

ELT Teachers' Perception in Learning English Through Digital Learning Platform

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Abstract: Currently, the implementation of technology in learning is a good way to help students understand learning material. Through an interesting strategy, it will encourage students to always improve their understanding related to the implementation of learning. This study aims to obtain information about the English digital learning platform used by teachers to attract students' interest and motivation in EFL classes. The research was carried out qualitatively through a descriptive approach. The informants in this study were three English teachers who provided teaching through the use of digital learning platforms. The research was carried out for two months through observation of learning and interviews with teachers. Then, the data analyzed through data reduction, data display and conclusions. The results of the study show that teachers use various digital learning platforms in teaching English in order to encourage students to increase their motivation in learning English. The digital learning platforms that are used are very diverse, such as Padlet, YouTube, Canva, Kahoot, Quizizz and so on. The teacher also explained that the use of digital learning platforms was able to positively increase students' understanding in mastering learning material.

Keywords: Students' interest, digital learning platform

INTRODUCTION

Currently, information and communication technology has developed so rapidly and become the most frequently encountered in everyday life. Some technologies are very helpful in making it easy to carry out human activities and work, one of which is technology in learning (Prayudha, 2021). The emergence of technology in the field of learning is a very good and interesting thing to discuss because basically technology arises because of continuous learning and trials. Therefore, when talking about technology, it cannot be separated from education. Furthermore, the development of technology in the world of education is a step that is very extraordinary to be found and implemented to make it easier for students and teachers to carry out learning so that when a class implements learning through technology it can be interpreted that the learning has followed the development and progress of communication and information technology. Here, it is necessary to note that the emergence of various learning applications was triggered by the co-19 pandemic, when the world was hit by a deadly virus attack, many schools and educational institutions stopped carrying out face-to-face learning. Researchers and technology developers are competing to create applications that can continue to help students and teachers to be connected to each other in implementing learning even though it is carried out online, so that at this time it can be felt that there is a large presence of this technology that can be used in teaching. Prayudha (2022) added that the emergence of the covid 19 virus made various application developers create various types of

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applications that are useful for continuing online learning. The emergence of this technology must still be utilized by teachers to continue to adapt to online learning patterns so that students are also able to use technology in their daily lives even though it is no longer during a pandemic. What the teacher must understand when teaching students is the readiness of student learning in the classroom. Teachers need to observe and analyze the characteristics of students before carrying out learning. This is very useful for providing teachers with preparation regarding methods, media and teaching strategies that are appropriate to the conditions of students, so that when learning is carried out it can encourage students to be more active in understanding and getting the right material. Teachers need to build a more enjoyable learning atmosphere with gamification learning so that students can become more interested in participating in learning in English classes (Bicen & Kocakoyun, 2018).

However, sometimes there are conditions where students cannot actively participate in class learning properly. Students are still often found with delays in understanding and carrying out learning activities and there are also several conditions where students are still not encouraged to be actively involved in learning activities in the classroom. This kind of thing is one of the inhibiting factors in achieving learning objectives. Teachers really need to find the right way to provide assistance to students to become better students through innovation and solutions that are appropriate to these problems. Teachers can take advantage of a variety of interesting learning resources, media or methods so that of course they can form a high enthusiasm for learning in students. Learning by utilizing interesting media will encourage students to be able to follow the learning process properly (Adnyani et al., 2020). Here, the teacher needs to look intensively at how the conditions of students are, classes and the supporting environment in carrying out learning. The teacher must also be able to understand the strengths and weaknesses of his students so that when learning is carried out the teacher can wisely determine the direction of his teaching. It needs optimal understanding and observation so that when the teacher determines a solution it can result in good things for the problems faced by students. It is very important to know the conditions, emotions and circumstances of students in creating an interesting class (Cheng et al., 2022). As a result, when the teacher is able to provide the right solution students can also become more motivated in participating in learning so that they are able to improve their understanding of English material.

Furthermore, when it is related to the current situation where almost everyone has good access to technology and the internet, this method can actually be used properly and wisely in carrying out learning. Through various kinds of digital learning platforms that are widely available on the internet, teachers can create ideas and creativity to help students understand learning, and at least can encourage students to participate actively in English classes. Now, you can see that many learning applications are scattered everywhere, can be downloaded easily, and many are even free to use, so teachers should be able to apply these applications to make classes more interesting and creative. Prayudha & Pradana (2023) said that learning at this time needs to use technology so that students and teachers are able to develop more modern learning. Professional teachers will always keep up with the times, utilize various learning resources, and be able to understand situations that can support the implementation of more active learning. The teacher's role is very important in determining how the class should be formed so that when the teacher has determined the right way, he can make the class more meaningful and more active. In addition, it is necessary for teachers to be able to see the opportunities that are in front of their eyes so that they can be applied as interesting learning resources, for example by utilizing the internet and digital learning platforms in learning English. This opportunity is actually a fortune for teachers and students today because they are able to carry out learning that is more modern,

more advanced and more creative in utilizing technology when compared to students and teachers who do conventional learning. So it is very fortunate that students and teachers are currently utilizing various learning resources to support more enjoyable learning situations and certainly be able to encourage interest in learning for the better. Learning through technology has often been applied in learning English, even so with the existence of various technological developments, teaching and learning English has become more diverse with the uniqueness and advantages of existing new technologies. In an English learning class, it is very necessary to apply meaningful learning through the application of this sophisticated learning technology because most of the technology developers make their applications in English so that it will provide a more enjoyable continuation of learning English. Teachers need to master and provide clear usage instructions to students so that when applied students are able to understand how to solve problems using the application. Good technology mastery will provide flexibility in operating the learning technology to be more enjoyable. Teachers must be able to create creativity in learning and be able to include elements of games or pictures, fun colors for students so that students not only learn but can enjoy learning in a more interesting way. Seeing the condition of students in the class who lack motivation and interest in learning, the teacher should be able to help students overcome these problems through the use of learning technology in English classes so that students can receive explanations and teaching in ways that are more innovative, creative, active and fun (Ramdani, Nugraha, & Hadiapurwa, 2021). Therefore, this study tries to analyze the learning activities carried out by three English teachers through the learning technology they use to encourage students to be motivated and interested in participating in English learning classes.

METHOD

The current study is trying to find out the information related to the learning implementation through the use of learning technology in English classes. The method used in this study is qualitative. Qualitative research is one of the methods that can be used to obtain information in the form of descriptions, perceptions, and opinions on matters being studied in a study. According to Stake (2010) qualitative method is a type of research that can be used to find out a condition or situation in detail and clearly about the matter being studied. Then, to make it easier to understand the explanation of the contents of this study, the approach used is descriptive. Descriptive approach is one way to explain or describe a situation as it is without any interference from other parties. This means that this approach is a way of presenting data by way of a detailed description based on sources that provide answers without engineering and interference from any party. According to Sugiyono (2014) the descriptive approach is one way of presenting data by providing detailed explanations or descriptions based on what is. Thus, in carrying out this research all implementation processes up to the presentation of the data will be explained descriptively explaining what is and conveying messages in accordance with what is obtained during the research process.

Furthermore, this research was carried out for two full months by observing the learning process and documenting teaching and learning activities in English classes. The informants in this study consisted of three English teachers who taught through the application of learning technology in order to encourage student achievement and motivation in English classes. Implementation of research or data collection is carried out through observation activities in English classes where researchers analyze what learning technologies are used in teaching. Then classify these technologies based on the frequency of use by teachers. In order to get a more comprehensive picture of the use of learning technology to encourage students' motivation in learning English, interviews were conducted with three English

teachers. The results of the interviews are used as the main data in this study. Data analysis was carried out in three stages proposed by Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2013) they are data reduction, data display and conclusion.

RESULTS

Based on the results of observations, it can be described as follows; First, before learning is carried out the English teacher ensures that students have technological devices that can be used to carry out learning using digital learning platforms. The teacher provides instructions on the use and operation of digital technology so that students are able to carry out learning activities properly. When the implementation of learning takes place, it can be seen that students are very enthusiastic about using smartphones to access links and applications that will be used in learning. This can be seen from how students jointly turn on and run the technology they have to carry out learning. In addition, the use of learning technology can also foster a positive spirit, it can be seen clearly when learning is taking place, many of them do exercises and other activities related to English in a very orderly manner. Various digital applications are used by English teachers to make it easier for students to follow learning so that they can be motivated to be actively involved in English classes. The various digital learning platform media used in English learning classes are: Kahoot, Quizizz, Padlet, online crossword puzzle, Duolingo, Canva. Each of these applications is used to improve students' understanding of English material. The application can be used and operated easily and for free so students do not need to spend a lot of internet quota in studying. However, what must be known is that teachers really need to add material or create material as well and as interesting as possible so that students do not feel bored in learning English. Teachers need good mastery of technology in order to be able to create good learning. Teachers also really need to have a much more skilled mastery background in order to be able to teach according to the characteristics of students so that students can have good encouragement in developing interest and motivation to learn English.

On the other hand, although the teacher must be able to use, make teaching materials and organize the course of class activities students also need to be given directions on using the application so that there are no misunderstandings in using the learning application. From the various activities that have been carried out in learning English through digital learning, it is necessary to have two-way communication between the teacher and students so that when learning takes place the teacher and students can communicate properly regarding the activities carried out during class. The same thing is very visible in the results of observations where the teacher's role in providing instructions and directions to students can run well. The teacher teaches and explains in detail related to the learning that will be carried out and students follow the instructions properly. The implementation of learning English through digital learning platforms is carried out regularly so that students can be well motivated in understanding English material. The frequency in using the application is as follows:

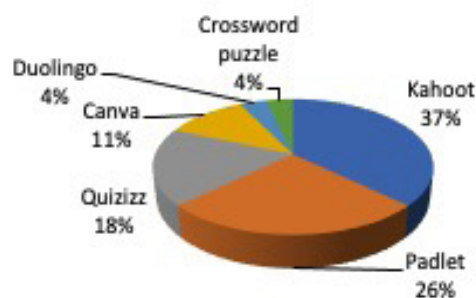


Figure 1. The frequency use of digital learning platform

The table above illustrates that the frequency of using various types of digital learning platforms varies greatly. The activities carried out for about two months showed the results that the teacher had implemented learning using various types of learning platforms. It can be seen that the Kahoot learning application is most often used in English classes with a percentage of 37%. The Kahoot application is used to provide a simple test to students about what they have learned where the teacher will see students' comprehension abilities through an interesting test through this application. Furthermore, Padlet took second place with a percentage of 26%. This application is one way for teachers to ask students to be able to provide ideas or opinions in the form of wall writing. Then, the Quizizz application occupies the third position with a percentage of 18%. This application is almost similar to Kahoot where the teacher can make interesting simple tests related to the material that has been studied. Then, there is Canva with a total percentage of 11%. This application is used by teachers to make the appearance of learning media more attractive, for example posters, infographics, mind maps and others. Finally, there are the Duolingo and Crossword puzzle applications with a usage frequency of 4%. Duolingo is an application that is used to encourage students to take part in learning simple English, because there are lots of interesting questions and exercises that students can do in a fun way. Meanwhile, the word puzzle application is able to attract students' critical thinking related to the questions given in English.

Furthermore, to obtain more in-depth information related to the use of digital learning platforms in increasing students' motivation to learn English, interviews were conducted with three English teachers, while the results of the interviews are summarized as follows:

“According to teacher A learning English through the use of digital learning platforms is a good way to increase students' motivation in learning English. This is because learning technology will form a different learning atmosphere that is more challenging and can make it easier for students to understand the material presented. The same thing was also added by teacher B that by using technology-based learning media teachers can easily teach students. Students will also become more independent in learning and will definitely form individual characters who are adept at understanding English material. While teacher C added that the use of technological media in learning is a good innovation to improve English language skills and can encourage students to be able to take part in learning well. Through the use of digital technology teachers can change traditional learning to be more modern where in this era everything is connected to the use of technology so that when teaching is done by utilizing technology it will improve the quality of education.

Furthermore, teacher A said that when learning is carried out through the use of technology, students become more active in participating in learning activities. This is because the learning that is carried out is something new and is able to encourage students to be more creative in providing perceptions and answers related to the questions given by the English teacher. The same thing was conveyed by teachers B and C where learning English through the integration of digital learning platforms was able to make the class atmosphere more lively, active and fun. Students are able to collaborate collaboratively in participating in learning activities and are also able to increase their understanding related to the material being taught.”

Based on the results of the interviews above, it was concluded that the teacher's opinion in using digital learning platforms was able to increase motivation and ask students to learn to be more positive and better. This is because the material and method of delivery in learning are developed in a fun and interesting way so as to encourage students to be actively

involved in carrying out the orders and assignments given by their teacher. Teachers also feel that the use of technology in the classroom should be emphasized not only to make students more active in learning but to support and design students to be more able to master the use of various technology applications for learning. Through proper use, it will encourage students to be more motivated and improve their English language skills. Thus, it is very necessary for English teachers to be able to continue to carry out learning in an innovative way through the integration of technology in language classes so as to encourage students' interest and interest in mastering English material.

DISCUSSIONS

The implementation of learning using a digital learning platform is an innovative application in the English class. The teacher forms a learning atmosphere through the integration of technology so that students are able to take advantage of the technology they have to become individuals who are ready to live life with a good flow of technology so that they can improve their English skills. Learning is carried out for two months with an emphasis on implementing various types of learning platforms to be able to increase students' interest and motivation in learning English. The process of learning activities is carried out with great care by giving good and clear instructions to students so that when the implementation takes place students can use them optimally and optimally. When carrying out a project, it is necessary for the teacher to be able to explain as well as possible so that students are able to understand and follow the flow of learning (Siririmangkorn, 2021). Learning activities are carried out intensively by providing various teaching materials using digital learning platforms. Learning English is made as interesting as possible by using digital learning platform media so that it can attract students' interest in learning in English classes where all learning activities are carried out using technology-based teaching. Learning activities using digital learning platform media are carried out in a comprehensive and optimal manner in the hope that students will be able to improve their English language skills.

When the teacher is able to operate the learning application properly, the teacher will easily use various features in the application to form more interesting media or material. Muddin (2018) and Fauzi (2021) state that both students and teachers must both have a good understanding of the use of technology in order to develop good and maximum learning. Students will tend to be interested when the teacher can make material displayed with various illustrations, pictures or other forms that are more challenging for students' way of thinking in working on material in English.

From all the learning activities that have been carried out, it is clear that the enthusiasm of students in participating in learning is clear. Students become more enthusiastic in following all the learning activities. Activeness in doing assignments also increased and the class atmosphere became livelier. Applying technology-based learning will encourage students to become more active if the learning is able to attract students' interest in learning (Nikmah, 2020); (Puspita, 2023). Then, the most important thing from this learning process is that students' understanding becomes better and students are able to make a better frame of mind. This is because when the teacher provides an explanation of the material through the learning platform it is able to encourage students to listen carefully, especially with the illustrations and effects used which are interesting to be able to encourage students to understand the material calmly and well. This is what must be applied by the teacher so that students are able to follow the flow of the implementation of learning in a more conducive manner.

CONCLUSION

Motivation and interest in learning are two important things in learning. These two elements are elements that can support and stimulate students' interest to continue learning and want to be actively involved in participating in English classes. However, sometimes it is often found that students have low motivation in learning. This will definitely have a bad influence on students to improve their English comprehension. Teachers need to find solutions to problems faced by students when they lose motivation and interest in learning. Teachers can take advantage of the opportunities that exist today, namely the development of information and communication technology in providing learning assistance to increase interest and interest in participating in learning in the classroom. The use of digital learning platforms is one way that is currently the prima donna in implementing learning. There are many advantages and advantages offered by various English learning applications that can encourage students to be motivated to take part in learning. These technologies are designed in the best and maximum possible way to provide convenience for teachers and students in carrying out learning. Through the implementation of various learning platforms, it is also able to hone students' abilities not only to deepen English language skills but also the ability to master technology that is useful in everyday life. As a result, learning English through the use of technology can encourage students' enthusiasm in learning English and also make the learning atmosphere to be more interesting and fun so that it can encourage students' interest to take English learning classes well.

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