

The Impact of Online Learning Activities on Junior Highschool Students in English Subjects and Islamic Views on Education

Dampak Kegiatan Pembelajaran Online pada Siswa SMP Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris dan Pandangan Islam terhadap Pendidikan

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Abstract: Even when the situation makes students unable to meet with teachers directly, the learning process has to keep going so that there is no intelligence gap for students who are still in school during the covid-19 pandemic. The method used in this study is an interview using five questions as the research instrument and has 6 research subjects, consist of 1 English teacher and 5 junior high school students. This research was held to describe the actual conditions at the junior high school level, especially the use of technology and also online learning within the scope of English language education then relate it to the Islamic view of science. Interestingly, the researcher emphasized the results which stated that students and teachers were not quite satisfied with online learning that had been going on for more than a year both in terms of process and results.

Keywords: Islam; Online learning; English

Abstrak: Meski situasi membuat siswa tidak bisa bertemu langsung dengan guru, proses pembelajaran harus tetap berjalan agar tidak terjadi kesenjangan kecerdasan bagi siswa yang masih bersekolah di masa pandemi covid-19. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah wawancara dengan menggunakan lima pertanyaan sebagai instrumen penelitian dan memiliki 6 subjek penelitian, terdiri dari 1 guru bahasa Inggris dan 5 siswa SMP. Penelitian ini diadakan untuk mendeskripsikan kondisi aktual di tingkat sekolah menengah pertama khususnya pemanfaatan teknologi dan juga pembelajaran online dalam lingkup Pendidikan bahasa Inggris kemudian mengaitkannya dengan pandangan Islam tentang sains. Peneliti menekankan pada hasil yang menyatakan bahwa siswa dan guru belum cukup puas dengan pembelajaran online yang telah berlangsung lebih dari setahun baik dari segi proses maupun hasil.

Kata-kata kunci: Islam; Pembelajaran Online; Bahasa Inggris

Introduction

The teacher and students bond themselves by using social media to communicate with each other in class. Specific to the case that the researcher observed, the communication between teachers and students involved in learning relied on WhatsApp Group media to accommodate teaching and learning needs. The commandments to study are stated in Surah al-'Alaq / 96: 1-5

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ ﴿٣﴾ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ ﴿٤﴾ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ نَّاطِقَةٍ ﴿٥﴾

The translation: 1. Read by (mentioning) the name of your Lord who created, 2. He has created man from a clot of blood. 3. Read, and your Lord is the Most generous, 4. Who teaches (humans) through the intercession of kalam. 5. He teaches man what he does not know.

The correlation between Islam and science is quite thick because from the point of view of Islam itself science is defined as knowledge obtained based on *ijtihad* or the results of the deep thoughts of Muslim scholars and scientists based on the AL Quran and hadith. Al Quran and hadith are the guidelines for human life because there is universal knowledge inside them. Any knowledge as long as you can provide benefits to self and others, then it is obligatory, preferably knowledge that unhelpful is haram or forbidden. Allah even sent down the first verse *Iqra* which means "Read" while we know that reading is the main activity in scientific activities. The word science itself is mentioned 105 times in the Qur'an and the original word is mentioned 744 times.

In 2021 where online-based learning is increasingly used, the involvement of ICT in the education system cannot be separated. By using ICT in the teaching process, the ongoing learning process will make the knowledge gained by the learners more related to everyday life. One of the concerns of online learning is that students' comprehension in learning foreign languages tends to be worse than when schools conduct offline learning. Using ICT in the online learning process gives the students more rooms to explore their knowledge and experience. They have tended to more screen time that makes more information consumed. The students have an easy access to any audiobooks, podcasts, songs, or other audio-based applications/media for the source of their study. In learning English as a foreign language, students' freedom from online learning sources should bring a positive outgrowth.

Knowledge is one of the most important aspects of human life. This aspect is expected to be able to grow the education level of a nation. However, the knowledge that taught cannot be separated from religious teachings. Science has interacted with religion, as it has entered every aspect of human life. On the other hand, technological advances and the increasingly rapid flow of globalization have also widened the distance between science and religion. Therefore, the study of Islamic thought plays a very important role in aligning these two aspects.

During the pandemic, humans should try to find treatment, avoid it and choose the best solution. Ardiansyah (2021), The authority given by God to humans in an effort to prosper and manage the entire contents of the earth is carried out as a logical consequence of the willingness to carry out the mandate.

The discussions about Islamic view in maintaining live especially in terms of the education cannot be separated from the object of education itself, humans. Nadiyah (2018) The scope of Islamic religion education has a very broad scope, including teachings on good governance of life that covers all aspects of the life of man. Humans as creatures of Allah S. W. T have special potential compared to other creatures, one of which is the potential of intelligence, where the potential of intelligence must be developed for human improvement in living their lives. The teachings of the Shari'a brought by the Messenger of Allah are an illustration that humans are noble creatures who have the duty to worship Allah S. W. T, the Messenger of Allah as the bearer of Shari'a has the duty to be an educator for mankind on this earth. Shari'a that has been brought by the Prophet Muhammad must be educated through the educational process because it will not be understood properly if it is only told by words.

According to Islam, education is one form of one's life journey. In Islamic teachings it has been determined that education is one of the obligatory activities for both men and women, because knowledge is something that is needed for life. This condition has indirectly placed education as an inseparable part of life and human life.

The online learning process could be defined as a teaching and learning activity as usual, but it involves online learning media available on various platforms. Online learning media itself has developed rapidly in the last decade, making it very accessible to many people from anywhere and at any time. Teachers and students can choose from a variety of available online learning media ranging from free platforms to one that has in-app purchases, making online learning activities very flexible to use.

Moreover, teachers who want to conduct English language learning to practice their students' language skills will get an initial view of the starting point of the learning process. The environment where students learn English does not give them enough exposure to the language. Thus, students who have the initiative to consume English content will show better progress. Although they still need to see the text/scripts from the audio to find out some vocabulary that is new to them when they watch video, film, song or any media that contains oral language. Both teachers and students must play an active role in starting a simple conversation in English as one of the exposures to familiarize students with hearing English vocabulary. For students, this research helps identify the problems they face in online learning and then develop their English comprehension. Although they have concerns about their lack of experience in consuming English content, by looking at the results of this study, students will better understand how to deal with their problems. A high level of confidence in applying English in students' daily lives will provide benefits for them.

There are two elements that commonly found in almost every communication exchange are the sender and the receiver. The sender is a designation for the person who initiates the communication or becomes the source of information. For example, in schools, the person who has the role as the sender is the teacher, they have a need or desire to convey ideas or concepts to students. On the other hand, the receiver is a designation for the individual to whom the message is sent. The sender captures the idea by choosing words, symbols, or cues to compose the message and then the receiver translates the received message into meaningful information. Finally, feedback occurs when the receiver responds to the sender's message and returns the message to the sender. This feedback allows the sender to determine whether the message has been received and understood.

Vocabulary building is a natural process that will occur in every language learning, both in the mother tongue and in a foreign language. [Susanto \(2017\)](#) Vocabulary is a basic of one learns a foreign language. Vocabulary has been considered by many researchers, teachers and students an essential element in learning a language. In learning English as a foreign language, students need to understand the various methods or techniques used to increase vocabulary. Because with the use of correct methods and techniques, a student will find it easier to master the language. One of the options to increase the vocabulary knowledge and capacity of students is to provide input in the form of exposure to the use of new words with correct pronunciation.

On the other side, we have to admitted that students' exposure to English is still very low, especially if they learn English from a place that still considers English a foreign language. [Karthikeyan \(2020\)](#) The heterogeneous learners who come from the rural background have less exposure to the English language. In fact, in the online learning process, students have more space to explore their knowledge, they have more screen time which makes more information consumed. Students have easy access to any video or audio available on the internet for their study resources. From the ICT point of view, the freedom that students get from online learning sources would become a positive outgrowth for the students' listening comprehension. Furthermore, the time management of a learning process is become more flexible, which positive effect on student learning mood.

The implementation of online learning in English teaching classes can currently take place with a very wide learning area, this is also supported by the existence of various platforms where students and teachers can carry out the learning process. The most popular platform in terms of the learning process is video conferencing. There are various applications that offer video conference services such as Zoom, Google Classroom, WebEx, Cisco, and many more. Using these applications, teachers can hold classes with students like when they go to school and learn face to face. Sources of material for English learning activities are also very abundant on the Internet for each level, which is listed in the table below:

Table 1: The English Level Scale

Level	Class Level	Descriptions	CEFR Level*
9	Very Advanced	I speak and understand English completely fluently.	C2
8	Advanced	I speak and understand very well but sometimes have problems with unfamiliar situations and vocabulary.	C2
7	Pre-advanced	I speak and understand well but still make mistakes and sometimes people do not understand me clearly	C1
7	Pre-advanced	I speak and understand well but still make mistakes and sometimes people do not understand me clearly	C1
6	Upper Intermediate	I can communicate without much difficulty but still make quite a lot of mistakes and misunderstand sometimes.	B2
5	Intermediate	I can speak and understand reasonably well and can use basic tenses but have problems with more complex grammar and vocabulary.	B1
4	Low Intermediate	I can make simple sentences and can understand the main points of a conversation but need much more vocabulary.	B1
3	Pre-intermediate	I can communicate simply and understand in familiar situations but only with some difficulty.	A2
2	Elementary	I can say and understand a few things in English.	A1/2
1	Beginner	I do not speak any English.	

Method of Research

The method chosen by the researcher on this study was the Opinion Based Methods, the method was chosen because Opinion Based Research Methods is a research methodology that is very suitable for reviewing the impact of online learning activity on junior high school students at English subject.

Martyn Shuttleworth (2008: 2) Opinion-based research methods generally involve designing an experiment and collecting quantitative data. For this type of research, the measurements are usually arbitrary, following the ordinal or interval type.

In this research, the writer wanted to measure the effectiveness of learning English as a Foreign Language through online learning sources, media, and processes on junior high school students. This research would use an interview which is an effective way of quantifying data from an interviewee. The interview method was chosen because in this problem the researcher needed the broadest view from the point of view of a teacher to get a better picture.

The study has two research subjects, an English teacher in junior high school and eighth-grade students consisting of five children as representatives. By taking a sample of

five children, the data taken by the researcher would be able to represent each class taught by Mrs. Siti Rochanah as an English teacher at SMP N 1 Patikraja. In the opinion of the researcher, the number of participants examined in this study is sufficient to obtain comprehensive data regarding the impact of online learning activities on junior high school students in English subjects. Research subjects are selected based on their participation during learning activities without considering the score they get, thus the data collected will be directed based on the learning process, not the results.

Result and Discussion

Based on the results of the interviews that took place, the writer found several problems that occurred in the classroom when learning English was taking place. With the use of video conference media as an online meeting place between students and teachers, several things are very worrying for the continuity of English education at the junior high school level. The results of the interview show that video conference activities usually carried out via the Zoom video conference are not effective, the first 30 minutes being wasted on "preparation". Teachers have to spend 30 minutes to attend and wait for the presence of students in the online class, which results in chaotic time allocation until this problem takes root and causes basic competencies which should be 5 items pressed down to only 2 basic competencies in the second semester. This situation causes the delivery of material that is not in-depth by combining 2 or more materials into one topic.

Regular learning begins with attendance and prepares students to make them pay attention to what is going to happen. Then the teacher began to deliver the material that had begun to be announced the night before. Because the teachers are also in trouble if it is not like that. Sentences such as "I don't know what assignment is mam" and "I don't know if there is a Zoom meeting" often come out if tomorrow's learning activities are not announced the previous night.

After carrying out learning activities on a topic, the teacher also provides daily tests with Google Form media to answer them. But sometimes to test students' understanding, the teacher gives a quiz on Google Classroom with 2 options that yield 50:50 opportunities. The daily test itself consists of 4 options which yield a 25% chance of the correct answer. However, a written scoring system like this is also having problems. In several meetings held by the teacher, student activeness can be assessed as being very lacking. There are only a few children who actively respond to what the teacher says. Children's abilities can only be seen from the results of quizzes and tests, but some students do not pay attention to this. Some of them did not fill out the absences or even had a deficiency. In the first semester of online learning, this was even worse with the "modest" grades on student report cards. Reflecting from there, Mrs. Siti Rochanah the research subject said that this second-semester students' awareness of scores and grades had tended to increase. However, it is still far below the standard of offline education.

Student responses to questionnaires regarding online English learning in class are interesting enough to be discussed further, pay attention to the survey results below:

Menurut kamu, seberapa paham kamu dengan belajar Bahasa Inggris melalui platform online?

5 responses

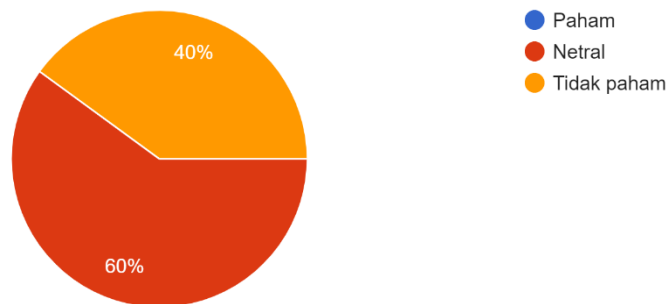


Chart1: The level of students' understanding during the online learning process

Seberapa sering anda menghadiri Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris online?

5 responses

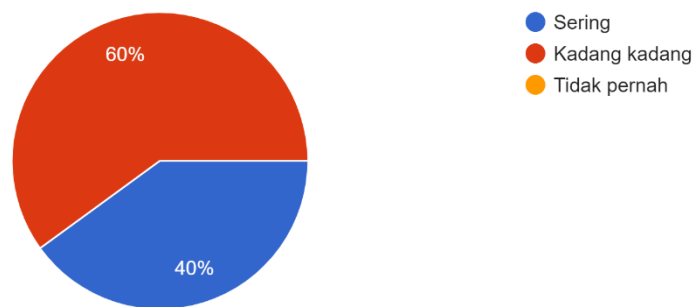


Chart 2: Intensity of students attending online learning

Adalah kemudahan / fasilitas yang diberikan oleh sekolah kalian?

5 responses

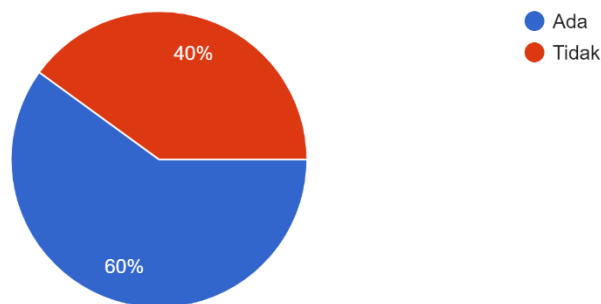


Chart 3: Facilities provided by the school for students

Apakah orang tua kalian mendukung Pembelajaran online?

5 responses

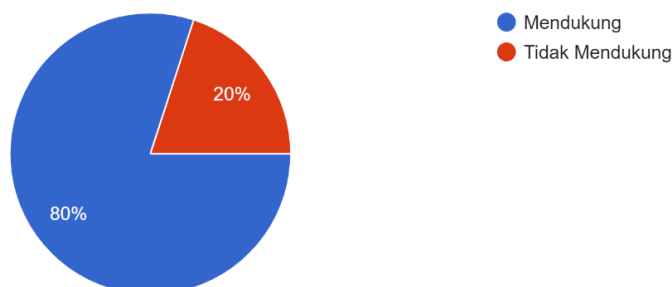


Chart 4: Parental support for online learning

Kalau kalian diminta untuk memilih, mana yang kalian pilih? Sertakan alasannya.

5 responses

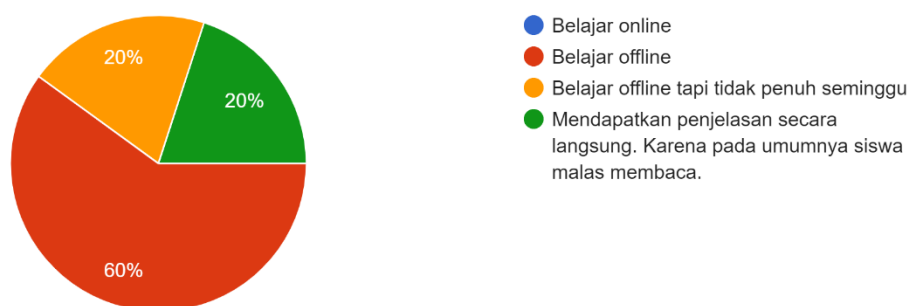


Chart5: Student choice between online or offline learning

From the interview that the researcher converts into statistic data, the students have many difficulties on learning online, on the first question we know that there are no students who are understand the material taught in English class via online platforms. The writer hypothesis, this situation occurs because they have not experienced enough language skills or even English language experience itself in terms of practice on their social life.

The second question occurs to measure the intensity of students attending the English class during the online learning process, ironically there are more than 60% of students state that "sometimes" they are not attending the class. This finding needs more serious attention from the teacher and school institution itself. Because the lack of attendance means that the lack of formal English education experience. Even if the students state that most they have facilitated by the school and get support from their parents.

This is becoming increasingly worrying because there are 40% of students who feel they do not have sufficient facilities to carry out online learning activities from their homes. Fortunately, the results of the third questionnaire showed that 80% of the respondents received good support from their parents in participating in online learning. Thus, students will feel enthusiastic to undergo online learning activities.

Questionnaire number 5 is a semi-open question that asks respondents to choose between online or offline learning and asks them to include reasons for their choice. All respondents chose to do face-to-face learning or offline learning on the grounds that because students felt it would be easier to understand the material if they were given face-

to-face learning in class. However, there are also respondents who think that they choose offline learning but it is not done in a full week

In fact, all of the eighth-grade students as respondents on this study are choosing the offline learning process, because they admit that most of the students are not really interested in reading the material. They need to have a deeper explanation from their teacher.

Conclusions

Based on the previous discussion, it can be concluded that online learning in the field of English as a foreign language has enormous potential. Especially if we remember that English is a science that has enormous uses in the international world and is also one of God's commands so that humans continue to study. This is very crucial, if online learning systems only exist to replace conventional learning systems in the short term, maybe trying to digitize offline learning models is not something wrong. However, the use of online learning at the junior high school level. Students still find it difficult to adapt because new junior high school students have little experience operating gadgets. Junior high school students who were respondents in this study still expected face-to-face learning, because according to them with offline classes their understanding of the English material taught would be even better.

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