Utilization of Google Meet Application as the Communication Media for Distance Learning during COVID-19 (Descriptive Study of University Lecturer and Students in Jakarta)

Wulan Purnawati[1], Ilona Vicenovie Oisina Situmeang[2], Siti Fatonah[3]

[1]Student of Graduate Program Faculty of Communication Science UPI YAI, Jl Diponegoro 10430, Jakarta, India
wulanpurnawati23[at]yahoo.com

[2]Lecturer of Graduate Program Faculty of Communication Science UPI YAI, Jl Diponegoro 10430, Jakarta, India
ilonaoisina[at]yahoo.com

[3]Student of Graduate Program Faculty of Communication Science UPI YAI, Jl Diponegoro 10430, Jakarta, India
fatonahohh[at]gmail.com

Abstract: *During this outbreak of pandemic, the Education processes apply online distance learning in presenting the learning materials. Many learning media can be used and one is by using Google Meet. The issue on this research is how to utilize the application of Google Meet as the distance learning media during the Covid -19 pandemic. This study uses the theory of Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) with the concept of media convergence, Google Meet, the Utilization of learning media. The Research Methodology uses qualitative approach, the characteristics of descriptive study and research method of case study. The study results show that Google Meet application has made it easy for the university lecturers to present the materials. Creative materials will ease the university students to effectively receive the materials. The university lecturers must be creative when presenting materials the using the Google Meet, so that they can attract the university students' attention.*

Keywords: Media Utilization, Google Meet, Learning Media, Distance Learning, Covid-19

1. Introduction

The development of the communication technology has given many impacts on every of human life aspects and lifestyle in this era. More advanced and sophisticated communication technologies have formed limitless communication, in terms of both space and time. Nonetheless, it also gives both positive and negative impacts on human. In the course of its development, communication does not only use face-to-face or classroom interaction, but also utilize one-way communication media and interactive communication media.

The functions of interactive communication media, in this case the internet, have made so many changes in the society. The advantages of the internet communication media are to ease and expedite the transmission and reception of information and it serves as the data provider, as well. (Cangara, 2016:26). The internet media continue to change, renew and ease its users and the figures continue to grow at all times.

The presence of the internet has created a new media that allows it users to interact one another without being necessary to meet personally since the users can be connected through the internet to each other. Therefore, along with the development of the information and communication technology as well as the availability of the internet, some changes on the ways of the interpersonal communication have gradually existed.

The internet media gives so many influences on human needs in all kinds of fields, including Education. During this pandemic, education has undergone some major changes in terms of providing teaching activities to the university students. The instructors or teachers conduct the discussions on the use of the internet media. Many websites have provided the learning materials to the students for further reading and study on-line. It all started when the number of the COVID – 19 positive patients rapidly increased day by day and it eventually made the government to urge schools and and universities to conduct online distance learning (Situmeang, 2020).

The students, both male and female, perform their learning processes online in order to stop the transmission of COVID within the society. Various ways are being carried out by formal Education Institutions to provide learning for their students so that the learning and teaching processes can still carry on during this pandemic time. In order to create the interesting and exciting learning processes, each instructor is demanded to be able to make the processes as attractive as possible which are supported by the appropriate communication media.

With the existence of such distance learning, the university students are able to perform a study system in a number of places that they want to be. University students will leave their obedience on their time schedule, such as face-to-face interactions, and therefore with such distance learning, it can make the university students learn how to bear their own responsibilities and commitments to complete the trainings

that are provided by the instructors. The distance learning systems applied in all campuses throughout Jakarta utilize mixed methods (the combination of various forms of Online Class & Video Conference with face-to face).

By using the techniques that utilize such technology, the instructors will develop and use new teaching and learning methodology and styles, starting from direct instruction through social media groups to the management of learning strategies, the provision of the support for the university students, the facilitation of distance debates, as well as the dissemination of the information, ideas, or views. According to Lasley (2014) the use of media technology available around us, if balanced with the discussions and guidances, will serve as the tools for the development of the high-level thinking skills.

One media utilized is the Google Meet application. Google published the Google Meet which allows the users to make video calls with 25 other users per meeting. In other words, Google Meet can serve as an alternative media for the learning and teaching processes. Nowadays, Google Meet has become one of the most rapid growing Google services. The number of its daily uses has increased 25 times within the period starting from January to March 2020. Google Meet has become the stronger version than its predecessor, Hangouts, as it is possible to fit the Google Meet in the web applications, Android applications, and iOS.

In a classroom course, promoting the study interest of the university students is one important point that needs continuous improvement, study interest can be shown through enthusiasm, participation, and activeness in following the ongoing learning processes. Google Meet application as a communication media for the students' learning is usually used to give the subject materials, quizzes, assignments, and examinations. The university lecturers can also perform evaluation on the ways of teaching by looking at the results of the quizzes and assessments on the university students.

From the background of the study as illustrated above, then the researchers are interested to study the distance learning process conducted by the university lecturers and the university students by using Google Meet application. The questions of the study are as follows: "How is the Utilization of Google Meet Application as the Distance Learning Media During *Covid-19*" (Descriptive Study of University Lecturers and University Students in Jakarta).

2. Genderlect Theory

The theory used in this study is the Theory of *Computer Mediated Communication* (CMC) using the internet to connect the human communication. In today's information technology era, communication mode that we carry out has been mediated by the Internet and has been operating rapidly toward what is called computer-mediated communication (CMC). In this context, the computer-mediated communication (CMC) is deemed as the integration of computer technology and out daily life activities.

3. Study Concept

Media Convergence
Media convergence is the convergence or combination of various types of media, which are originally separated and different (for example computer, television, radio, and newspapers), into one single media (Panuju, 2018:222). Media convergence is one form of mass media development which involves many technology factors. The presence of the internet pushes the mass to apply the concept of media convergence, such as *online* media, *e-paper*, *e-book*, radio *streaming*, social media, and others (Panuju, 2018:222).

Google Meet
Google Meet is integrated with G Suite, which allows the users to join personally from Calendar or invitation sent via email. In addition, the meeting invitation made from such application can also be accessed through the links and the meeting code sent, as well as telephone numbers, if available. The users that use Skype for Business or SIP standard and H.323 based system (Polycom and Cisco) can also easily join the meeting with Google Meet through Pexip Infinity Platform. More interestingly, this application can also be enjoyed through cellular devices, both iOS and Android.

The users can also monitor the meeting schedule with all the important information from the Calendar just like the version desktop. In order to make such meeting invitation, it is required to make an account in G-Suite. There are a number of reasons to use this Google Meet application, ranging from varied safety features that can be guaranteed to many other features within. It is not uncommon that most people prefer Google Meet to other similar applications. We can gain various features in Google Meet that other similar applications do not have. The ways that the Google Meet is used are also always easy, and it does not complicate its users. Thus, it is more effective and efficient.

Utilization of Learning Media
One of the learning components, media is also subject to the comprehensive discussion of learning system. The utilization of media should become one part that needs to gain the attention of the learners in each of their learning activities. However, in reality, this part is still ignored for various reasons. The reasons frequently arising include among others: limited amount of time for teaching preparation, difficulty in finding appropriate media, no funds available, etc. In fact, so many types of media that can be selected, developed, and utilized, depending on the conditions, times, costs and purposes of learning wanted. Each type of media has specific characteristics that we need to understand so that we are able to select the appropriate media for the existing needs and conditions in the field (Wiratmojo P and Sasonohardjo in Falahludin 2014).

The Utilization of Media for Learning in General is to ease the interaction between the learners and the students so that the learning activities can be more effective and efficient. More specifically, there are some other more detailed advantages from the utilization of the media. Kemp and Dayton (1985), for instance, identified a number of media advantages in learning activities, which are:

1) The presentation of the learning materials can be uniformized.
2) Learning process becomes clearer and more interesting
3) Learning process becomes more interactive.
4) Efficiency in terms of time and energy.
5) Improving the quality of study results.
6) Media allows the learning process to be done anywhere and anytime.
7) Media can grow the positive attitude of the learners toward the materials and learning processes.
8) Changing the learners' roles toward more positive and productive development.
9) Media can make the abstract learning materials to be more concrete.
10) Media can also cope with the obstacles in form of the limited space and time.
11) Media can assist to deal with the limitation of human senses. (Yamin, Martinis. 2006).

4. Research Method

The approach of this study uses qualitative approach, which, according to Sugiyono (2011:9) is: the research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, which is used to study the natural conditions of the objects. It means that the data collected are not in form of numbers or figures, and instead, such data come from the interview scripts, field records, personal documents, notes of memo, and such other official records. Hence, the purposes of this qualitative study are to empirically describe the reality behind the phenomenon deeply, thoroughly, and comprehensively. Therefore, the use of qualitative approach in this study is by matching the empirical reality and the applicable theory by using descriptive type.

The type of the descriptive study is the study that endeavors to illustrate the existing problem solving based on the data and obervatory results, and then the researchers also present the data, analyze and interpret them. Furthermore, in this study, those that would help the researchers more is the longitudinal (Bungin, 2013:316).

The research method uses the case study method which is an empirical inquiry that investigate a seemingly unclear phenomenon and context and in which the multi-sources of evidences are utilized. As one inquiry of the case study, it does not have to be done for long period nor it has to be dependent on the etnographic data or the observation of the participants. A researcher can just do a valid and high quality case study without abandoning the bibliography, depending on what topics to be studied (Yin, 2011:18).

The technique of data analysis in the qualitative study is performed since prior to the entering of the field, during in the field and after completion in the field. Nasution in (Sugiyono, 2011: 245) stated that the analysis has started since the formulation and explanation of the problem, before jumping into the field and it would continue until the study results. The process of the data analysis starts by assessing all the data available from various sources, which are by interviews, observations which are written in the field records, official documents, pictures or drawings, photographs, and others.

5. Result of Analysis and Discussion

The utilization of Google Meet may optimize the learning process. For the lecturers, using Google Meet in learning process can help to make the concepts or ideas more concrete and help to motivate the university students. For university students, Google Meet may become the mediator that allows them to think critically and to gain knowledge of many things. Using the appropriate media can help the university lecturers and the university students to perform the tasks to achieve the expected learning objectives. To allow Google Meet to be well utilized, the university lecturers need to know what the university students need. The use of media needs to be developed based on the relevance, basic competence, materials and characteristics of the university students. According to Isran Rasyid Karo-Karo S and Rohani (2018) university lecturers plays their role as the creator and the utilizing agent for appropriate, efficient, and enjoyable media for the university students. However, in its utilization, it is necessary to emphasize that it is the university students who should skillfully utilize such learning media.

a) Presentation of Learning Materials Can Be Uniformized
The outbreak of the current pandemic forces the formal and informal Education Institutions to perform Distance Education. Both university lecturers and university students can use different kinds of learning media according to their needs. One is Google Meet application. Google Meet is one of the communication media for distance learning that can be used in online education. Using this media would certainly help the learning process online in order to present the learning materials uniformly in classroom simultaneously in more attractive way by presenting or displaying the video, PPT, photos and pictures or drawings as if they were face to face.

b) Learning Process Using Interactive Media
Learning Process using Interactive Media, such as Google Meet, becomes clearer and more interesting. With a wide variety of potentials that it has, the media can present the information through voices, pictures or drawings, motions, and colors, either naturally or artificially. Learning materials which are packaged or presented in Google Meet media program, would be much clearer, more complete, as well as more attractive to the university students since it is not monotonous. With the media, the material presentation can raise the curiosity of the university students and stimulate the learners to react, both physically and emotionally. In brief, learning media can help the learners create more interesting, more dynamic, and more fascinating learning atmosphere.

c) Learning Process Becoming More Interactive
If correctly selected and designed, Google Meet can help the university lecturers and the university students do the learning activities interactively in two ways during the learning processes. Learning will be more fascinating if it is done personally and live as it can be more interactive, and yet it still looks more relaxing, but without the media, the university lecturers often talk to the university students in one way direction which frequently take places face-to-face.

However with the Google Meet, the university lecturers may arrange the class according to mutually-agreed regulations, for example to turn on the camera and turn off the sounds during the presentation of materials. Nevertheless, when the interaction occurs, the sound is on, and with the regulation mutually agreed upon, the interaction can be more conducive and fascinating.

d) Efficiency In Time And Energy

The university lecturers can utilize the Google Meet media maximally. Google Meet assistance provides the learning materials that are difficult to present verbally. Nevertheless, with the existence of Google Meet, it would make it easy for the university lecturers to present the materials. Hence, it is easier to achieve the purposes of the learning with minimum time and energy. With Google Meet, the university lecturers do not have to explain the learning materials repetitively, since the university students would be easily understand the materials presented in using Google Meet as they are better presented and more interesting. If the university lecturers can utilize Google Meet maximally, wit would help the university lecturers to be more efficient in terms of time and energy, as well as to ease their students to receive the learning materials.

e) Improving the Quality of Study Results

The use of Google Meet media is not only for making the learning process more efficient, but also for helping the university students absorb the learning materials more readily. Verbal and non-verbal learning would help the university students to absorb the learning materials easily. By using Google Meet, the university students would become more creative as they can develop themselves with all the potentials that they have. Therefore, it would eventually improve their study results, not only in terms of the materials and theories, but also with respect to the practical aspects in the best abilities that they have.

f) Media Allows the Learning Process To Be Done Anywhere And Anytime

The Google Meet learning media can be designed in such a way that the university lecturers and the university students can perform the learning activities conveniently, anytime and anywhere depending on the consensus. The learning programs through Google Meet can be supplied with the audio visual programs that attract the students' attention and in addition, they can also conduct their study activities independently, without being restricted with time and place. Using the online media also makes the university lecturers aware as well as more active to search for a wide variety of the references available online. With distance learning like this, more active university students would be distinguishable than those who are more passive.

g) Media Can Promote the Learners' Positive Attitude Toward Materials And Learning Processes

With the Google Meet, the learning process would become more interesting. The university lecturers would still be able to control their university students when the learning activities are undergoing. Interesting learning process can motivate the university students to love their university study as it would be easier for them to get references for the learning with all its presentation forms and processes. The

ability of the university students to study from various references will allow them to instill their attitude and behavior so that they would always have strong determination in seeking various materials from various references needed.

h) Changing the Roles of the Learners Toward More Positive and Productive Directions

By utilizing Google Meet correctly, the university lecturers would no longer be the only sources of study for the university students. The university lecturers would not only be the messenger or presenter of the materials in one way direction. However, the whole process can be done interactively. Occasionally, the materials can be from the university students as one interactive discussion material. This online learning will make the university lecturers and the university student, alike, to be active in presenting the materials. The university lecturers would only become a peer for the university students when they encounter some difficulties in the learning processes, personal development, as well as can motivate the university students to study and other positive aspects.

i) Media Can Make Abstract Learning Materials More Concrete or Real.

Presenting the learning materials in more concrete ways, so it would help the university students well receive the messages. With the aids of PPT, pictures or drawings, posters and probably short films or videos, it would also ease the university students to receive the materials correctly. With such assistance, the university students who have problems in grasping the materials would find it easier to understand them as if the level of complexity in transmitting the materials by the university lecturers to their university students would be lessened with a wide variety of convenience provided by Google Meet.

j) Media Can Also Handle the Obstacles of the Limitation of Space and Time

Various limitations that are usually found in face-to-face or classroom meetings can be solved in online learning. With the help of the communication media, it could bring something that the face-to-face learning sessions cannot produce which is using Google Meet easily and interestingly. Hence, using the media can outreach so many things that would be presented.

k) Media Can Help to Cope With the Limitation of Human Senses

With the assistance of this learning media, it would also help with the learning objects which are too small, too large or too far, as they can be studied through media assistance. The learning through media can be done repetitively for a number of times until the university students are fully acknowledged. It would be very difficult if it is done by face-to-face communication offline as it has to be done many times.

6. Closing

6.1 Conclusion

Due to the pandemic situation which still persists in Indonesia and even throughout the world, all learning activities are performed online. One of the media that can be used is Google Meet. The utilization of Google Meet as a learning media is deemed very helpful for the university lecturers and university students in distance learning that are being carried out today. Learning materials are disseminated in many ways, and it can be presented in PPTs, videos, short films, and others. The more creative the university lecturers use the Google Meet, the easier the university students would receive the materials correctly and appropriately. Many things that cannot be presented through face-to-face learning activities and yet they can be achieved through Google Meet.

6.2 Recommendations

Distance learning will be effective and efficient if the university lecturers can use the good opportunity in presenting the materials correctly. However, on the contrary, it would be unexciting if the university lecturers fail to make them in creative ways.

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