CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

The introduction part of this research presents the basic information that consist of background of study, research questions, research significances, conceptual framework, and previous studies.

A.   Background of Study

Corona virus is a high-priority problem in all industries these days. People all across the world have been implementing the new normal since 2019. While covid-19, the school in Indonesia has various problems in terms of innovating the teaching style. On March 20, 2020, Indonesian Minister of Education, Nadiem Makarim, issued Letter No.4 (2020), declaring that all learning activities must be undertaken online in order to preserve students' health and reduce Covid-19 cases in Indonesia.

Moore, Dickson-Deane, and Galyen (2011) defined online learning as "learning that utilizes an internet connection with accessibility, connection, flexibility, and the capacity to produce a variety of learning experiences". In practice, Online Learning necessitates the use of mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops that can access information from anywhere and at any time stated by Gikas and Grant (2013). A variety of media can also be employed to aid in the implementation of online learning, for instance, using Google Classroom, Edmodo, Schoology services, and WhatsApp (Enriquez, 2014). Online learning is now seen as an innovation or a paradigm shift in the process of teaching and learning activities since teachers and students are not required to present classrooms.

There are numerous issues that arise in online learning, including instructional materials, learning interactions, and the learning environment (Roberts & McInnerney, 2007). Are the instructional materials used in online learning tailored to the requirements of the students? Are the directions in the instructional materials used in online learning straightforward for pupils to

understand? And soon. Learning contacts are equally crucial in the teaching-learning process. According to Su, Bonk, & Maagjunka (2005) it is vital in the learning process to 3 establish excellent relationships between students and students, students and teachers, and teachers and teachers. Based on this reasoning, it is clear that learning interactions must be incorporated into the learning process. However, whether or not learning interactions have been integrated into online learning to promote learning activities is the question. For example, in face-to-face learning, if a student does not comprehend anything, she or he may directly question other students and the teacher about it, and she or he will quickly receive an explanation from them.

A preliminary study conducted by the researcher at one of Universities in Bandung reveals that learning process is still conducted online today, and most lectures employ a variety of platforms for online learning. The research tried to further explore students' opinion dealing with online learning. It was found that most of them gave positive responses. Three out of five students were found extremely happy with online learning, while the rest of them are unhappy. Some of the reasons are that they have more time to do other things such as responsibilities at home, getting more time with family, and saving transportation costs. Meanwhile, other things that made the two students unhappy were the difficulty of internet coverage and many distractions due to the school environment and the lack of interaction with teachers and classmates.

The author plans to collect data from seventh-semester students at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung's English Education Department for this research. SOELT is one of the courses available to seventh-semester students (Seminar on ELT). SOELT (Seminar on ELT) is a course that taught seventh-semester students how to write a good research proposal and how to practice presenting it in a research proposal test. The SOELT (Seminar on ELT) seminar is the class for this research, as previously stated. According to (Masitowarni Siregar, 2020) the Seminar on ELT Course is to help students:

1) properly understand the theory of writing scientific articles, including research proposals; 2) be able to practice the theoretical knowledge in order to produce their own scientific articles that are worthy of publication through scientific seminars/journals and, specifically for research proposals, deserve to be continued with research; and 3) be able to speak well at the seminar, both as a speaker and as a participant.

There have been a number of past researches on students' perception regarding online learning. First, there is Yuniarti and Hartati's research (2020). The study looked at how students in online learning absorb the content Dost, Hossain, Shehab, Aida & Al-Nusair conducted the second study (2020). A countrywide cross-sectional poll of 2721 UK medical students was conducted to assess medical students' experience in online education during the COVID-19 epidemic. Third, the research was conducted by Ulya (2020). In Covid-19, the study examined students' perception of the PGMI UIN Ar-Raniry Learning System. The conclusion of that research is the students claimed that their understanding of the material was deteriorating, and that their internet connection was a regular source of problem. To distinguish this study from others, the descriptive-qualitative approach was used, and the participants of the research are students in the third semester at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

Based on the statement above, the purpose of this research is to examine students' perception of online English learning. So, in this thesis, the researcher wishes to further her research by performing a study titled "Exploring students' Perception in whole Online Learning Class during COVID-19 Era at English Education Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung"

B. **Research Questions**

The description of this research's problems was as follows:

1. From the students' perspectives, how is the online learning of Seminar on ELT subject implemented in the English Education Department?
2. What are the students of English Education Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung perception of the online learning of Seminar on ELT subject?

C. Research Objectives

This study's aims are as follows, based on the definition of the problem mentioned above:

1. To describe the students' perspective of the implementation of online learning process in English Education Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung at SOELT subject.
2. To examine the students of English Education Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung perception toward online learning of Seminar on ELT subject.

D. Research Significances

The following are some of the theoretical and practical benefits of this study:

1. The Theoretical Benefit

   This research may be used as a reference for further research on online English learning, as well as input for developing understanding on online English learning in the Covid-19 pandemic at University

2. The Practical Benefit

   a. English teachers can use an online learning model to teaching and learning process more effective and to assist students improve their learning results.

   b. In the Covid-19 pandemic, the researcher can enhance information and knowledge on online English learning.

c. In the Covid-19 pandemic, students may develop information concerning online-based learning.

E. Theoretical Framework

The research focuses on the students' perception of the online learning process at the English Education Department in the UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The learning process was seen from five indicators namely; the Linguists: students' perception on the learning process; the platform used and the interaction model; the materials, methods, and tools or learning media; learning resources, evaluation, and learning support; and the type of platforms used and the problems faced by the students in the learning process carried out at English Education Department in the UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The results of this research are intended to be taken into consideration for the optimization of the online learning process.

Perception

Perception is the process of providing meaning to the environment by an individual. Perception is also described as a response or judgment about an item that is formed based on a person's experience and knowledge. Perception may be characterized as someone's anticipation of an item, such as individuals, institutions, agencies, and others. (Akbar, 2015) argues that if someone wants to know the aspirations and expectations of the community regarding an educational institution, he may accomplish so by understanding the community's perception of an educational institution. Knowing a person's views may be a supportive aspect in attempts to enhance quality.

Learning Process

The learning process is an action that occurs as an endeavor to apply the knowledge supplied by teachers to pupils. (Suhanji, 2014) mentioned that the learning process is an attempt to look at behavior changes of pupils through a process called learning and this circumstance is an event of learning. Two processes occur in the learning process, namely learning and

teaching. As described by Widoyoko (2018) who believes that learning is a translation of the term instructional which comprises two components, namely learning and teaching. The definition of learning itself is a shift that occurs in students towards a better path. The changes can be happening in comprehending the content or others to assist students' maximizing skills, while the teaching itself is a process carried out by conditioning the milieu surrounding students in the attempts to create an expected change.

Furthermore, Pane & Dasopang (2017) claimed that the act of controlling, structuring the environment around students so that it can encourage students to do the process of obtaining new information is termed learning. The learning process is carried out to attain a specific aim. The approach is intended to have a good influence on pupils to attain the expected goals. In this context, the teachers direct the students to reach practical goals in the formal education sense and to develop self-awareness to guide the students to better learning (Yuzulia, 2020). (Yuzulia, 2020) argues that the context of learning implies anytime the instructor delivers a sequence of activities that have been conceived on the expected outcomes and then these activities are acknowledged by the pupils. To attain this aim, it needs collaboration between learning components. The components in the learning process include educational objectives, students, educators, materials or subject subjects, techniques and methods, media or tools, learning resources, and evaluations (Pane, 2017)

Online Learning Process

Online learning (e-learning) is a learning process that is carried out without face-to-face contact and is not in the classroom as normal but is carried out in some virtual rooms and interacts electronically utilizing the internet network. (Ramadhan, 2021) claimed that online learning overcomes the problem of distance and time, and e-learning is a learning process that is carried out online and can be in the form of synchronous or asynchronous. In keeping with the opinion given by (Mahendra, 2018) who argue that in digital

communication there is a material that examines synchronous and asynchronous communication. This learning process is a partnership that happens between technology developments and the learning process which is dubbed e-learning. Optimizing the design and application of this approach will considerably assist enhance the world of education. E-learning is the optimization of learning experiences supported by suitable information and communication technologies (Yuzulia, 2020).

Covid 19

Covid-19 is a virus that spreading around the world recently. In a short period, this pathogen caused many casualties. This virus was initially discovered in Wuhan, China. Coronavirus infection is not the first time. (Yuliana, 2020) claimed that infection from this virus happened in 2002 which was caused by SARS-coronavirus and this sickness was afterward recognized as a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and has also occurred in 2012 with the term Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The coronavirus encompasses the biota superdomain, virus kingdom. This virus is the biggest category of viruses in the Nidovirales. All viruses of the Nidovirales are non-segmented positive-sense RNA viruses. The Coronavirus is included in the Coronaviridae family, the Coronavirinae sub-family, the Betacoronavirus genus, the Sarbecovirus subgenus (Parwanto, 2020) . As time passed by, this virus spread to all areas of the world causing the death toll from this illness to continue to grow.

This virus causes minor respiratory infections to severe pneumonia which caused mortality. Patients infected with this virus have early complaints such as fever and cough as signs of infection in general, but in a more acute phase, the symptoms are accompanied by shortness of breath. Various measures have been undertaken to limit the spread of Covid-19. The tactics made include social distance, school from home (SFH), and work from home (WFH). With these regulations, numerous industries in the globe have

been disrupted, including the education industry. To adapt to these settings, learning is done out online.

F. **Previous Studies**

To support the present research, several studies were examined. This give a reason for the researcher to seek information as much as possible regarding the topic of the study. A research form Yuniarti and Hartati (2020) entitled "Students' Perception of the Usage E-Learning in the emergency of Covid-19". They have highlighted the students' perception from 175 students of STIA Muhammadiyah Selong, Administration Science Study Program was pretty good on the use of e- learning. Using the quantitative-descriptive technique, the independence of students in completing assignments and understanding materials achieved higher than medium (62%). The quick access for students in obtaining course material includes in the high category (71, 1%). However, the permission of the material was minimal. 73, 6% of students reported it was difficult to grasp educational materials and enrichment activities. In conclusion, although the student could access the information, the student still believed that online learning was rather challenging in understanding the subject.

Furthermore, a journal paper entitled "Perception of medical students towards online education during the COVID-19 pandemic: a nationwide cross- sectional survey of 2721 UK medical students" by Dost et al. (2020). The study was performed by the student from the Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland from 2721 medical students across 39 medical schools. He discovered that students believe in the excellent impression of online learning and some students felt online learning matched the best for study. But he also discovered E-learning is a great tool for educating medical students. However, the effective incorporation of

online learning into the curriculum needs a well-thought- out plan and a more active approach.

In addition, the study comes from Ulya (2020) entitled "Students Perception of PGMI UIN Ar-Raniry Learning System in Covid-19". Using the qualitative descriptive technique, a total 40 participant from all students of PGMI UIN has been chosen as the sample. In her study, she discovered that online learning was not beneficial for the student of the Islamic Elementary School Teacher Study Program (PGMI). The pupils argued the degree of their comprehension of the subject was becoming poor and the internet connection also became the frequent issue they encountered.

Based on the linked study above, the researcher produced this research to explore students' perception toward online learning amid the Covid-19 pandemic which has arrived in a rapid assault. To make this study distinct and different from other studies, this research was utilized qualitative method, specifically a descriptive design, and the subjects of the research are students of the seventh semester of UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.