

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The implementation of blended learning in Indonesia is applied as an emergency learning method due to the COVID-19 pandemic conditions at the beginning of entering school which previously used to fully online learning method for two years to reduce the number of contracting COVID-19, After the last 2 years the government has tried to apply the Blended learning method learning as a started return to school normally, blended learning is a learning method combining face to face and online learning methods stated by Graham (2015) blended learning is a combination of face-to-face with online experiences to produce effective, efficient, and flexible learning.

The phenomenon of this research, the researcher in teaching practice (Practical School Experience) were able to observe student learning activities with blended learning methods in schools that the researcher chose as a place of research to observe how teacher activities in class and in front of 50% students in their class activities after the teacher gave the material given in class the teacher would given assignments or student projects given online which were sent via Google classroom which has been prepared after school students were assigned for example students were given the task of observing and commenting on video assignments given by the teacher in e-learning after that the teacher would provided feedback or grades to students this was done to provide sufficient learning time which has been reduced to one hour of learning, and online (Asynchronous) the teacher would sent the links videos or some pre-recorded video of learning that have been sent it online to rest of 50% students study independently at home after that the teacher would provided material or articles that sent it through WhatsApp Group to be understood by students, then students and teachers would attended the next week meeting in face to face at school and discuss the same materials like students who attended to school last week.

In the application of the blended learning method can have an impact on changes in student learning activities in Tasikmalaya senior high school, especially from learning hours reduced to one hour of learning and normal hours of usually two hours of learning this applies to all subjects, especially in learning English activities reduction in time can give an effective impact or will only make learning activities rushed and students feel pressured in terms of material delivery, there will certainly be a change in whether students can better understand the material provided when student learning activities are replaced with blended learning methods. When they first entered school using the blended learning method, the parents of the students were worried because of the pandemic that had occurred, but nevertheless, the school had explained that even though they started attending school face-to-face, the school tightened regulations to minimize transmission by vaccinating, wearing masks and bringing hand sanitizer (informal preliminary interview, 08 October 2021). Furthermore, related to this phenomenon, a thought emerged for researcher to analyze the perceptions of high school students in learning English activities and obtain information on student learning activities using the blended learning method as a learning method of urgency due to the pandemic through their activities in English learning experiences.

Although many studies have emphasized on investigating online and hybrid learning, such as professional development and students' success (Minhas, et. al. 2021), challenges, advantages and future of hybrid learning in Saudi higher education (Alebaikan, 2010), EFL learners' perceptions on obstacles of engaging during hybrid learning (Manurung, Mertosono & Kamaruddin., 2020), and suggestions of appropriate applications for hybrid learning (Rianto & Agus, 2020), little attention is addressed to the students' perceptions while participating in blended learning activities.

None of them even emphasizes students' perceptions of English learning activities when using Blended Learning because, after all, the successes in education start with the students first. Therefore, this study intends to investigate

students' perceptions of English learning activities using Blended Learning in Indonesia Senior High schools.

1.2 Formulation of The Problem(s)

Based on the background above, the writer formulates a research question as follows

1. What are the students' perceptions of Blended learning methods in English language learning activities?

1.3 Operational Definition

1.3.1 Blended Learning in English Activities

A learning method that is combined with face-to-face (offline) learning and online learning.

1.3.2 Indonesian Students Perceptions

In this study, the researcher wanted to know the students' perceptions of their activities in English learning with Blended learning.

1.4 Aims of the Research

This study aims to investigate senior high school students' perceptions of the use of blended learning in English activities in an Indonesian senior high school as urgency learning method in Indonesia because of pandemic.

1.5 Significance of the Study

- 1.5.1 Theoretical Contributions :** “This study contributes to the existing theories on Blended Learning (Chaeruman, Wibawa, & Syahrial, 2018; Graham, 2018; Boelens et al., 2018; Osguthorpe and Graham 2003).”

- 1.5.2 Practical Contributions** : “This study contributes and complements previous research to develop the application of blended learning methods. This research can be used as a reference for those who are interested in Blended Learning as a learning method and as a reference for further researcher in the field of blended learning student perception. Researcher hope that this method is further developed so that students can follow it well.”
- 1.5.3 Empirical Contributions** : “This study is reviewed and complements previous studies on Blended Learning in this study blended learning as a learning method of urgency due to the pandemic. Thus, this research is to investigate a broader problem in the application of the Blended learning method in Indonesian senior high school.”