



## THE UTILIZING WHATSAPP APPLICATION TO TEACH SPEAKING FOR STUDENTS UNIVERSITAS GRAHA NUSANTARA

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### ABSTRACT

The pandemic has accompanied the education sector for about one year. Every student used to use mobile phone as the schools' tool to have a home class learning. While, the signal of internet has not spread all over the villages in north Sumatera, they have difficulty to get the signal for joining the learning process. Among all the learning applications now, WhatsApp is the chosen application for the students in learning speaking class. The method uses in this research is descriptive method. The data obtained from the true and recent condition of the third semester students of civics program at education and teaching faculty of Universitas Graha Nusantara. The result of this research tells the students' real condition in learning speaking by using WhatsApp application for this pandemic situation. WhatsApp was chosen because there were many students lived in the remote area which has no internet signal. A researcher focuses on teaching the English basic for daily communication. The advantages of teaching speaking for non-English students give them supplies to communicate using English in this recent developing era.

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### A. INTRODUCTION

Since 2020 until now 2021, most of the states in the world faces the Corona Virus (Fischer et al., 2021). It makes the many sectors unstable, for instance



economic(Dito Aditia Darma Nasution, 2020), health(Yafi Sabila Rosyad, Setya Retno Wulandari, Istichomah & Anisa Febristi, 2021), and education(Amalia & Sa'adah, 2020). Indonesia is one of the states which infected by Corona virus, then the governments' regulation should be obeyed. Everyone must obey the health protocol such as keeping social distancing, wearing face mask, washing hands with soap and staying healthy(Wahidah et al., 2020). Indonesia has many small islands which is still difficult to reach. Besides, it also has many big islands such as Papua, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Sumatera. Based on the data of Yunani which has validated and verified that Indonesia has 17.508 islands but still there were 9.534 unnamed islands (Yunani, 2016). It is not a surprise anymore that internet Signal has not spread to all over the islands in Indonesia. Sumatra is one of a big islands in Indonesia that has many places categorized as a remote area which has no internet signal. Padang Sidempuan is one of the cities in North Sumatera. While, Universitas Graha Nusantara is located at Padang Sidempuan city North Sumatera. This university has many students who come from many places in north Sumatera. It includes the remote area which no internet signal.

. This research verifies the real condition about the education sector in this pandemic situation in Indonesia exactly at north Sumatra Padang Sidempuan city. It is a must for all of the schools or universities to postpone the direct classroom activities. But the latest rule from the government of Padang Sidempuan, some of schools has allowed to have the direct classroom activities, but it must be in shift class time in purpose to control the sum of students at schools. Nasution Irsan as a mayor of Padang Sidempuan city states in the Antara Sumut news that every school must follow the health procedure of Covid 19 at Padang Sidempuan. All schools and universities should have the washing hands soap and places for their students/ teacher or lecturer, hand sanitizer, thermometer and masks. For examples at morning only 4 classes come to school and others in the afternoon. Sometimes in different days, then not come to schools for every day. All of teachers, students, staffs must obey the governments' role. Using mask, washing hands and keeping social distance(khairul arief, 2020). While, all universities at Padang Sidempuan city, exactly Universitas Graha Nusantara has not allowed by the government to have the direct classroom activities. All of the classes are still learning from home. This time was the second semester for the students and lecturer to learn from home. It is hoping the next semester they will have a direct class at university.

The pandemic has accompanied the education sector for about one year(Abidah et al., 2020). Every student used to use mobile phone as the schools' tool to have a home

class learning, whereas in the previous time not all of the students or teacher/lecturer used to use mobile phone for learning activity (Darko-Adjei, 2019). In the last time, mobile phone is not familiar for the learning process, it was strange for them. But now, the condition forces all the students and lecturers to have mobile phone for their learning. The pandemic condition makes all of teachers or lecturers have to teach from home and should know many applications for their teaching. They should be able to operate the mobile phone. In fact, sometimes an old teachers or lecturers are still get difficulty in using gadget (Febrianto et al., 2020). Moreover, whom were lived in the remote area, still there were many students and teachers do not have a mobile phone in their daily life and still there were not able to operate the mobile phone. It forces them to buy it for learning and learn to operate it.

Besides the economic problems they have, Internet signal is the most problem they faced. The signal of internet has not spread all over the villages in north Sumatera. They have difficulty to get the signal for joining the learning process. Some of students' home were located in the remote area which has no internet signal. This was become a big problem for them and lectures because, if they wanted to join the class they should come to the city of their place. Sometimes they can join the class only once a week.

Actually, there are many teaching applications in this pandemic time. For example, zoom, video call, google classroom, Telegram, WhatsApp etc. unfortunately, the students' condition forces some group of classes only used one application for learning process. A researcher herself makes the group of class uses WhatsApp application, for not all of the students in the class have the good signal in their place. If a lecturer use zoom meeting, the signal is not supported. Sometimes the voice is not clear and the pictures are not seen. It is a reason for the students and a lecture to choose WhatsApp as the best solution in their learning activity in this pandemic era.

McLaughlin states that WhatsApp is a media of android application to exchange information by text, pictures, video or voice note. The charge is free for the users of iPhone, Blackberry, Android, Windows Phone and Nokia smartphone (Emily McLaughlin, 2013). The users only charge for the package of internet for one month or more than it. In this time, the students or lecturer sometimes got the free internet packages from central education minister. It is really help them in joining the group classroom. By using WhatsApp application, a lecturer and students able to make group of class. It really helps the class to run normally. One of the students become a chief to handle the class, to

invite her/his friends or he called as an admin of the group. She/he also can invite the lecturer to join the group of class.

A researcher is an English Language I lecturer for the third semester of Civics program at Education and Teaching Faculty of Universitas Graha Nusantara. Civics program is the non-English students, then a lecturer chooses a speaking class for them. Based on the observation in the previous semester at civics program, the students need to speak up and able to communicate each other using simple English. They hope they can speak the English basic for their communication whereas English is so common to use everywhere. Having a good speaking in English is a proud ability for now. Television shows many progresses about English communication. The news in the internet, the books, and everything about the world are using English. It becomes a spirit for the students to learn English speaking class.

The aim of this this research is to show the reader about the students' real condition in learning speaking by using WhatsApp application for this pandemic situation. The population of this research are the students of civics program at education and teaching faculty of Universitas Graha Nusantara. It consists of fifteen students. A researcher focuses on teaching the English basic and in every meeting the students get the voice note task about the speaking skill. Here are some subjects that teaches in the English Language I of civics class: (a) Parts of speech (Noun dan Verb), (b) Parts of speech (Pronoun dan Adverb), (c) Parts of speech (Adjective dan Conjunction), (d) Parts of speech (preposition dan Interjection), (e) Sentences (simple and complex sentence), (f) Daily activity, (g) Telling time, (f) Common classroom expressions, (g) Usefull expressions, (h) Family and relatives, (i) Interviewing a job, (j) Conversation, (k) Conversation.

After teaches the subjects, a lecturer asks them to imitate the pronunciation of the lesson. Sometimes the task is about the short conversation refers to the materials. The conversation is about the pair group. The choose his/her friends as a partner. Sometimes they able to find it by themselves. A lecturer gives them time for doing the task in one week. The task can be using WhatsApp text or voice note. A lecturer also gives some feedbacks to the students by WhatsApp text or voice note.

Pakula states that besides in the past the idea of language competence has changed from a linguistic structure to language of communication or familiar with communicative language teaching (CLT). All of English skills are related each other, besides someone learns about Speaking skill, she/he needs to know the structure or grammar first.

Whereas, in teaching grammar, she/ he have to know about the vocabulary. That is the reason in this research, a researcher not only teach about speaking to the students but also teach a very basic grammar, many vocabularies and some common expressions. It aims enriching their knowledge in produce communicative communication (Pakula, 2019).

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The method uses in this research is descriptive method, for it talks about the students' real situation and condition in the field. The data obtained from the true and recent condition of the third semester students of civics program at education and teaching faculty of Universitas Graha Nusantara. The lecturing is about the pandemic situation using WhatsApp application as a learning tool. Sometimes a lecturer also investigates them by direct text to each student about the learning situation. Using WhatsApp can be applied by text, video call, calling and voice note. Dulock et al state the aims of descriptive research are (a) to explain sequence and exact about the true condition of the population in the field (b) to give a real image or description of a specific personality, location or cluster; these investigation are about finding the recent importance, showing what alive and settling what happen (c) to describe the features of people, conditions, or cluster and the circumstance with what just happen; these investigate oversees, illustrate, and prove the real condition which really happen. (d) to find the connection among factors (e) to fulfil the hesitation of the recent activity (Helen L.Dulock.Rn.Dns, 1993).

A researcher herself is an English lecturer for the population of this research at Civics program third semester Universitas Graha Nusantara. It is hoped this research runs successfully as it is respected. The location of this research is at Universitas Graha Nusantara which is located at Tor Simarsayang Padang Sidempuan city, but the students of third semester program were come from many places at north Sumatra and most of them come from the area of Padang Sidempuan city. The research resources of this research are the result of interview from the students using WhatsApp application by phone, text, voice note and video call. The population are the students of third semester of civics program. The interview to the students by WhatsApp application was chosen because of the pandemic condition. Everyone should keep social distancing and not recommend to meet each other. The following are the techniques of collecting data:

a. Observation

Observation is one of the technique collecting data in descriptive research. A researcher observes the students' data at English for Civics education subject. Observation can be done to know the students' real condition in learning speaking teaching using WhatsApp application during the pandemic in the third semester of Civics program.

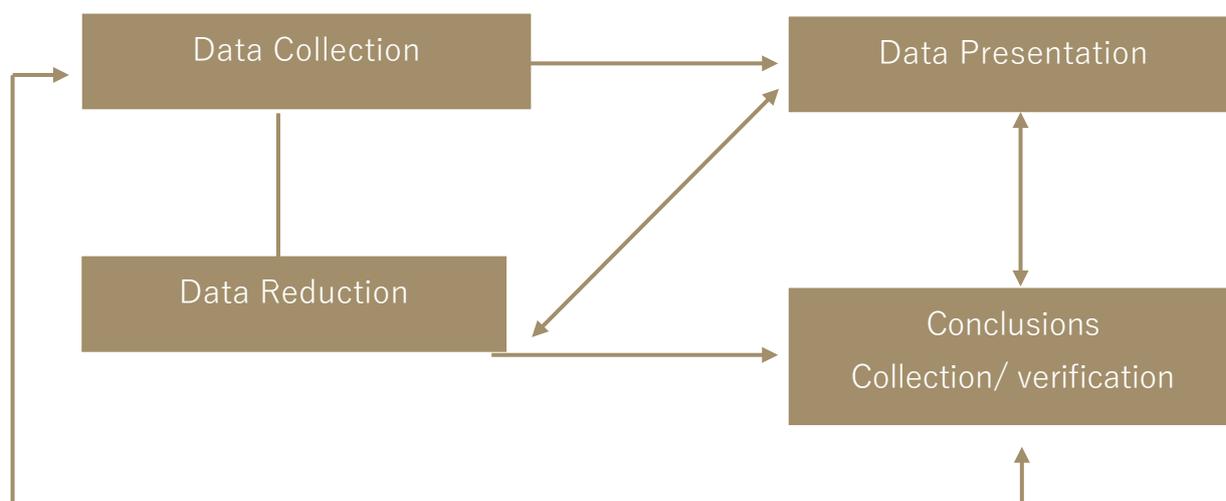
b. Interview

Interview is used to know the data which is designed as qualitative. The questions in interview are written by a researcher and saved at the WhatsApp application automatically.

c. Documentation

The documentation can be designed as the screen shoot of WhatsApp from the text, the voice notes is saved automatically at WhatsApp application memory.

Qualitative analysis method is used in this research that all the data from in the field designed and processed systematically and qualitatively. The following is the model of the analysis and interactive data draft by Miles & Huberman in (Ritonga) (Ritonga, 2015):



**Figure 1**  
**The Model Of The Analysis And Interactive**  
**Data Draft by Miles & Huberman in (Ritonga, 2015)**

### C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Part of speech is very important to teach for non- English students for their supply in speaking English. It is hope they can differentiate whether is a noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction and the interjection. Based on the previous semester, there were so many students do not understand the function of part of speech in the

sentence. They still have difficulty in producing the speaking communication because of it. So, in the day of teaching noun a researcher gives them the function of noun, the definition, the example and the short conversation which noun in the conversation. A researcher gives some examples about the noun pronunciation to the students and they repeat it by themselves. By knowing well about the function of the part of speech, they become confidence in making sentence and feel happy to speak up. It can be seen from their enthusiast in depositing the task to a lecture every week. Although they have many mistakes in pronouncing the sentences, they try to repeat and resend the voice note again to a lecture.

Talking about producing the sentence and complex sentence, in the first time, they really had difficulty, it was not a surprise because they were not the English students in real, but with the hard effort they do their best in making the sentences. It is because they have learnt much about the parts of speech in the previous material. In the end of the meeting, they make short conversation that relates to the simple and complex sentence then the students send their short conversation by voice notes by WhatsApp application. For this time writing and speaking ability can be learnt in the same time. Daily activity was chosen as the material for them, for it is very important to know the students' ability in talking about their ability for every day. The students so happy in writing their activity, some of students write so long because he/she writes his/her activity from morning at five until he/she sleeps. It is so complete because she/ he writes based on the time for every single activity. It was amazing because they write in simple and complex sentence. The task about daily activity is about telling one student's activity, so it done by she herself or he himself. It looks like story telling time. The students try to pronounce their daily activity and share to a lecturer by voice notes then a lecturer gives them feedback for many times.

Telling time is very necessary to learn for students. It is hope they can differentiate the style of UK and style of US' in telling the time. Before they learn about time, a lecture gives them about numerals at glance in order they able to know and pronounce well about number. In numerals, the students get the cardinal number, ordinal number, multiple number materials. A researcher also gives them in learning about counting money in English. In fact, still there are many students have difficulty in pronouncing the number, still not understand about telling time and counting money. The class was so alive when discuss about time. They were so spirit in making the short conversation about time and counting money. Expressions were familiar in English studies. This is the

reason why learning expression is so important for students. For this chance, a lecturer gives them the knowledge of common classroom expressions and usefull expressions. In speaking English, everyone will need to know some of these expressions. Classroom expression are such as, sit down! Keep silent! Finish! You are great! How can it be? Time's up, etc. It was common and then the students write their simple conversation using these classroom expressions. While in useful expressions it was about: surprise expression, expression of warning, expressions of doubt and expressions of certainly. All these common expressions are very useful for the common speaking communication.

Family and relatives are an interesting materials to learn for non- English students, because Indonesian's culture is so close to the family. Most of Indonesian respect their family much. The students need to know many vocabularies about family and relatives. In discussing about family, especially Batak's family which different from others make the students get many new information about family. Besides learning about the core family, they also learn about step family and far family. As usual, the students make the conversation that talks about family in pair and send to a lecturer by voice note. The last material is about interviewing a job. This material is a supply for the students if sometimes they get interview for their job in English, the have preparation for it. In the real condition now, many job vacancy asks the applicant able to communicate in English in written and spoken. In this occasion a researcher asks he students to find many vocabularies which related for the interviewing jobs. Every student finds the job vacancy in the news or internet that requires the applicant who has an English skill. Besides it, they also learn about the ethic and courtesy in interviewing a new job. Recently, the ability of someone in communicating uses English is a principal for many companies. Based on this, the students need learning English since they are at primary school. As like this, the students of civics program need to master English in writing or speaking.

In the real condition, although there are many students so enthusiastic but still there are three students that always late in submitting the materials. It is not because they are lazy to do the task, but it because they lived in the remote area and they get difficulty in finding the signal. If they wanted to do the task, they should go to the city and looked for a good position and good signal. All of them are so compact in doing the task from their lecturer. A researcher very appreciates it to them. It so happy for a lecturer when she has a spirit class moreover in this pandemic situation. In fact, this pandemic makes some students feel so bored with the class' tasks. There are many classes were not run successfully because the students were lazy to response their group of class.

Actually, when a researcher shred heart to heart with the students, it was surprised when they said, it is better for them to learn in the classroom. If they studied in the class, they can meet with their friends face to face, share many ideas and experiences. They also said learning speaking is more interesting than other skills in English. Speaking makes them happy because they can speak immediately between them and they able to speak to other students in different department or different university. Some students feel proud if they able to communicate using English, for English is used for many sectors right now. Such as economic, education, health etc. many books, news is using English. So English is important to learn for everyone. By knowing well about English give many advantages for human life. English is an international language for communication in the world. The last, students said, they hope this pandemic go away from this world, they want to have a very feeling and can go everywhere like in the previous time. They want to study in the class, meet their friends and lecturers every day. Unfortunately, now pandemic is a real situation they faced and study from home is the best solution for everyone.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

There are many methods actually in teaching speaking but for now by WhatsApp application through voice note and text are the solution for the students who lived in many difficult internet signals. Learning English basic for Civic students is so interesting for them, they were enthusiastic and loyal. Almost all of the students have good spirit in learning speaking although by WhatsApp application. It can be seen from their loyalty in doing the tasks for every meeting. Their response in WhatsApp group towards the lesson is also good. A lecturer appreciates it much. Finally, in the end of the meeting they pass their class successfully in this pandemic condition.

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