The Contribution of E-Learning Platforms to Enhance Students' English Skills in Learning ESP

Faiz Rizaldi [1], Ni Luh Putu Era Adnyayanti [2]

[1] Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, Indonesia | faiz.rizaldi@undiksha.ac.id
[2] Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, Indonesia | era.adnyayanti@undiksha.ac.id

Abstract

In a pandemic situation, the students and teachers should adapt a new educational system required to implement online learning. The research aims to investigate the contribution of online platforms in enhancing students in learning of ESP. The study was conducted in SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak. The study involved the students of SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak. The observation and interview were done to collect the data. The results revealed that some online platforms use to help them in learning ESP. However, WhatsApp is the most frequent platform used since it is easier to use, and students are familiar with it.

Keywords

e-learning, English for specific purposes, online platforms

Introduction

The covid-19 situation has been attacked all over the world. The case has changed the system. Due to the covid-19 condition, many people are losing their jobs and the education system, which varies from kindergarten to university. The students must be adapted the educational system in the pandemic era. Face-to-face learning shifted to online learning. Thus, the internet plays a vital role in the modern world, which requires all people to be familiar with using it (Richard & Haya in Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014). Therefore, the students and educational parties need to implement e-learning closely related to the internet. E-learning is a system in which unable students and teachers conduct the lesson from a distance (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014).

E-learning refers to the use of communication tools and technologies to enable the students to the online or distance learning (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014). Mohammed et al. (2021) stated that e-learning is a fast and effective way to provide information and knowledge for learners. Some advantages and disadvantages are found in E-learning in higher education. Those are e-learning can be used in flexible time and place, contact with others, efficient access, and self-pacing (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2014; Drahošová & Balco, 2017). Thus, the disadvantage of online learning is the terrible internet connection and sometimes cannot join the meeting (Rahman, 2020).

Conclusion: there are many e-learning platforms used to gain students in English, such as Moodle, YouTube, WhatsApp, Google Classroom, and Video Conference (Zoom & Google Meet). In utilizing the platforms, both parties should spend some money to access the platform and find a good place with a good signal (Abubakar & Tsuraya, 2021). Further, the students who learn English for Specific Purpose (ESP) need to emphasize the language use that requires practice and correction while learning. Especially the students who learn English for Hospitality. The students must use the expression connected to the work field later. Thus, teaching ESP has become a great challenge for English educators (Sari et al., 2021). They also stated that teaching ESP requires the students to have subject matter knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge. Therefore, the teacher and students need to know and implement the e-learning platforms that facilitate learning. However, little research was conducted to investigate e-learning platforms teaching and learning English for Specific Purposes (ESP).

Some studies have been conducted in the same case. Amin & Sundari (2020) found that the students preferred to use an online platform such as video conferences and WhatsApp to improve their learning. The research found that the students agreed that the platform was beneficial for in-language learning. Abubakar & Tsuraya (2021) found that students could utilize all platforms such as Video Conference, Google Classroom, YouTube, or WhatsApp to learn ESP. The students felt that it was helpful. Mostly, the students preferred to use WhatsApp as the digital platform in online learning. Many factors affected the students' preference to use the digital platform. However, students or teachers should provide more online learning costs in online learning.

Moreover, e-learning platforms significantly impact teaching English for Specific Purposes. The preliminary observation drew that the students used the e-learning

platform to enhance their English and practice their English skills. Therefore, this article focuses on identifying the contribution of e-learning platforms in enhancing students' English Skills in learning ESP in SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak.

Method

This article investigates the contribution of e-learning platforms in enhancing students' English skills in learning English for Specific Purposes (ESP). Thus, research applied qualitative research, describing the phenomena in the field. The data collections were used observation, questionnaires, and interviews with open-ended questions. The participants were the students of SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak. In SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak, two departments were Culinary and Hospitality. However, the focus of this study is the Hospitality students. The hospitality department is divided into two classes. The researcher mainly focuses on grade 11. Therefore, each class consists of 34 and 35 students. All the participants were involved in online learning using WhatsApp, YouTube, Video Conference, and Google Classroom.

Results

After conducting the observation in SMK Nusa Dua Gerokgak, it was found that the students used several e-learning platforms and applications to help them in learning English for Specific Purposes, which emphasize the English for Hospitality. The students are learning about the expression that is used for hospitality. From those platforms such as YouTube, Video Conference, Google Classroom, and WhatsApp. It was found that most of the students are using WhatsApp to learn English for Hospitality. The students revealed several reasons while using WhatsApp to communicate and learn English in the subject. The findings are as follow:

> R1: "WhatsApp is easy to use. Therefore, I prefer to use it to help me in learning. But I also use another platform such as YouTube. I like to watch videos related to hospitality. I realized that in this pandemic, we need to gain more information from different sources."

> R2: "I am more familiar to use WhatsApp. I use it every day, so I do not need to learn to use it when I learn ESP."

> R3: "The material given by the teacher is easy to be understood because it directly appears in the WhatsApp group. When the teacher explains, we can ask or comment on their explanation related to the material."

> R4: "I like to use all the platforms. However, the easiest one is still WhatsApp. It's already installed in my phone, and I use it to communicate to the teacher and my friends."

> R5: "In learning English, especially for hospitality. We emphasized the use of the language in daily communication. As vocational high school students, we can express and communicate in English. Therefore, when the teacher explains the material in WhatsApp. Even though we do not meet the teacher yet, they help us pronounce it well."

Moreover, the teacher who teaches English for Hospitality subjects also preferred to use WhatsApp. 1) WhatsApp is a popular application among the students, 2) Teachers and

students agreed to learn English for Hospitality and share the material through the application, and 3) It is easy to deliver the material. The platforms used in the learning process has some benefits which helpful for students' improvement. The benefits are platforms that students and teachers use are easy to utilize.

Discussion

The covid-19 outbreak changed the educational system, which shifted face-to-face learning into online learning. Therefore, the teacher should provide the students with suitable platforms to improve their English skills, especially English for Hospitality. The research results found that the students were utilizing several platforms to help them learn English for Hospitality. The students mainly focused on using WhatsApp since the media have several benefits seen by the students. WhatsApp greatly helps the students to enhance their English Skills. Conclusion: Several benefits stated, such as WhatsApp, help them understand the material in English for Hospitality. From 69 participants in total that are from two Hospitality classes. 60,8% of students agreed that the beneficial platforms could help them learn, master the material, and get new insight into the technologies used to learn English for Hospitality. 18,84% of students partially agreed that learning English for Hospitality platforms cause the cost. Then, the rest of the students did not give their answers. It can be seen that the students are getting the benefit of using the platforms to learn English for Hospitality.

Furthermore, the results supported the previous research and showed similar results. The first research was conducted by Amin & Sundari (2020) that the students highly agree that they can work in a group well in the WhatsApp group. They also revealed that they showed a better improvement in an unpredictable situation. Further, the results supported Abubakar & Tsuraya (2021) research, which found that various platforms have helped students learn ESP. Most of the students perceived that WhatsApp benefits enhancing their ESP performance. They learned to manage the material and become more active to ask frequently about the material from the teachers or friends. The last, Al-Amri & Zahid (2015) revealed that the use of the online platform in distance learning is highly beneficial to improve students group work, allow them to display their work to the other students, and easier to interpret the technical aspects of ESP and relevance to their field of study.

In the end, the results and discussion of the research revealed that the online platform had played an essential role in learning English for Specific Purpose (ESP), emphasizing English for Hospitality. Thus, it implies that various platforms can learn and teach ESP. It also can be suited to students' needs and conditions.

Conclusion

Based on the result and discussions, it can be concluded that online platforms such as YouTube, Google Classroom, Video Conference, and WhatsApp are familiar among the students in the covid-19 outbreak. The students extensively utilize the platform to learn English for Hospitality to enhance their English skills since the language is essential and related to their work field. The students revealed that all of the platforms have a benefit.

However, they mostly prefer to use WhatsApp in learning the subject. They strongly perceived that WhatsApp is easier to use, enabling them to communicate and frequently ask about the English for Hospitality material. It means that the online platform effectively helps students improve their English performance.

Acknowledgments

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