

The Implementation of Learning Medium: Google Meet Application for ELE Students in EFL Distance Learning

Ketut Ari Setyawati¹, Ni Luh Putu Era Adnyayanti²

¹⁻² Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, Indonesia

¹ari.setyawati@undiksha.ac.id; ²era.adnyayanti@undiksha.ac.id;

Abstract

The emergence of Covid-19 changed face-to-face learning into online learning. Those conditions required a platform or learning medium in facilitating the learning process. Learning medium in online learning became the one consideration in the online learning to have a virtual meeting. One of the applications that can provide virtual meetings is Google Meet. GM provides features that support distance learning run well. Therefore, the current research aimed to explore the implementation of using Google Meet as an online medium in the EFL distance learning at the Ganesha University of Education. The research employs descriptive qualitative research which gains the data through observations and interviews for three days during the learning process. The results of the research found that Google Meet can be an effective learning medium to use in distance learning. There are many advantages obtained such as, students more understanding the material, can meet a face-to-face virtual meeting, and many features to support virtual meeting. However, that is a barrier like requiring a good internet connection.

Keywords: *distance learning, online learning media, Google Meet*

Introduction

The emergence of covid-19 in 2019 affected education in Indonesia. The term of learning face to face suddenly changed into distance learning. The government suddenly decided to conduct distance learning or online learning to continue the teaching and learning process. Prawanti and Sumarni (2020) explain that distance learning is the process of learning that is carried out by utilizing a remote or online communication system by using a computer in the internet network without any real face-to-face. It means that distance learning required students and scholars to learn from home by using supporting applications from the internet.

Those situations require teachers and students to use existing platforms or learning mediums to support online learning activities. Moore (1973) stated that the communication in the learning is facilitated with printed media, electronic media, or another kind of media. Learning media is the material and tool component in the learning system. According to Miftah (2013), Learning media are the tool, material, or condition used as the communication intermediary in the learning activities. The platform used is expected to be able to maintain the effectiveness of learning even though it is carried out online. It is because media have a vital role in learning to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of achieving learning objectives (Miftah, 2013). Besides that, learning medium generates

students' learning motivation. Therefore, learning media in online learning should be considered.

Yet, not all platforms on the internet are effective to use as a learning medium in online learning. Some applications do not provide features that can assist online learning in this distance learning run effectively. There are various limitations of applications that cannot support by any kind of smartphones like iPhone or Android. Sometimes, the application is hard for some smartphones. Besides that, some applications bring a big and hard specification for smartphones which makes ineffective usage. For example, is the limitation of displaying pictures, chats, or sounds. Therefore, there is no perfect application that can support the distance learning processes.

There are online learning media that support video, text, audio, and others in holding up distance learning like WhatsApp, Schoology, Google meet, Zoom, Quizzes, and Padlet, (Wahyuni, 2021, Setyawan et al., 2020 & Ironsi, 2021). Those applications are ready with features to conduct online meeting activities such as Video conferencing, Instants messaging, and games (Suputra, 2021).

A virtual meeting can be a choice of activities in distance learning. Conducting virtual meetings means that teachers and students meet virtually or online through certain applications. It provides face-to-face interaction of teachers and students as well as among students, (Rahayu, 2020 in Suputra, 2021). Usually, the application used is a type of video conferencing that can be accessed easily via laptops, PCs, tablets, and smartphones. Virtual meeting through online apps is a good way to do in pandemic situations as it provides many benefits for teachers and students, especially learning with video conferencing makes the learning process more efficient, practical and safe, (Pratama et al., 2020). A virtual meeting can be a good choice to conduct an online meeting.

One of the applications presenting features of the virtual meeting is Google Meet. Google Meet (GM) furnishes virtual meetings for scholars, students, and teachers to hold an effective online meeting. GM is one of the most used apps in teaching instructions in education. It is the combination between Google Hangouts and Google Chat which is come from Google Cooperation. It developed to be an application that provides a teleconferencing activity for teachers and students. GM is a free application for smartphone users. For the free version, it can be attended maximally by 100 participants in an online meeting. Moreover, for the premium or business version, it can be attended by starting from 100 to 250 participants (Nilakandi and Zuhorh, 2021 in Lestari et al., 2021). That makes, GM become the chosen application in conducting online meetings especially virtual meetings.

GM is equipped with many features and gives lots of benefits for a maximal online meeting. Students can join by a web, from every type of smartphone such as Android and iPhone. The host can schedule a date and time to conduct a future meeting because GM joins with *Google Calendar*. GM has features that enable teachers to display learning material such as PPT or Word base documents. In presenting the material, students can watch the document and listen to the explanation. Besides that, students and teachers can conduct a discussion or send a text or any link of video or document or through Chatbox features. The other benefit is the host can admit and deny the user to join the online meeting. GM is a private virtual meeting because it supports encryption, and the online meeting can join with many other features such as recording, attendance tracking, retention, and the highest cloud storage. (Arifin, 2020 in Lestari et al., 2021).

There are amount of empirical studies which are related to the use of Google Meet in online learning. One of them was found about the effectiveness of GM as an online learning medium in enhancing the students' achievement by Wahyni, (2021). Wahyuni implemented pre-test and post-test to see the influence of GM on students' scores. The result was positive. It means that the Post-test score was higher than the pre-test score. It showed that GM can be an effective and efficient medium in online learning to build students' achievement in the learning. Besides, there is also a study by Aswir et al. (2021) in Jakarta. This study found that GM as an application in the English learning process can build students speaking skills. Next, Lestari et al. in 2021 also found the effectiveness of GM to increase students' interest in studying at Abdurrah University. It recorded the students' perception of using GM in the learning process. There are still many studies that examine the use of Google Meet. Besides, Hasanah et al., (2021) also conducted a study related about utilization on Google Meet in online learning. The results found that Google Meet can overcome the limitation happen in Japanese distance learning which makes the learning still can be carried out well. Therefore, the current research discusses the implementation of GM and its benefits in online learning.

Recently, Google Meet is becoming one of the learning media in EFL (English Foreign Language) classrooms at Ganesha University of Education (Undiksha) to conduct the teaching and learning process. One of the program studies of Undiksha is English Language Education (ELE). EFL Classroom in Undiksha uses Google Meet to support distance learning during pandemic-Covid 19. Lecturers use GM to facilitate students in understanding some courses. Both lecturers and students are easy use GM as the learning medium in today's distance learning. The material can be understood well by students when it is delivered by GM. Students are motivated to learn by using GM as an online learning medium in this distance learning. Students feel easier to join the online meeting by using GM.

Even though the students have already used GM for a long time, they do not aware how the implementation of GM in online learning. Besides that, they do not cognizant of the advantages and disadvantages of using GM during conducting distance learning. Therefore, the current mini-research is aimed to explore the implementation of Google Meet as an online learning medium in EFL classrooms at the Ganesha University of Education. The findings of the research are expected to be able to answer the research questions, namely: 1). How is the implementation of Google Meet as online learning media in the Ganesha University of Education? 2). What are the advantages and disadvantages of using Google Meet as an online learning medium?. As those research questions, the data will be gained by conducting observation and interviews during English learning which is facilitated by using Google Meet.

Method

In obtaining the results, the researcher employed the design to collect and organize the research. This research uses a kind of descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research is a design to describe the symptoms, incidents, and events, research when doing the research which is described (Siyoto and Tanzeh, 2011). It means that the covered data will be displayed qualitatively by the researcher as the findings in this research. Through descriptive qualitative research, the researcher describes the implementation of GM in the

English learning process and explains the advantages and disadvantages of using GM in the English learning process.

The techniques that used in this study were observation and interview. The observation was conducted during the learning process. In observing the data, the researcher is involved in the English learning processes of the 7D ELE class. The observation was conducted in gaining the data about Google Meet implementation in the English learning process during distance learning. While the interview was done by using interview guide consisted of 5 questions to two ELE students who were chosen randomly by the researcher. The interview was conducted to get the data about the advantages and disadvantages of using GM during distance learning in detail. The results of this study were the answer to the research question of this study. Therefore, the data was presented objectively. In conducting the effective research, the researcher implemented some steps, there are: 1) collecting the data, 2) processing the data obtained and 3) presenting the data descriptively.

The study was conducted virtually. The researcher conducted observation for three days in some English courses which are used Google Meet as the learning medium to do a virtual meeting. While the interview was conducted by giving the 5 questions contain open-ended and close-ended questions. The researcher contacted privately the subjects to give the questions and asked other information to get more detailed data. The subjects of the research were two English Language Education Students in the Ganesha University of Education.

Results & Discussion

This mini-research describes the implementation of Google Meet from English Language Education students in the EFL Classroom at the Ganesha University of Education. To explain Google Meet implementation, there are descriptions of the advantages and disadvantages of using Google Meet during distance learning. There are two subjects in this study whose identities are disguised with codes subject 1 and subject 2 or S1, S2. The researcher was doing the observations during the learning process virtually for three days, 30th September, 1st December, and 2nd December 2021 in the 7D class. Besides that, the researcher also interviewed in the 3rd December with two ELE students after doing the observation, the questions were as follow:

No.	Questions
1.	Is Google Meet become the media choice in your English learning during distance learning?
2.	Is the learning material can be understood well during learning using Google Meet? Please, give your reasons!
3.	Can Google Meet be an effective learning medium in distance learning? Please, give your explanation!
4.	What are the advantages felt while using Google Meet as online learning? Please, give your explanation!
5.	What are the advantages felt while using Google Meet as online learning? Please, give your explanation!

The results of the observation and interview were as effective and satisfying as the findings of the research. The results of the observations are described as follows.

1). Google Meet as a virtual application be the most frequently learning medium used in the learning process. This is proven by the subject statements as below.

- S1 : *Yes, in this semester we use Google Meet and Zoom as the learning media, but in this semester mostly we use Google Meet.*
- S2 : *I also use other application for my virtual meeting like zoom and WhatsApp, but mostly we use Google Meet in the online learning.*

During three days of conducted observations, every virtual meeting was facilitated by the Google Meet application. The subjects answer that Google Meet is the most often application utilized a virtual meeting with the lecturer. Besides that, there are Zoom and WhatsApp as the other learning medium to have a virtual meeting in the English learning process, but the most used application as the learning media in distance learning is Google Meet. Before conducting a meeting, the captain always contacts the lecturer to get confirmation, whether the class will take or not. Then, the captain will send the link to the lecturer. Every course in the 7th semester already has their link to Google Meet, there is also different subject with the same GM link such as Discourse Analysis and Cross Culture Understanding. There were thirteen classes in three days during the observation period, seven of the classes always used GM as a learning medium to conduct virtual meetings. It means that GM becomes the frequently used apps in supporting the English learning process.

2) Through Google Meet, students understand well the learning material. It is proven by the previous research of Setyawan et al. (2021), Google Meet builds students' knowledge and learning outcomes. It is easier to use Google Meet as the learning medium in this distance learning. The students join the link and attend the virtual meeting on time in every virtual class. The students already know the link and join the link easier to have an online meeting. Students did not find any difficulties joining the meeting, they felt easier and understand well how to operate Google Meet. The finding was proven by the subjects' statements as below.

- S1 : *Yes, the learning process using GM makes me more understood the material, as I can see the speaker and hear the explanation directly. It makes me easier to understand the learning material.*
- S2 : *Yes, because I can hear and see the material that presented by the teacher.*

Both of S1 and S2 explain that Google Meet help them easier to understand the material. They felt comfortable using Google Meet during the learning process. This is why the subjects explain that they understand well the learning material explained by the lecturer or by the other friends well. It is because the students see, watch and hear directly the explanation given in the learning process. The students or lecturer can display the presentation by sharing the screen. Those make the students comprehend well the material explained during distance learning.

3) As an application, Google Meet can be an effective learning medium in this distance learning. Google Meet provides a classroom atmosphere for students and lecturers. Both of the subjects feel like they are in the real classroom when conducting an online meeting through GM. Students meet and discuss the material with their friends directly by having a virtual meeting. As revealed by Lestari et al. (2021) the Google Meet application is effective to enhance the students' motivation in the learning process. In addition, Google Meet also becomes one of the live streaming medium in the English learning, (Sunardi, 2021). Their finding is in line with the subject statement as follow.

- S1 : *In my opinion, GM can be the effective learning media in this distance learning. For the visual learners learning using GM can present the classroom atmosphere. Although, it does not as same as the real atmosphere in the classroom, but the teacher and the students can meet face to face virtually.*
- S2 : *Of course yes! It help us more understand in grasping the material, besides that it feels like I am in the real class, face to face meeting.*

4) The students easily recognize the features on Google Meet to support their learning process. During the observations, the researcher found that the students use the features provided in GM easily. Even they know where they have to use it. For example, when they want to take chance to give questions they do not speak noise, but they raise their hands first. Besides that, students who want to do a presentation know well how to display the PowerPoint or other material by using the share screen feature. Next, the students are also easier to discuss in the chatbox. They can share the link of the presence, or the link of any website while conducting a meeting. The other feature is the effect which possible the students and lecturer can use to blur or as the background while turning on the camera, so they can hide the unnecessary background.

There are several advantages of using GM as the learning medium in distance learning. The results of the interview show that many benefits are felt by the students in learning through GM. Both of the subjects mention several advantages in using GM in their distance learning. The subjects' answers are as follow.

- S1 : *in my opinion using GM gives the several advantages to the online learning is, GM makes easier for students to understand the material, because it is explained directly by the teacher.*
- S2 : *I can meet face to face with friends and teacher virtually. There are some features to support our learning such as share screen the material, raise hand button, chat box and recording the meeting.*

The subjects' statements about advantages felt are described descriptively in this study. 1) Students easier to understand the material, because the material is explained directly by the lecturer and other presenters. 2) The students can meet face to face directly with their friends or the teacher virtually. So it motivates the students in the learning process. 3) There are supporting features provided in Google Meet, such as share screen to display the material, raising hands to identify that the students want to give opinions or share ideas, chatbox to do discussion with the participants in the room meeting, and record feature to record the meeting and keep the meeting in the storage. Having a recording of the meeting makes it the students easier to remember again the material by watching the records. 4) The host can control the participant's activities, for example, mute the noise sounds from a

participant by clicking the mute button. 5) The host can end the meeting when the class is over. So, it cannot waste the time and consumes the internet data more.

Besides those advantages of using Google Meet as an online learning medium during distance learning, there is also its disadvantage. The disadvantages felt by two subjects seen from their statements below.

- S1 : *Although, GM effective as learning medium, but it requires a good internet quality and good facilities. It always become a big problem in our distance learning, because not all of my friends are live in the city are, some of them are come from solitary area.*
- S2 : *It need more package data and signal.*

Based on the interviews results, the two subjects in this study propose the same answer toward the disadvantages in using GM. They said that, using GM as an online learning medium requires a good internet or signal quality and enough data package. Internet quality is influenced by signal strength and the adequacy of the quota package students have. When there is a lack of signal, it can interfere with the learning process. For example, the sounds cannot be heard clearly when a student is talking but in an unstable connection. Sometimes, when asked by the teacher and there is a student who wants to speak their ideas, but because of the bad connection, it will make the response cannot be heard clearly. Even, sometimes the bad connection makes the student kicked out from the meeting. It is because the student loses their connection as the low signal.

However, the disadvantage of using GM has been overcome yet. The disadvantage of using Google Meet as a learning medium in distance learning becomes the consideration by the government. The government provides quota assistance for all educators and students registered in the Indonesian education system. It helps the students to overcome the difficulties in using Google Meet. While the problem of bad signal that felt by the subjects can be overcome by choosing the proper places with a good signal. You can go to your relatives' house to find a good signal. If there is a Wi-Fi connection it is better to use Wi-Fi, because it has a stronger signal capability. But if there is no, the students can rent Wi-Fi around the house or nearby area from the house.

Conclusion

Based on the results explained above, it can be concluded that the implementation of Google Meet as the learning medium in distance learning is quite effective by considering the number of advantages obtained by students in the learning process. The results above show that Google Meet can be one of the alternative applications to support distance learning which can maintain face-to-face learning virtually and brings many benefits for students. Students feel comfortable using Google Meet in this online learning. Therefore, students can understand well the learning material through the Google Meet application. Besides that, it also provides many features that support English learning which is easier to be operated by the students.

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