

Students' perceptions of synonym words during online learning in the pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to find out students' perceptions regarding synonym words during online learning in the pandemic. This research focused on the students' perceptions. The data were analyzed by using qualitative research. To collect the data, the researcher used a questionnaire in Google Forms as an instrument for this study. To analyze the data, the researcher used the questionnaire was analyzed by applying a Likert scale. There were 10 questions that are being tested to know the students' perceptions of synonym words during online learning in the Covid-19 pandemic. The population of this study was 65 students from the first year in Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. The findings of this research showed that students' responses to the questionnaire are different opinions of each other. The researcher found that 61,6% agree with the questions that have been given regarding the online learning of synonym words. So, the researcher concluded that most students felt enjoy learning synonym words in online learning same as face-to-face learning. Although the learning system is so different from the usual, the students could adapt fast, so the learning process can run well.

Keywords: *Student's perception; Synonym words; and Online learning*

INTRODUCTION

The disaster that is being experienced by all inhabitants of the earth at this time is the COVID-19 pandemic. Corona Virus Diseases 2019 (COVID19) is a new type of disease that has never been previously identified in humans. Segments of human life are disturbed, starting from the economy to education. Many countries have decided to close their students and teachers, especially in Indonesia. Aji (2020) investigated the crisis has really come suddenly, governments in any part of the world including Indonesia have to make a bitter decision starting from closing schools to reducing people's contact massively and to saving lives or still having to open schools in order to survive the workers in maintaining economic sustainability.

On March 24th 2020, the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia issued "Surat Edaran No 4 Tahun 2020" concerning Implementation of Education Policies in an Emergency for the Spread of COVID-19, in this Circular it was explained that the learning process is carried out at home through online / distance learning carried out to provide a learning experience meaningful to students. According to Indonesian parents, going to school at home is a big surprise, especially for the productivity of parents who are usually busy with work outside the home.

One of the government's instructions about activities at home is learning activities. Learning should not stop even if the government instructs 14 days off for schools and campuses in Indonesia. Teaching and learning activities (KBM) are moved at home, but must still be controlled by the teacher or lecturer and parents, using distance learning. This distance learning is carried out for approximately 14 days, but it does not rule out the possibility to be added again because of seeing the situation and conditions of this COVID-19 development (Zahara, Kirilova, & Windarti, 2020).

Anshori & Illiyyin (2020) argue the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education is the obligation of every workforce and student to know how online education works. Meanwhile, not everyone is proficient in technology at this time and not all regions have good networks for online learning. Even so, all workers who play a role in educational institutions are required to be literate towards technology so that the teaching and learning process can still be carried out. Online learning is carried out using applications such as Zoom meeting, google classroom, google meet, and so on. Learning using applications like this is the right innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic and workers and students can also keep up with technological developments.

Related research that examined the impact of Covid-19 on schools, skills, and the learning process by Aji (2020) with a discussion of how Indonesia should plan, prepare, and overcome COVID-19 recovery to reduce losses in the world of education in the future. Synonym have a strong relation with students' daily activities. Every skill in English competences need synonym. Especially in speaking and writing. Learning synonym words in online learning is so different with the offline one. The teacher should adapt with it and the students too.

Compared to this study, research conducted by Aji (2020) analyzed the Impact of COVID-19. Meanwhile, this study focused only students' perceptions of synonym words during online learning in the pandemic. Although this perception includes a broad scope, this study only addresses the questions that have been prepared. The purpose of limiting the research object is so that the analysis carried out is more detailed and in-depth. This research aims to find out in the teaching and learning process regarding synonym words during the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the students. The researcher is interested to exploring students' perception after have experience of the learning process through online learning. By knowing students' perception, the teacher can understand students better. Then, this study will further review Students' Perception of synonym During Online Learning in the Covid-19 Pandemic.

METHODS

In this research, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative approach in this analysis to find out students' perceptions of synonym words during online learning. According to Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Razavieh, A., & Sorensen, C. K. (2010: 349) qualitative research is the methods used to collect and analyze data. In qualitative studies, the human investigator is the primary instrument for the gathering and analyzing of data. Lincoln and Guba (1985) introduced the concept of human as instrument to emphasize the unique role that qualitative researcher play in their inquiry.

According to Fitrah and Luthfiyah (2017:36), descriptive research is research that aims to describe existing phenomena, which occur now and in the past. In order to collect the data, the researcher used a questionnaire as an instrument for this study. There were 10 questions that are being tested to know the teacher's perception of media used in online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions they are:

1. Do you understand about the material that given by lecturer through Online Learning?
2. Do you think that learning material about synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?
3. Do your English skills about synonym words improve while learning through Online Learning?
4. Does the lecturer conduct question and answer activities about synonym words through Online Learning?
5. Do you ask the lecturer when you have difficulty about synonym words through Online Learning?
6. Do you do your assignments which given by the lecturer through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?
7. Do you learning synonym words even though you don't have assignments during the Covid-19 pandemic?

8. Do you motivated and enthusiastic about synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?
9. Do you think that learning synonym words will be affective if it is conducted in Offline Learning?
10. Are you satisfied with learning synonym words during Online Learning?

Technique of Analysing Data

To analysing the data, the researcher used the questionnaire was analysed by applying a Likert scale. Ary, et al (2010:228) a Likert scale (a summated rating scale) assesses attitudes toward a topic by presenting a set of statements about the topic and asking respondents to indicate for each whether they are:

Table 1. Responses Score of Students' Questionnaire

Scale	Score
Strongly agree (SA)	5
Agree (A)	4
Undecided (U)	3
Disagree (D)	2
Strongly Disagree (SD)	1

Based on the questionnaire, the participants were expected to choose one of the degrees in each. After the questionnaires were given back to the researcher, the questionnaires were processed to find the result. In each statement, the number of students who chose SA, A, U, DA, or SD was calculated in percentages. The following formula was used to calculate the percentages.

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

Known as:

P = the degree of agreement percentages

F = frequency on the degree of agreement

N = the number of students

Based on the formulation, the researcher analyzed the data by adding up each alternative answer by Sutrisno Hadi (1990). He explained that to interpret a large percentage obtained from tabulation data, the researcher uses interpretation method. The frequency that is being sought is the percentages (F) of the sample, then the number was divided by number of research objects (N) after getting the results of the distribution of the answer (F) with the number of respondents (N) then multiplied by one hundred percent (100%). The data also classified by the researcher as follows:

Table 2.

Range	Category
81% - 100%	Strongly agree (SA)
61% - 80%	Agree (A)
41% - 60%	Undecided (U)
21% - 40%	Disagree (D)
0% - 20%	Strongly Disagree (SD)

DATA ANALYSIS

The researcher has taken the questionnaire for the research instrument to get the data. In this questionnaire there are ten questions about learning synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. As many as 65 students from the first year in Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara who gave responses to this questionnaire. Students only give a checklist in the box provided in Google Form. In this questionnaire the questions are presented in English.

Pujihastuti (2012:49) stated that when using an appropriate measurement scale, in terms of nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio data, it is recommended to use closed questions. The scale can be even or odd. For research in Indonesia, it is recommended to use a balanced Likert scale for example with 5 levels. In presenting the following data description of the use of scale:

- 5 : Strongly agree
- 4 : Agree
- 3 : Undecided
- 2 : Disagree
- 1 : Strongly disagree

The research problem is about perception where there are 10 questions in the questionnaire to get the data. The data is classified into four scales namely strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree. The following table shows the results of data about students' perceptions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4.1
Questionnaire data about students' perceptions

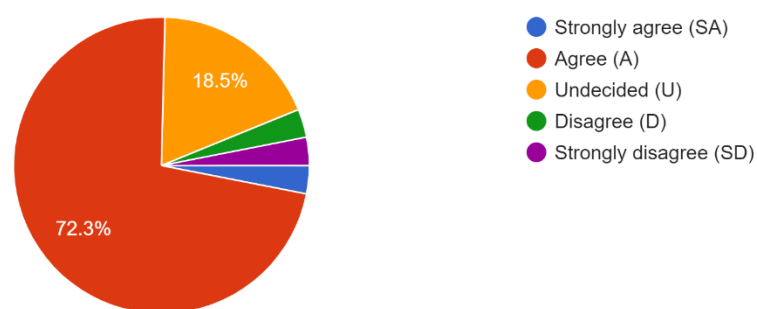
No	Questionnaire Statements	Scale	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Do you understand about the material that given by lecturer through Online Learning?	5	2	3,1%
		4	47	72,3%
		3	12	18,5%
		2	2	3,1%
		1	2	3,1%
2.	Do you think that learning synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic is easy?	5	5	7,7%
		4	47	72,3%
		3	12	18,5%
		2	-	-
		1	1	1,5%
3.	Do your English skills about synonym words improve while learning through Online Learning?	5	6	9,2%
		4	39	60%
		3	15	23,1%
		2	4	6,2%
		1	1	1,5%
4.	Does the lecturer conduct question and answer activities about synonym words through Online Learning?	5	15	23,1%
		4	46	70,8%
		3	3	4,6%
		2	1	1,5%
		1	-	-
5.	Do you ask the lecturer when you have difficulty about synonym words through Online Learning?	5	14	21,5%
		4	38	58,5%
		3	12	18,5%
		2	1	1,5%
		1	-	-
6.	Do you do your assignments which given by the lecturer through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?	5	29	45,3%
		4	30	46,9%
		3	5	7,8%
		2	-	-
		1	-	-
7.		5	7	10,8%

	Do you learning synonym words even though you don't have assignments during the Covid-19 pandemic?	4	40	61,5%
		3	12	18,5%
		2	5	7,7%
		1	1	1,5%
8.	Do you motivated and enthusiastic about synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?	5	8	12,5%
		4	43	67,2%
		3	9	14,1%
		2	4	6,3%
		1	-	-
9.	Do you think that learning synonym words will be affective if it is conducted in Offline Learning?	5	25	38,5%
		4	31	47,7%
		3	7	10,8
		2	2	3,1%
		1	-	-
10.	Are you satisfied with learning synonym words during Online Learning?	5	4	6,2%
		4	35	53,8%
		3	16	24,6%
		2	8	12,3%
		1	2	3,1%

The research problem is to find out students' perceptions regarding learning synonym through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. To answer the research question, the researcher was built the questionnaires, there are 65 students participated in filling out the questionnaires. After the questionnaire data are completed, there are some data that can be described:

1. Do you understand about the material that given by lecturer through Online Learning?

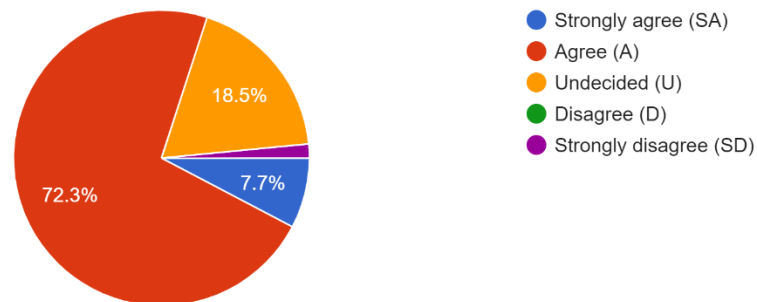
65 responses



The first question is about students' perceptions related to their comprehension about material that given by lecturer through Online Learning. In this case, the data obtained in the questionnaire showed that 72,3% students agree with the first statement, meanwhile 18,5% students choose undecided the statement. From the data, it can be concluded that according to students' perceptions, the delivery of material by lecturers through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic was optimal and clear.

2. Do you think that learning synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic is easy?

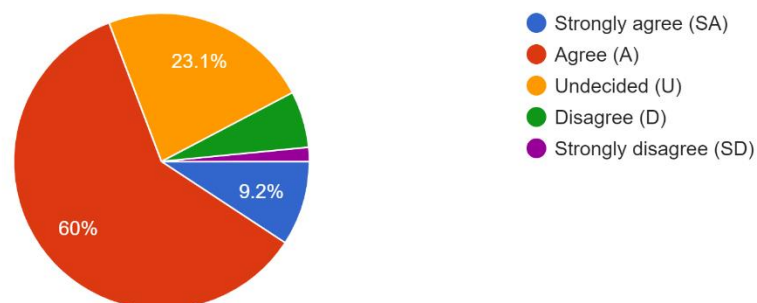
65 responses



In this second question, the researcher wanted to find out about student perceptions related to the synonym words is easy or not. The data obtained in the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 72,3% agree with the question, while 18,5% undecided. So, we concluded that in this question the students agree that synonym words are easy to understand.

3. Do your English skills about synonym words improve while learning through Online Learning?

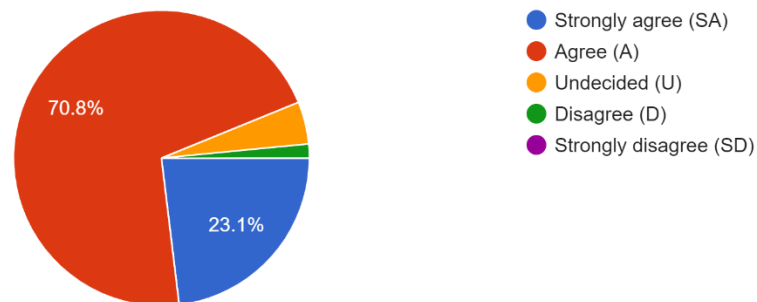
65 responses



The third question is about student perceptions related to an improvement in their English ability especially in learning synonym words through Online Learning. In this point, the data obtained in the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 60% agree, 23,1% undecided then 9,2% strongly agree with the question. From these results, it can be concluded that almost a half of students feel that agree if their English skills improve because they want to study independently at home. Then, the other students feel Online Learning can't decide is there improve or not their English skills, this is due to the lack of interaction between the lecturer and students and not as if face to face in the class.

4. Does the lecturer conduct question and answer activities about synonym words through Online Learning?

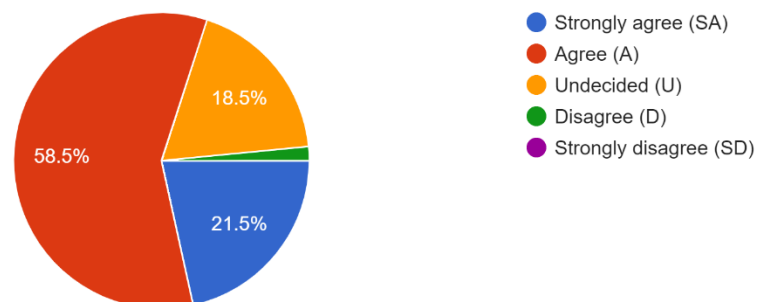
65 responses



The fourth is about student perceptions related to the lecturer's role in the question-and-answer activity during learning synonym words through Online Learning. At this point, the data obtained in the questionnaire there were 23,1% strongly agree, 70,8% agree and so on. The results of showed that most of students that agree with the question, so the lecturer doing their role to do question and answer activity in learning synonym words.

5. Do you ask the lecturer when you have difficulty about synonym words through Online Learning?

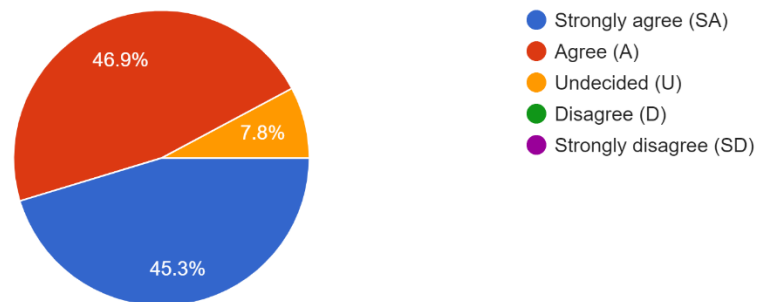
65 responses



The fifth is students' motivation related to the difficulties faced by students in learning English through Online Learning whether or not asked. In this point, the data obtained from the results of the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 58,5% agree with the questions presented. From these results, there are more than a half of students always keep in touch with the lecturer during Online Learning.

6. Do you do your assignments which given by the lecturer through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?

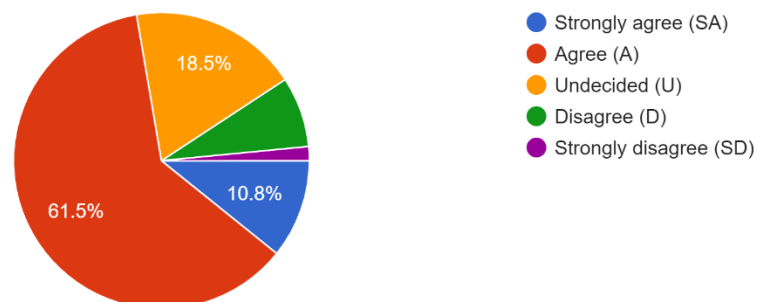
64 responses



The sixth is students' perception related to assignments given to students through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic whether it is done diligently or not. In this point, the data obtained from the results of the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 45,3% strongly agree and 46,9% agree with the questions presented. It can be concluded that students' motivation in doing their assignments diligently is quite high, although there are some who are not so diligent. This is not much different from face-to-face learning in class.

7. Do you learning synonym words even though you don't have assignments during the Covid-19 pandemic?

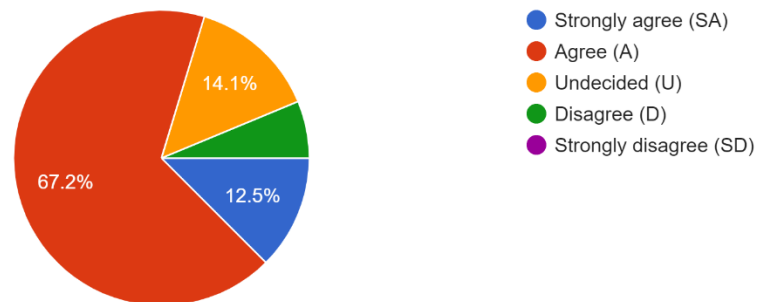
65 responses



The seventh is students' perception related to whether students' habits continued to study synonym words even though there were no assignments during the Covid-19 pandemic. In this point, the data obtained from the results of the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 61,5% agree with the questions presented while 18,5% undecided and 7,7% disagree with this question. It can be concluded that some students decided to learning synonym words if there are assignments or not during the pandemic.

8. Do you motivated and enthusiastic about synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic?

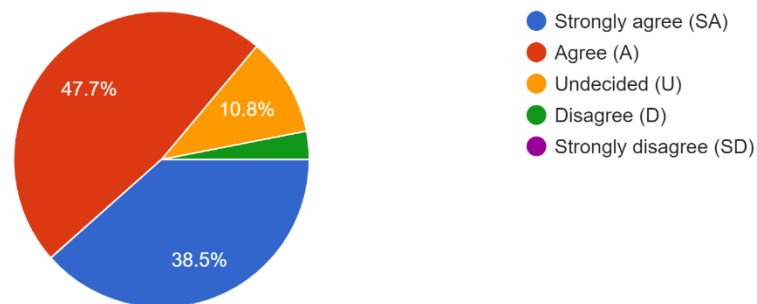
64 responses



The eight is whether students are motivated and enthusiastic when learning English through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. At the last point, the data obtained from the results of the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 67,2% agree and 12,5% strongly agree, but we can see that there is 14,1% undecided with the questions presented. It can be concluded that the motivation of students in learning English through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic is quite good.

9. Do you think that learning synonym words will be affective if it is conducted in Offline Learning?

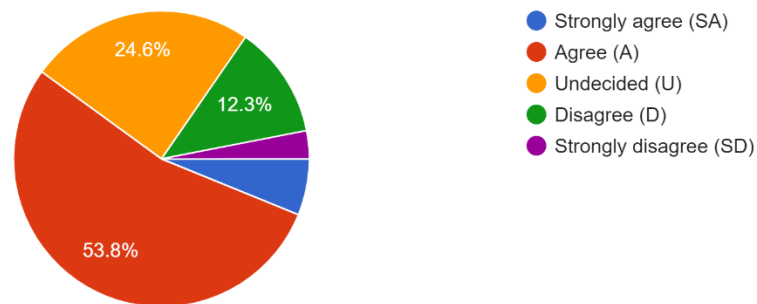
65 responses



The ninth is about student perception related to the effectiveness of learning synonym words if it is conducted in offline one. In this point, the data obtained in the questionnaire showed the frequency with a percentage of 47,7% agree, 38,5% strongly agree, then 10,8% undecided with the question. From these results, it can be concluded most students think that offline learning is will be more effective to learning synonym words.

10. Are you satisfy to learning synonym words during Online Learning?

65 responses



The last is students' satisfaction with learning synonym words through Online Learning. In this point, the data obtained from the results of the questionnaire showed the highest frequency with a percentage of 53,8% agree, while 24,6 undecided and 12,3% with disagree with the questions presented. From these results, only a half of students that feeling satisfy to learning synonym during Online Learning and a half other are not satisfy with it.

DISCUSSION

From the analysis of the data above, the researcher found that students' perception for synonym words during Online Learning in the Covid-19 pandemic have a different between one another. The using of Online Learning during this pandemic has some benefit and weakness, where the students showed up the effects and every person have different perception. Some students got difficulty in learning synonym words because during pandemic spread in Indonesia, the learning system is so different than usual which face-to-face learning to be Online Learning. Based on students' responses that filling questionnaires, the researcher found that 61,6% students agree to the questions that given in the Google Form. So, the researcher concluded the students' perceptions while studying at home regarding synonym words were run well, meanwhile there are some students that undecided and disagree that learning synonym words during pandemic is effective. But the researcher concluded that online learning was quite helpful in learning synonym words during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CONCLUSION

All of us know that synonym words are always used wherever and whenever. Every skill in English competence need synonym to used. But, in this pandemic, the students can not learn in face to face with the lecturer. Online learning is something new in educational aspects, during Covid-19 spread in Indonesia, all school around the world have to do it. Then, it needs some adaptation for the users, one of them is student. Based on the analysis that has been done, the research successfully got the students' perception regarding synonym words during online learning. Every student has different views. The researcher concluded that the researcher found the positive students' perceptions. Some of them stated that learning English while at home is quite good. Then about the difficulty, the students always call their lecturer to asked. Students' motivations and enthusiastic regarding synonym words are run well. So that, learning synonym words through Online Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic was quite good.

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