I discussed the explanation and interpretation of the results.

Research Site and Participants

In this study, the research was conducted at SMP IT Fathona Palembang. The participants of this study were taken by using purposive sampling. According to Etiken et al. (2016), purposive sampling is the deliberate selection of a participant based on their characteristics. To answer the research question in this study, the researcher had chosen the third-grade students. This school has two classes of eight-grade; they are 8.1 and 8.2, so the researcher had chosen five students of the SMP IT Fathona as the participants. The five students were selected based on the facts that they used Zoom in the English subject especially on speaking activities.

Data Collection and Analysis

In qualitative data, the researcher gave some interviews to collect the data. According to Creswell (2013), an interview occurs when researchers ask one or more participants general, open-ended questions and record their answers. The interview used in this study was a semi structured interview with the students. Next, the researcher would audiotape the

interview and then transcribe it. A tape recorder would be used to record the interview conversation.

In the interview process, there would be some steps; first, the researcher prepared the instrument of the interview. In this research, the interview protocol would be used as an instrument in interviewing the students. Furthermore, the researcher will record the interview section as the data in this study. The audio type will be used as a tool of the interview to record all conversations between students at SMP IT Fathona Palembang and me, to know the Students' Perception on Zoom Digital Media in Learning Speaking.

In qualitative analyzed, the researcher analyzed the data by developing an analysis from the information supplied by the participants. The information gathered would be taken from interviews. In this step, the researcher would use a thematic analysis. According to Creswell (2014), thematic analysis is the technique implemented to analyze the data collected by identifying the theme and code of the data. At first, the researcher will determine the theme and the description. Then the code organized based on the theme determined. There are several steps that would be done by the researcher to analyze the theme and code. Braun and Clarke (2006) mention that there are six steps generally used in analyzing qualitative data, as follows; 1) being familiar with the data, 2) generating primary codes, 3) search for the themes, 4) reviewing the themes, 5) defining and naming themes, and 6) producing the report. In short, the researcher would follow those steps in analyzing the data to get the best result and finish the report.

FINDINGS

The descriptions of the finding were explained as follows in table 1 below

<div align="center">Table 1. Themes and codes for Students' Perception
on Zoom Digital Media in Learning Speaking</div>

Theme	Code
Helpful in learning speaking	1) Most students think the benefit of learning speaking even through the Zoom application. They feel that even though they learn only through application, they can still express their opinions, and they also develop more, such as not being shy or nervous when speaking through using application. 2) Some of the students agreed that speaking learning still made them more active in learning even though only through applications. There are some who feel that they can express their own opinions when in the zoom application because even if they are wrong they feel not too embarrassed. 3) Most students agree that a zoom application is an easy-to-use application especially for learning speaking. 4) Some students said learning English using Zoom was not difficult because they could find of English or Indonesia if they cannot understand the meaning or the words from the sentences before the teacher asking or giving a question.
Costly Application	Most of the students think that the Zoom application is not affordable because they can spend a lot of quota for this learning process
Difficulty in Internet Connection	1) Most of the students said the problems they faced when learning English especially speaking using the Zoom application, were signals that were not predictably good or bad. 2) Some students who say that zoom is quite helpful in learning speaking but there are also those who say that zoom makes it annoying when the signal is bad as a result of not being able to clearly hear the teachers' explanation.

Improve the Aspects of Speaking	1) Some students agree when they learn speaking using a zoom application makes them more confident and does not feel embarrassed or nervous when talking in the zoom application. 2) Most students agreed that their pronunciation is better because every time they made mistakes when they pronounced the words and it was wrong the teacher directly taught them the correct pronunciation. 3) Most of the students agreed that when they learned speaking they got a lot of new vocabulary because the teacher always gave the meaning from the new words that they just learned

DISCUSSION

The results of the data were shown by using thematic analysis. According to Bowen (2020), some of the benefits of using Zoom for education include screen sharing, recording video streams, applying annotations, high security, and being inexpensive and accessible. Contrary to popular belief, most students at SMP IT Fathona Palembang did not believe Zoom is a low-cost application. Zoom is said to be a somewhat costly program. Because there are so many quotas to study in the Covid-19 era. Some pupils are at ease learning using this app because they believe Zoom is simple to use for studying. Bowen (2020) notes that Zoom has drawbacks that you should be aware of, such as: 1) Zoom can be difficult and complex for new users to navigate; 2) For smooth operation, a fast internet connection is essential. It can be a disadvantage for those who do not have access to high-speed internet; 3) The mobile Zoom app for IOS has poor audio quality; 4) Videos can be blurry at times, and audios can be noisy; 5) There have been some concerns raised about the app's online security and protection; and 6) This app is not completely free. On the other hand, its basic plan comes with a limited number of features and a lot of restrictions. The majority of students at SMP IT Fathona Palembang said that signal and quota were issues when they utilized Zoom to study speaking. When the signal is incorrect or disordered, they become irritated. The teacher is required to repeat herself.

Some aspects of learning speaking according to Hormaililis (2003) as cited Harahap (2015). Another opinion from the most of students said that even though the teaching and learning speaking only used Zoom application they still get the headway from part of vocabulary and pronunciation. According to the teacher at SMP IT Fathona state that she usually teach pronunciation and vocabulary but for the fluency and intonation it's not focus in teaching by online. These are the teacher statement about the aspects of learning speaking, As for the speaking aspect itself, especially pronunciation, usually demonstrate it first then repeat how many times.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the data analysis by using thematic analysis, I found that there was some students' perception on Zoom digital media in learning speaking such as the advantages and disadvantages using Zoom application in learning speaking. Also there was students' perception on the aspects of speaking in teaching and learning during the pandemic.

The students feel more comfortable when they learn speaking using Zoom application. The advantages from the application based on the students' opinion are more dare to express opinions and be more active when learning to speak from the Zoom application. If the disadvantages from the Zoom application the problem is from the signal that cannot be

adjusted, sometimes the signal is good but sometimes the signal is also bad so that some students experience problems when learning. Some aspects of learning to speak are conveyed to fluent, smooth, and fluent speech. Students experience an increase in pronunciation, as well as an increase in their vocabulary in learning speaking.

If learning is entirely done online in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic at SMP IT Fathona, then there are suggestions for improving learning online for the next semester by providing subsidies internet quota for student order activities learning goes smoothly and students do not complain about the quota purchase problem becoming heavy in the pocket.

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