An Analysis of English Teachers' IT (Information Technology) Ability for the Success of Online Learning

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Abstract

Teacher's role is one of the important components in teaching and learning activities. In the learning process, teachers are required to be professional in order to educate and support the success of students' learning. During the Covid-19 pandemic, both teachers and students are required to carry out online learning. Every teacher must carry out his duties in educating and teaching students without face-to-face meeting. This phenomenon will be a challenge for all teachers, including English teachers. During online learning, English teachers are required to develop information technology ability and be creative in making learning materials, in order to convey the material well and interestingly. Therefore, it is paramount to reveal the ability of Information Technology of the English teachers in order to make online learning successful and the obstacle in creating materials for online learning. This research uses the descriptive-qualitative method where data collection was done by giving questionnaires and also interviews so as to provide clear information. The object of this research were the English teachers at MAN 1 Kota Cirebon. The results obtained from the research shows that the English teachers at MAN 1 Kota Cirebon had a fairly good ability to make online learning successful, in terms of operating Information Technology devices, providing solutions for students who have difficulties, providing motivation, and also making materials for online learning. The obstacle that was faced by the teacher was in terms of a bad internet network so that it does not support the online learning process.

Keywords: *Teachers' Information Technology Ability; Information Technology; Online Learning.*

INTRODUCTION

The teacher is an important figure in the school, both in terms of classroom learning and even outside. Since teachers are public figures, they must act responsibly because their actions can serve as role models for all. Teachers in today's world are expected to be knowledgeable about information technology (IT). Information technology (IT) can be used to build science in addition to being used for learning media. Teachers should create learning materials to make them more engaging and help students understand and enjoy learning material because information technology (IT) has so many benefits. Delivering the

scope of online learning, Aparicio, Bacao, and Oliveira, T (2016), divides online learning into two main areas: learning and technology, where learning is the cognitive process of gaining information and technology is the tool the facilitates that process. Meanwhile, the disadvantage is the disparity in competition, as electronic communication is not normal when it comes to designing learning environments. (Kock, Verville, & Garza, 2017).

The education sector is one of the areas affected by the influence of this technological development. Learning media focuses on how shared environments can be used to exchange ideas and create specific learning material to help students and teachers develop their skills (Hansch et al., 2015). Teachers can take advantage of technology as innovation and creativity in delivering material to students. In the 21st century, this is a big challenge that teachers must face in the world of education. Teachers must be able to keep up with technical advancements, which are both changing and improving. If the teacher is unable to keep up with or cope with technological advancements and improvements, the teachers will be replaced by technology. So, the use of technology must be mastered by teachers, from kindergarten teachers to university lecturers.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared the Corona / COVID-19 virus a pandemic. According to WHO, a pandemic is the scale of the spread of disease that occurs globally throughout the world. Because the number of covid-19 continues to increase uncontrollably, the government has decided to take a Large-Scale Social Restriction policy in dealing with the Coronavirus or covid-19 pandemic in this country. The Large-Scale Social Restriction policy has not been able to control the spread of covid-19. This can be seen from the number of cases that continue to grow every day. In this situation, the acceleration of handling Covid-19 must be carried out thoroughly and involve many parties including educational institutions. Then the Minister of Education officially declared and issued Circular Letter No.15 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Learning from Home in an Emergency for the Spread of Coronavirus Diseases.

Of all the teachers, one of them is English teachers with information technology (IT) skills should prepare special material for online learning so that there is a strong connection to communicate learning materials to students who study from home. Some of the material of online learning, such as text, images, video, and audio, necessitates students' independent use of communication and information technology in a formal and true learning syllabus. (Prastiyo, Djohar & Purnawan, 2018; Hartsell & Yuen, 2006; KuangChih & Kriegman, 2005).

Online learning is a new activity that is being felt all over the world, especially in Indonesia. Teachers and students also need adaptation to this system. There are several

problems that some teachers have in online teaching and learning activities, such as; some teachers less mastered in using media of online learning and less mastered Information Technology in making material that is fun and easy to understand. And also having difficulty in conveying material optimally because of the limitations of the internet network or online media. As well as students who have difficulty accessing the internet because some areas have limited signals and online learning equipment such as laptops or smartphones.

The results of research from Bachtiar, Ceha, Nana, and P (2016) stated that to improve quality, teachers should master the ability of information technology computer programs in order to utilize technology in teaching and learning activities. Various activities that support the improvement of teachers' abilities in the learning process are very much needed. And based on the results of research observations by Adlin (2019), it is stated that not all teachers use computer media in the learning process. There is also the use of computers to retrieve student attendance lists or personal teaching materials.

This study aims to find out the Information Technology (IT) ability of the English teacher at MAN 1 Cirebon and to find out how the obstacles of the English teacher at MAN 1 Cirebon when making materials for online learning.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method with the aim of analysing the information technology ability of English teachers for the success of online learning. In this research, a descriptive qualitative design has been used. Researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 4 English teachers at a high school in Cirebon as a research subject to obtain information directly about the difficulties in making online learning materials using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc. by asking a few questions to the English teacher, observations in several classes and also collect documentation. Then this study will analyse the results of the English teacher's IT skills for the success of online learning activities. The purpose of qualitative research is to find answers to a phenomenon or question through the application of scientific procedures systematically using a qualitative approach (Yusuf 2014).

The participants in this study were English teachers in one of the senior high schools in Cirebon. In this study, the research was conducted with 4 English teachers aged 39-56 years, male, with more than 11 to 20 years of teaching experience, regarding experience in the field of information technology by attending seminars or similar activities carried out only by 3 teachers. Then, research on 6 students are representatives of each class taught by

the 4 teachers, namely: 2 students from grade 10, 3 students from grade 11, and 1 student from grade 12. This research was conducted for 2 months, data collection was obtained from the results of the research.

The research instruments that will be used in this research are questionnaires, interview, observation and documentation.

1. Questionnaire

The questionnaire was conducted to determine the IT skills of each English teacher. The extent to which English teachers can use IT instruments as a form of ability needed for online learning.

2. Interview

Interview were conducted with English teachers to find out the obstacles in making online learning materials. Interview conducted to few students as a form of strong evidence of research.

3. Observation

Observations were made to collect data about the teaching of English teachers during online learning. And see how far the IT skills of English teachers are applied in online learning.

4. Documentation

Documentation as a form of data collection during online learning takes place. In the form of images, soft files, research results, etc.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Teachers are the cornerstone of the implementation of educational activities. Based on this, it is stated that teachers need to implement various competencies in accordance with the conditions of learning activities. Spencer and Spencer in Hamzah B. Uno (2007) stated that competence is a characteristic that stands out for a person and becomes ways of behaving and thinking in all situations, and lasts for a long period of time. From this opinion, it can be understood that competence refers to a person's performance in a job that can be seen from thoughts, attitudes, and behaviour.

Relating that topic into technology, teachers must have competence regarding IT instruments that are able to support the course of the learning activities that they arrange. In this regard, there are various competencies related to IT that must be mastered by teachers in learning, such as regarding learning media and the composition of learning materials that use IT as a disseminator. Every teacher must be able to keep up with the rapid development of technology, in order to make the best possible use of information

that can support the making of material as teaching material which will later be conveyed to students in the classroom. Mastering information technology is a competency that every teacher must have, from elementary school teachers to university lecturers.

Based on the results of the questionnaire conducted by researchers, it was found that all teachers who were used as research subjects had standard abilities to carry out distance learning. It is known that all teachers can connect devices to the internet, open web pages, use the internet to get information about English subjects, use the internet to add pages to the bookmark and favourite list, save images or download images from the internet, save paragraphs from the website, use Google Classroom , using zoom meetings, using E-learning, using Gmail, using power point, using Microsoft word, using Microsoft excel, opening and reading assignments online, forwarding messages on social platforms, sending Gmail for class, sending distance learning materials to students , and use IT tools. The results of the questionnaire also show that 75% of English teachers can use electronic devices to make learning videos, and attend training or similar activities regarding the use of IT-based learning media. In addition, there are findings that 50% of English teachers can operate google documents, create Gmail accounts, and detect viruses on their devices. The detail result of teacher IT's skill regarding the competence to use the It's instrument can be shown in the following table:

No	The Competence of IT's Skill	Result
	Open the internet	100%
2	Open the website	100%
3	Use the internet to get information to make the material for English Lesson	100%
4	bookmark or add to favourite pages	100%
5	Save images from the website	100%
6	Save text from the Website	100%
7	Detect the viruses	50%
8	Use the Google Classroom	100%
9	Use the Zoom Meeting	100%
10	Use E-Learning	100%
11	Use Gmail	100%
12	Use power-Point	100%
13	Use Microsoft Word	100%
14	Use Excel	100%

15	Use Google Document	50%
16	Create a Gmail account	50%
17	Open and read attachments	100%
18	Forward messages	100%
19	Send Gmail messages to a group of people	100%
20	Use the IT's instrument to attended training activities	75%
21	Deliver material when teaching online	100%
22	Made learning video using IT instruments	75%
23	Searching English Materials	100%
24	Using IT's Instrument to find the document learning outcome	100%
25	Use It instrument to coney motivation evaluation.	100%

Table 1 Result of Teacher's Competence in Using IT's Instruments.

To find out the validity of the questionnaire, the researcher conducted several interviews with several students. The researcher found that the ability of English teachers could not be applied thoroughly in online learning, such as making learning videos, using zoom meetings, using Google Classroom, using Google Docs, etc.

In researcher interviews conducted with teachers regarding the obstacles of making online learning materials, the teachers also revealed that in improving students' listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in learning English, they used various methods and methods, such as assigning students related learning, uploading listening recordings for learning English. Train students, imitate the conversational method in learning materials, give students to listen to English songs, give random sentences arranged into correct sentences. From the results of interviews, researchers can find out that every teacher has various problems related to IT instruments in distance learning. Some teachers have difficulty finding reading sources and learning materials through online websites, lack of signals when uploading learning materials, difficulties in formulating creative learning materials, and problems with IT instrument facilities. And also, the results of interviews obtained by students have similar answers.

The results obtained from observations during the research are that these online learning activities have many problems, such as the difficulty of teachers disciplining their students to be on time in taking online classes, and also the problem of internet access

which is quite weak, and English teachers are less creative in making material for online learning. In this case, English teachers can increase students' interest in learning by making fun material, interacting actively with students, and being more assertive in disciplining students who cannot take online classes well.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in the discussion concluded that the ability of English teachers to use electronic devices to make learning videos, and participate in training or similar activities related to the use of IT-based learning media is 75%, and 50% of English teachers can operate Google documents, create Gmail accounts, and detect viruses on devices they. To apply in online learning activities more often use Google Classroom, E-Learning, and social media such as WhatsApp. In providing material, the English teacher uses PDF, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint formats and also makes learning videos. Sometimes teachers often provide material in the form of photos from student worksheets (LKS) and also videos from YouTube. In delivering online learning materials, English teachers use applications such as E-Learning, Google Classroom, Google Form, Gmail, Zoom Meeting, and also social media platforms such as WhatsApp. Every teacher has various problems related to Information Technology in distance learning. Some teachers have difficulty finding reading sources and learning materials through online websites, lack of signals when uploading learning materials, difficulties in formulating creative learning materials, and problems with Information Technology facilities. The English teacher provides motivation and enthusiasm before and after learning begins by giving instructions to the homeroom teacher to make home visits to increase learning motivation and also apply discipline.

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