

University Students' Perspectives in Using Google Classroom for Learning during Covid-19

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Abstract

During covid-19 pandemic, online learning has been implemented in various educational institutions. One of the most popular applications used for learning is google classroom. As not many students used this application before, the writers were interested to find out students' perspectives related to the use of google classroom during the covid-19 pandemic. The writers did a descriptive qualitative research by involving the students from English Language Education Department at Pekalongan University. Interviews were used to collect the data. The research found that most students had positive perspectives about the use of Google classroom. The students acknowledged that the use of Google Classroom eased the learning as well as the submission of assignments. They accepted that Google classroom was easily accessed and with that platform they can also download the materials easily. However, students also perceived some issues within the use of Google Classroom such as the issue with the notification, the display, low control from the teacher, as well as the signal and quota. This suggests that Google classroom brings many advantages for the learning during the pandemic time but sometimes it presents some issues which need to be tackled so that the learning can run effectively..

Keywords: google classroom, online learning, student perspective

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INTRODUCTION

Corona virus is a disease that makes the whole world worried about its emergence. The virus first appeared from Wuhan to be precise in China. This virus has spread to many countries in the world which eventually led to the emergence of corona virus or also known as covid-19. This condition should not be left alone because it is very dangerous. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that thousands of the world's people in this population become victims of corona in this pandemic. Until 2022 this virus is still detected in some areas. This disease spreads very

quickly. Even to find out who is affected by this virus is not easy. It can be said that people who are exposed to the virus are difficult to detect. This makes the number of victims of the covid-19 continuously increase significantly.

This pandemic period has made leaders in various countries implement policies immediately to break the chain of covid-19. The existence of a pandemic like the current situation has affected many sectors, which resulted in policy changes. For example, the education sector also eventually got affected by the implementation of new policies in schools. For instance, within the education in Indonesia, students are required to carry out online

learning because it is not possible to carry out direct learning between teachers and students in schools. The closure of schools and educational institutions throughout in Indonesia happened at primary, secondary and university levels. This also happened in particularly in Pekalongan (Central Java). Until now, many students are still doing independent learning in their homes. This self-study process is as a way to prevent transmission from the Covid-19 virus. Teachers use various methods to implement the process of teaching and learning. The teacher gives assignments online in which the communication that occurs is only one way, namely through the application. That is because for now online learning is viewed safer than direct learning, because no one knows when the pandemic will end. Schools might consider online learning method as an option for teachers in teaching their students. Therefore, online learning becomes the only option to make sure the teaching and learning can run well during the pandemic.

The recommended applications for e-learning are Learning House, Quipper School, Teacher Room, WhatsApp, moodle, schoology, sevima, Edmodo, Google Classroom, Zoom, google meet, quizziz and so on. Currently, the e-learning application is very famous in Indonesia because of the large number of users that have installed it. Of the many recommendation, google classroom is the highly popular application that has been applied for this situation. This platform has been developed by Google for teachers, to make, distribute, and grade assignments. Google Classroom can be used both on laptops and cellphones. Teachers and students only need to download it. How to open Classroom on laptops and cellphones is not complicated. Similarly, it is quite simple to log in and use it. Google Classroom is a platform that has been widely used because it has an Indonesian version. Google Classroom also has a fairly complete menu, such as Dictation, Documents, and others. In addition, if students want use it on a computer or laptop, students do not need to install it. They can use it by accessing the classroom.google.com. However, if the students do not want the hassle of opening a browser or typing link, there are shortcuts that they can try. In this way, the google classroom shortcut

icon will be installed on the computer screen display making easier for users to run the program. Ocampo et al (2017) state that google classroom is a technology-based strategy for lecturers to easily provide material about the subjects taught to their students. In that application, lecturers can deliver materials and then give assignments for their students. Currently, google classroom application for online learning no longer sounds foreign, as an application to facilitate distance learning activities. Google Classroom also helps students in various learning activities well. In this situation pandemic, the existence of the use of these applications greatly facilitates teachers in the process of delivering their material and give assignments during learning through online applications. Meetings in google classroom can also be done occur through their special internet based rooms for various purposes, such as teaching and learning activities, meetings, online workshops and many other activities that can be find out in google classroom for learning.

With some benefits that google classroom offers to teachers and students, there were also some obstacles that may occur during the learning processes in the school especially when google classroom is being used. For example, due to the bad internet connection some students cannot not join the learning via google classroom. It is undeniable that when using an online application we must have an adequate quota and signal. The smoothness of learning can be obtained only if the signal is good. With this issue, google classroom seems to have a weakness in its implementation. Even so, google classroom is still being used in many online classes. So the reserachers believe that finding out the learners' points of view about the lecturers' use of google classroom to support the teaching and learning activities during the pandemic is crucial. This study hopefully can also find out how useful Google Classroom is when it is used in the students' learning process.

Perspective is the way of looking a matter that occurs of a assured viewpoints used in seeing such as a phenomenon (Martono, 2010). That means Perspective is not just looking at situations, but here students learn, broaden their horizons, and become new people a platform to prepare for the future. In this study, the focus is on the

students' perspectives about their learning. Students may have views on what they use for learning at this time. Especially even though google classroom is currently popular, but this is something new and the students may have an opinion about it. Students can express their opinion about how learning is done while using google classroom, and how they view the advantages and disadvantage to the use of the google classroom.

METHODS

In this research was descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research is research that used methods such as participant observation or case studies that produce narrative, descriptive explanations about settings or practices (Parkinson, 2011). This research is applied especially to students in the eight semester majoring in English Language Education department at University of Pekalongan. The respondents will consists of 10 students. The techniques of collecting data used in this research were observation and interview. The researchers collected data through analysis of student perspective be based what they have experience during the learning.

This research includes descriptive qualitative research because it is in accordance with the research objectives. This is intended to find out the perspective of eighth semester students regarding the use of Google Classroom for learning during the covid-19 pandemic and also the advantages and disadvantages for students in using the application. Interviews were used to investigate the perspectives of eighth semester students about the utilization of that application and also the advantages and disadvantages for students in using the application.

In this study, the researchers interviewed ten students from eight semester in Pekalongan University. From the result of the interview, the researchers analyzed the data. The data analysis process is divided into three main phases following the qualitative analysis framework developed by Miles and Huberman (1994) : data reduction, data display, drawing and verification. Furthermore,

the data obtained were analyzed to describe the explanation that collected so as the explanation could be understood by researchers and those seeking the results of this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the explanation about it, it could be interpreted about the students' perspective in using Google classroom as an application for learning in this pandemic. Online learning is one of the popular applications that students already know, because they seem to have used it since the covid-19 pandemic began. With the existence of online learning the students must be able to use learning applications when studying from home. There were many applications mentioned by students. However, there is one application that is used the most, namely Google Classroom. With it, students can discuss and also collect assignments.

In the interview the researchers got much data. The researchers then carefully analyzed the data obtained from the interview with the students of semester eight at Pekalongan University through WhatsApp Voice Note.

Three stages were included on the research: observation, data collection, data processing and conclusion drawing.

- Stage 1: the researchers visited Pekalongan University and asking for permission to do research at Pekalongan University by involving students from the eighth semester as the objects of the research.
- Stage 2: the researchers collected the data by doing interview with 10 students of the eighth semester through online application (WhatsApp messenger). The interview was held by sending voice notes to each student on a personal chat, and each of students replying it with voice notes as well.
- Stage 3: after the data were collected, the researchers processed the data, listened to all the respondents' statements, made the transcript of the interview and translated it into English. Then, an analysis is carried out to reveal the students' perspectives.

Student's perspectives

Based on the analysis, the reserachers could find and interpret the students' perspectives in using google classroom. From the interviews,

many students felt satisfied with the existence of google classroom, they feel more advantages than disadvantages from using it. That means the perspective of the students is POSITIVE to the google classroom application. Students felt that it has many features that facilitate students in the learning. The presence of Google Classroom is a manifestation of today's technological sophistication. The rapid development of technology that penetrates the education sector is also accompanied by various advantages through the features offered. As a learning app, Google Classroom allows educators to create custom classrooms and share class codes for their students to join. This free application also allows educators to provide assignments and materials. Interestingly, Google Classroom is integrated with other Google services, thus shortening the learning process. Some of the services that are integrated with Google Classroom are Google Drive, Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Docs, and so on. Besides being able to be accessed through the website, you can also access this Google service through an application on your smartphone. Along with the rapid development of technology in the digital era, using Google Classroom offers many conveniences, both for educators and students.

Based on the students' answer to the interview's question, it can be seen in this below:

Table 1. The Students Opinion of Advantages between Students Opinion of Disadvantages About Google Classroom

Students'	Advantages	Disadvantages
S01	Make it easier to collect assignments.	Yes, because the feature only supports writing, there is no feature that supports audio or visual coverage.
S02	A lot, learning can be done anywhere and anytime, the application is also light, the features are also easy to understand.	Sometimes it's delayed, the notification doesn't come out, and you also need an internet package.
S03	the use of google classroom is very easy for beginners or	The lecturer cannot monitor what the student is doing,
S04	learning is easy to do, access is also easy. So if there are students whose homes are in a mountain village, it is not difficult to access Google Classroom and it is also easy to collect assignments and discussions.	people who are used to using it. really paying attention or not.
S05	The advantage is that we can collect assignments easily	sometimes the notification doesn't come out so you have to check Google Classroom regularly, while sometimes the lecturer posts the lesson not on time.
S06	better understand the material, and also when you want to repeat learning it is easier because it is already in Google Classroom.	learning is very monotonous so that sometimes it is difficult for me as a student to understand.
S07	The advantage is that we can see assignments and deadlines in a structured manner, can collect assignments easily, and we can download the material easily.	the problem is in the signal and internet quota
S08	The advantage is that we can collect assignments easily, and we can download material links from various media.	Usually in the comments column on the material from the lecturer, the notification doesn't appear so we don't know the lecturer replies to our comments or when the material continues.
S09	I think it is very helpful especially in collecting document form assignments	Usually in the comments column on the material from the lecturer, the notification doesn't appear so we don't know the lecturer replies to our comments or when the material continues.
		Sometimes the signal becomes an obstacle in learning using Google Classroom.

S10	in this pandemic learning becomes more practical without having to meet face to face and easy access.	of course there is a lack of google classroom display is very boring and if the drive is full the files cannot be sent via google classroom.
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gives assignment in the form of questions to students being uploaded in various formats ranging from word, pdf, excel, as well as visual materials such as pictures and videos. Students only need to open or download them. To open the pdf is not difficult, just connect to the internet and then click on the pdf and it will be opened. Similarly, when the teacher sends a link of YouTube, they can directly connect to the internet, then after clicking the link, it is directly connected to YouTube.

The students opinion of advantages about google classroom

- **It allows easy access.** It is undeniable that the application is very practical, students do not need to go to school to collect assignments and materials because this application can be accessed anywhere and anytime. In fact, this application can be operated easily even by beginners. No matter where students are, they can connect with teachers without having to come to school. In other words, learning becomes more efficient. Students do not have to worry about being late for class because of the traffic jams.
- **It eases the learning as well as the submission of assignments.** Google Classroom is also able to manage assignments well because Google Classroom itself has an easy feature to show a page that provides a page for assignments given by the teacher. Google Classroom itself can also create an assignment or material in the form of documents, images and so on. All files in that application with files in the form of doc, mp4, pdf, or zip can be automatically already on Google Drive, making it easier for students to search for Google Classroom files. By using Google Classroom, students can review the assignment file that has not been sent to the teacher, so students do not have to worry about sending the wrong assignment later. Google Classroom itself has a feature of reviewing assignments that have not been submitted.
- **It allows the students to download the materials easily.** Google classroom is designed to facilitate the interactions of the learning process. Through it, teachers can create classes, give assignments to students, discuss material, and give scores or grades online. In line with that, students also have access to do assignment and answer questions through their respective devices each at home. Usually, the teacher

The students opinion of disadvantages about google classroom

- **The issue with the notification.** In general, students get email notifications from google classroom. Various notification such as notification when class starts. However, sometimes the notifications on Google Classroom often have problems, such as no notification appearing when there is an assignment notification or when class starts. Sometimes even though there is a notification, the notification is often too late, this makes students late for online classes.
- **The display.** The first drawback is that the appearance of Google Classroom is less attractive. It only shows a few selections of Classroom should provide a more attractive class appearance so that when students learn to use Google Classroom, students do not get bored quickly. This display problem does make students confused. Some like it and some do not really like the current look of Google Classroom.
- **Low control from the teacher.** The next weakness in Google Classroom is that students say that sometimes the teacher has limited control. Through Google Classroom the teacher will be a little difficult to control student activities. Teachers cannot really know which students are really taking the lesson seriously, and which students are only taking part in it.
- **Issues with the signal and quota.** A slow internet network is one of the main problems that many students complain about, while a fairly strong internet

network is something that students really need, considering that Google Classroom also requires a good network. Meanwhile, the average internet package price is quite expensive, especially for the average income of the community.

CONCLUSION

There were seven question of measurements the students' perspective toward google classroom. Overall, on the explanation from the interview, there was **POSITIVE** perspective. There were more students who felt that the application has many advantages than disadvantages. For the advantages; most of the students had positive perspectives about the use of this popular application. They acknowledged that Google Classroom eased the learning as well as the submission of assignments. They accepted that Google classroom was easily accessed and with that platform they can also download the materials easily. However, students also perceived some issues within the use of Google Classroom such as the issue with the notification, the display, low control from the teacher, as well as the signal and quota.

This research result suggests that Google classroom brings many advantages for the learning during the pandemic time but sometimes it presents some issues which need to be tackled so that the learning can run effectively.

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