

AN ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE OF GOOGLE CLASSROOM IN ONLINE CLASSES

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to identify and describe the perception of the sixth-semester students towards the use of Google Classroom in online classes. The subjects of this study were ten Regular A students, in the English Language Education study program, Universitas Tanjungpura. This study uses a quantitative approach with a descriptive study method. The data in this study were collected through a close-ended questionnaire which was divided into two sections, students' perception and features of Google Classroom. Furthermore, the data in this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics which were described and interpreted through diagrams and pie charts. The research findings show that most students have a positive perception of the use of Google Classroom in online classes. In addition, the feature that helps students the most in online classes is submitting assignments.

Keywords: *perceptions, Google Classroom, online classes*

INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, the coronavirus or Covid-19 brought changes to all fields, including education. This change forced all educational institutions in various countries to conduct online classes, including Indonesia. This makes teaching and learning activities in traditional classes turn into distance learning or online classes. To conduct online learning, teachers and students need learning media that can support learning activities during a pandemic. One of the most widely used media by teachers and students in online classes is Google Classroom.

According to Octaberlina and Muslimin (2020), Google Classroom is an application developed by Google for educational purposes that is very easy to use, does not takes up a lot of space on the phone's memory, and helps teachers and students to keep on top of their studies. In the other words, Google Classroom is a free application that encourages student-teacher engagement through online classes which has benefits for teachers and students in their learning during the Covid-19 pandemic (Oktaria & Rahmayadevi, 2021). In short, Google Classroom is a very useful application that helps teachers and students in the learning process in online classes.

Furthermore, Google Classroom has several beneficial features such as, lecturers can post some teaching materials, give assignments to students, and upload student grades to see first-hand the grades obtained in these courses (Oktaria & Rahmayadevi, 2021). In addition, according to Jakkaew and Assawaboonmee (2017), Google Classroom has a variety of features, including

the ability to post materials, create and distribute assignments, communicate, post announcements, start the class discussion, and keep organized while saving time and paper, as well as students can share materials with one another. In the other words, Google Classroom also functions as a virtual learning tool, so it has the same benefits and purposes as offline learning, both in terms of delivering material, forum discussions, assigning tasks, and conducting assessments (Rahmah et al., 2021). Therefore, various features in Google Classroom, as previously mentioned, are very helpful in facilitating effective learning for students and teachers in online classes.

Regarding the use of Google Classroom in online classes, each student may have a different perception, whether it is positive or negative. According to Unumeri (2009), perception is characterized in terms of someone's opinions and viewpoints. Students' perception is an activity or process carried out by students to observe and collect information related to an object. Each student will have a different perception or view about Google Classroom and its use in online classes. This is because not all students experience the same thing when using Google Classroom. So, students' perceptions of using Google Classroom in online classes can be positive or negative, depending on their respective circumstances.

Therefore, many researchers have conducted research regarding the students' perceptions towards the use of Google Classroom in online classes. Oktaria and Rahmayadevi (2021) have conducted research on the students' perceptions of using google classroom during the Covid-19 pandemic. From this research, the research findings show that Google Classroom is very useful in improving students' skills, abilities, discipline, and independent learning through teaching materials.

A similar study was also conducted by Setiadi (2020). In his research, he analyzed the students' perception of the use of Google Classroom in language learning. From this research, the research findings show that the students' perception on the use of Google Classroom has a positive response, and most of the students was agree that Google Classroom was easy to use and have a good performance to use Google Classroom in language learning. The gap between this research and the previous ones relies on the subject and the focus of the research. Therefore, this research needs to be done because, so far, there has been no research conducted on students of the sixth semester English Education study program, Universitas Tanjungpura regarding their perception of the use of Google Classroom in Online Classroom. In addition, this study aims to identify and describe students' perceptions towards the use of Google Classroom in online classes. Therefore, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the perceptions of sixth-semester students of English Language Education, Universitas Tanjungpura towards the use of Google Classroom in online classes?
2. What features are most helpful for sixth-semester students of English Language Education, Universitas Tanjungpura, in online classes?

METHOD

In this study, the researchers used a quantitative approach with a descriptive study method. To characterize existing situations, analyze relationships, and study cause-and-effect occurrences, quantitative research methods are used (Gay et al.,

2012). Moreover, a descriptive study presents a clear description of the situation or characteristics of a condition or situation (Johnson & Christensen, 2020). Therefore, in this study, the researchers chose to use a quantitative approach with a descriptive study method because it was in accordance with the research objectives, that is to find out and describe the current situation related to student perceptions towards the use of Google Classroom in online classes. Furthermore, the participants in this study are ten sixth-semester students of English Language Education, Universitas Tanjungpura, Regular A.

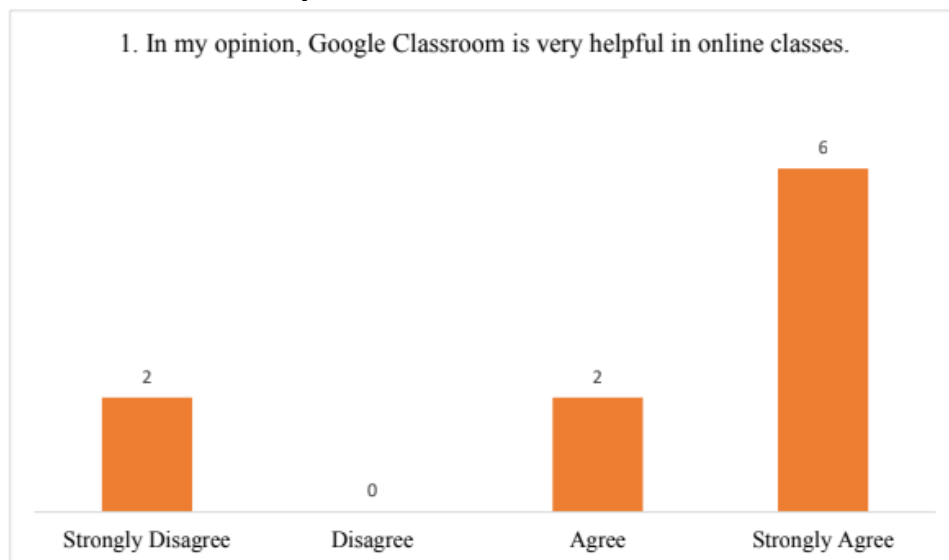
Moreover, the data in this study was collected through a closed-ended questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of two sections, those are: 1) Students' Perception, and 2) Features of Google Classroom. In the first section, there are four questions that must be answered by the participants. Then, in the second section, there is one question that must be answered by the participants.

To analyze the data, the researchers used descriptive statistics. According to Gay et al. (2012) statistics is simply a set of procedures for describing, synthesizing, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative data. Thus, the researchers analyzed using pie charts and diagrams to interpret them in more detail.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

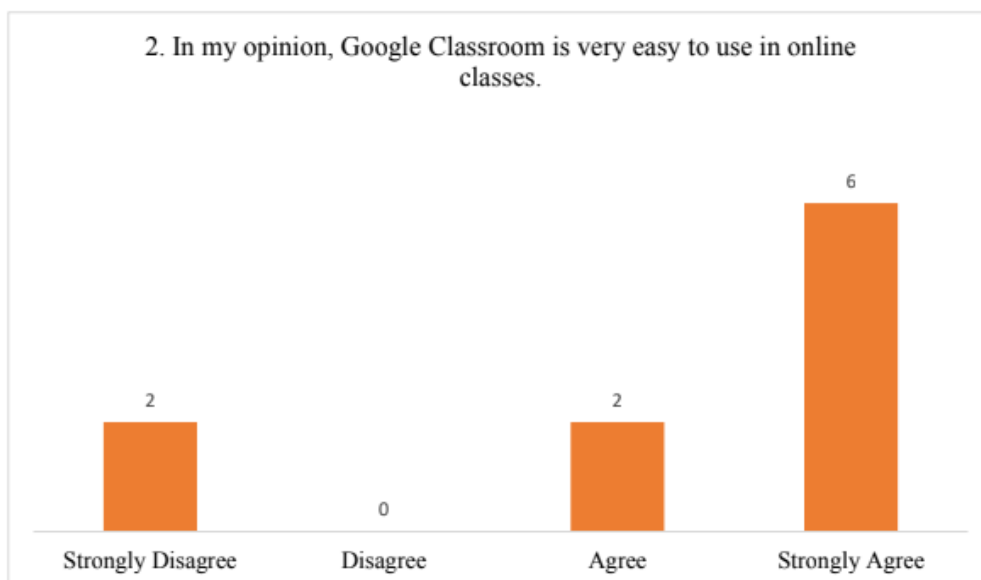
The results of the data analysis are presented and discussed into two sections: the students' perceptions and features of Google Classroom. The detail explanation can be seen below:

1. The Students' Perceptions

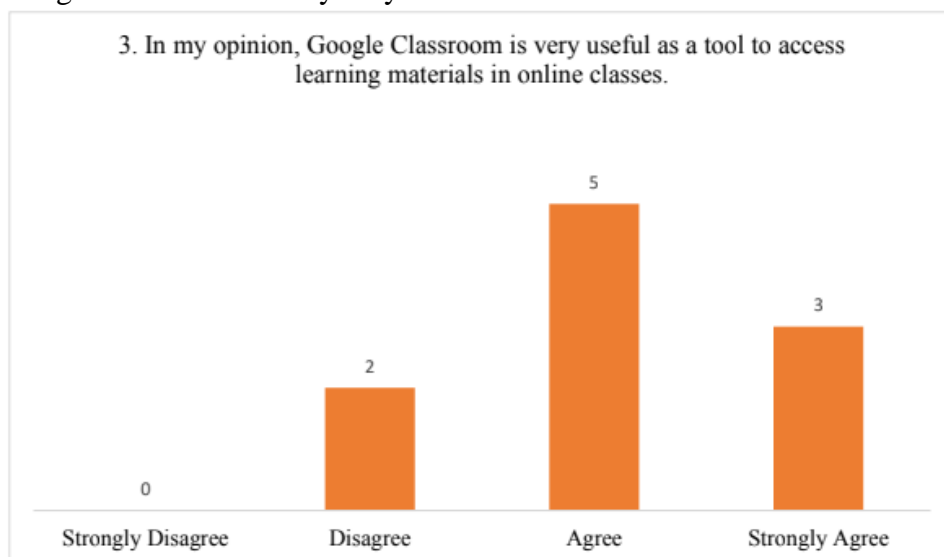


Based on the data in the diagram above, the data shows that 6 students strongly agree with the statement that Google Classroom is very helpful for them in online classes. Meanwhile, 2 students agreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very helpful for them in online classes. Next, 2 other students stated that they strongly disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very helpful for them in online classes. Then, there were no students who disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very helpful for them in online classes. So, it can be concluded that most students strongly agree with the statement that

Google Classroom is very helpful for them in online classes.

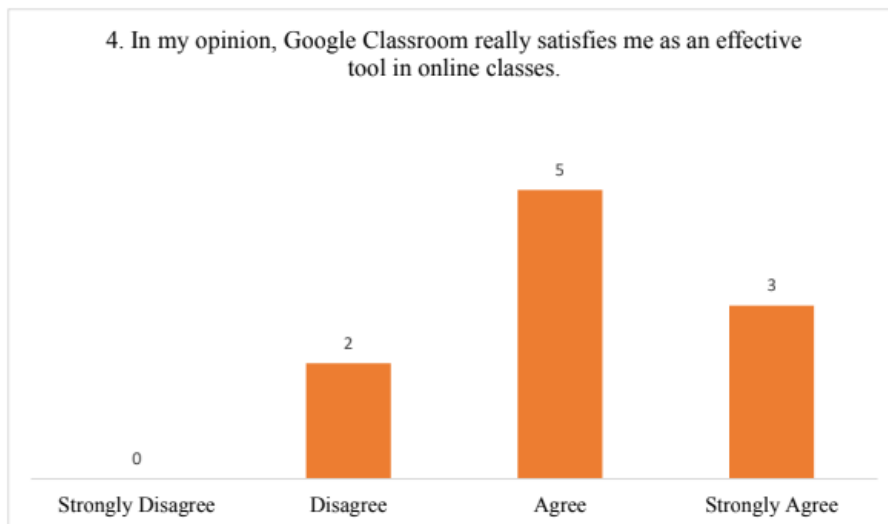


Based on the data in the diagram above, the data shows that 6 students strongly agree with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes. Meanwhile, 2 students agreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes. Next, 2 other students stated that they strongly disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes. Then, there were no students who disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes. So, it can be concluded that most students strongly agree with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes.



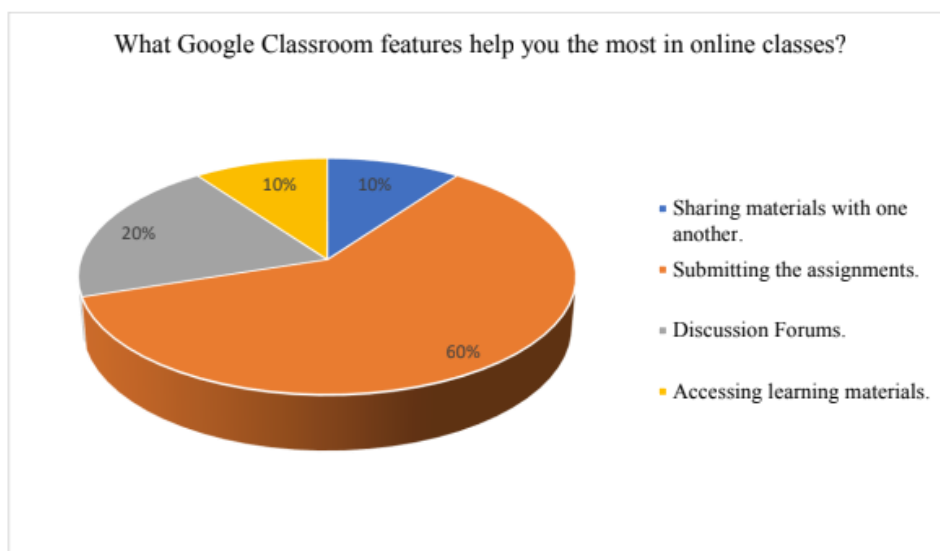
Based on the data in the diagram above, the data shows that 5 students agree with the statement that Google Classroom is very useful as a tool to access learning materials in online classes. Meanwhile, 3 students stated that they strongly agreed with the statement that Google Classroom

is very useful as a tool to access learning materials in online classes. Next, 2 other students disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very useful as a tool to access learning materials in online classes. Then, there were no students who strongly disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom is very easy to use in online classes. So, it can be concluded that most students agree with the statement that Google Classroom is very useful as a tool to access learning materials in online classes.



Based on the data in the diagram above, the data shows that 5 students agree with the statement that Google Classroom satisfies them as an effective tool in online classes. Meanwhile, 3 students stated that they strongly agreed with the statement that Google Classroom satisfies them as an effective tool in online classes. Next, 2 other students, disagreed with the statement that Google Classroom satisfies them as an effective tool in online classes. Then, there were no students who strongly disagreed with the statement Google Classroom satisfies them as an effective tool in online classes. So, it can be concluded that most students agree with the statement that Google Classroom satisfies them as an effective tool in online classes.

2. Features of Google Classroom



The pie chart above shows the percentage of students' opinions of the Google Classroom features that were most helpful to students in online classes. Based on the data in this pie chart, 60% of students chose submitting the assignments as the most helpful Google Classroom feature for students in online classes. Meanwhile, 20% of students chose discussion forums as the feature of Google Classroom that helped them the most in online classes. On the other hand, 10% of students choose sharing materials with one another as the feature of Google Classroom that most helps students in online classes. Then, the other 10% chose accessing learning materials as the feature of Google Classroom that most helped students in online classes. So, it can be concluded that submitting the assignments is the most helpful feature of Google Classroom for students in online classes.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The presence of Covid-19 in March 2020 brought major changes in the field of Education experienced by most teachers and students in Indonesia. This requires teachers and students to adapt to the new learning system, namely online classes. In the implementation of online classes, many media are used for learning, one of which is Google Classroom.

Google Classroom appears as an effective tool that is very helpful and useful for learning activities in online classes. Google Classroom makes it very easy for students and teachers to interact as well as carry out learning activities in online classes. Amongst the various Google Classroom features, such as sharing materials with one another, submitting the assignments, discussion forums, and accessing learning materials, submitting the assignments is the one that students thought helpful the most.

To conclude, most students strongly agree that Google Classroom is a very helpful and useful application for them in online classes. In other words, most students have a positive perception of the use of Google Classroom in online classes. Further research related to the use of Google Classroom in online classes needs to be done to develop the research that has been done. In addition, further

research also needs to be carried out to examine in depth the effectiveness of using Google Classroom in helping the learning process of teachers and students in the future.

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