CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, research questions, research purposes, research significances, conceptual framework, and previous studies.

A. Background

This study explores a media that facilitates exciting and meaningful learning activities for young learners, namely by using electronic worksheets (e-worksheet). A worksheet is a teaching material form containing material, summaries, and instructions for implementing the learning tasks that students must do, which refers to the essential competencies that must be achieved (Prastowo, 2013). The worksheet is used not only for providing text information but also images, graphics, video, and audio to foster students' understanding (Uygarer & Uzunboylu, 2017). The worksheet in this research is a worksheet used in online learning, so it is called an e-worksheet.

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak forces many schools to remain closed temporarily. Various schools have discontinued in-person teaching (Dhawan, 2020). Consequently, teaching and learning activities between teachers and students are forced to shift to a remote system known as online learning. Both teachers and students have to deal with various mobile devices and various forms of digital platforms. Thus, English learning for junior high schools in Indonesia also switches modes from offline to online. The challenge faced by this mode of change is to provide interesting, meaningful, and engaging learning through suitable media for online learning. An electronic worksheet (e-worksheet) can be an alternative medium to solve the problem during the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires distant learning.

Young learners are often more enthusiastic and lively as learners (Cameron, 2001; Octaviana, 2017). However, young learners also lose interest more quickly and are less able to keep themselves motivated on something learners find difficult (Octaviana, 2017). Therefore, it becomes a challenge for the teachers to design the

English learning process more engaging, effective, and in accordance with the characteristics of young learners.

Vocabulary aims to enable learners to understand the concepts of unfamiliar words, gain a more significant number of words, and use words successfully for communicative purposes (Cahyono & Widiati, 2015). Meanwhile, vocabulary learning is assumed to be one of the most challenging problems language learners face (Abrams et al., 2014; Fudhla, 2018). Thus, the lack of vocabulary makes learners encounter several problems. Those are the effect on learners' performance in listening, speaking (Khan et al., 2018), reading (Mildan et al., 2021), expressing their ideas, minds, feelings, and experiences (Hasan, 2018).

Based on the preliminary survey, the students at one of the junior high schools in Bandung have some difficulties learning English, especially learning English vocabulary mastery. Students in learning vocabulary face several problems, most of the students have difficulties in pronouncing the words, how to write and spell, in choosing the appropriate meaning of the words, and also confuse in using the words based on the context. This condition becomes an interesting topic to be discussed specifically about the media used in teaching and learning English vocabulary to solve the problems.

This is why this study proposes the e-worksheet as one of the alternative media to be used by young learners in learning English, especially in the seventh-grade students' English vocabulary mastery. Based on the research conducted by Syakir (2020), the result shows that using the words game activities included in the students' worksheets can improve their vocabulary skills. Besides, e-worksheet features may contain animations, videos, images, and several navigations that make it more interactive (Elistiyaningsih, 2021) with the program containing questions and step-by-step instructions systematically (Safita & Zuniati, 2021). Furthermore, this research focuses on the use of e-worksheets in facilitating young learners' English vocabulary mastery of expressing gratitude and apology and telling the time topics (adapt to the applicable syllabus and curriculum).

There are several previous studies relevant to the current research. The first is a research conducted by Khusna et al. (2019) concerning with developing e-

learning worksheet-based information technology for English learning for vocational high school tenth-grade students. The second research is undertaken by Syafitri & Tressyalina (2020), who discuss the importance of Electronic Student Worksheet (E-LKPD) based on Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) approaches in learning to write description text during the COVID-19 pandemic. The third is Nasution et al., (2020) research about digital worksheets development using wizer.me platform in teaching English listening skills carried out on the tenth grade of Vocational High Schools.

Nevertheless, the previous researches are different from the current study in terms of media usage. This current research uses the e-worksheets to teach English vocabulary to young learners.

B. Research Questions

Based on the problems above, this research is intended to answer the following questions:

1. How is the process of using e-worksheets in facilitating young learners' English vocabulary mastery?
2. How is the teacher's opinion of how e-worksheets facilitate young learners in mastering English vocabulary?
3. How is the students' response to the use of e-worksheets in learning English?
4. How are the results of using e-worksheets on students' English vocabulary mastery?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the questions above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To describe the process of using e-worksheets in facilitating students' English vocabulary mastery.
2. To explore the teacher's opinion of how the e-worksheets facilitate young learners in mastering English vocabulary.
3. To analyze the students' response to the use of e-worksheets in learning English.

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4. To describe the students' results of using e-worksheets on their English vocabulary mastery.

D. The Significances of the Research

This study is expected to become an information source of how to facilitate students in English vocabulary mastery by using e-worksheets. The research has theoretical and practical benefits. The following are the significances of this research:

1. Theoretical Significances

Theoretically, this research has several contributions to the readers. This study gives the readers a lot of information, ideas, and understanding about "E-worksheets" media to facilitate students' English vocabulary mastery. The teachers can also use this research as a reference for teaching and learning media to facilitate students' English vocabulary mastery.

2. Practical Significances

The result of this study is also expected to give benefits practically for the teachers and students. It contributes to the teachers to challenge and improve their creativity in using e-worksheets media. Also, it is expected to enhance students' motivation in mastering their vocabularies during the process of filling out the e-worksheets.

E. Conceptual Framework

Young learners are students studying at Elementary or Junior High school aging 7-12 and studying English as a second language for about one up to four years (Syafei, 2016). In sum, young learners are the children who learn by an early age. They can be from four to twelve years old or six to thirteen years old.

Teachers have to be aware that young learners need different treatment in learning English. The teachers have to suit their teaching with the learners' characteristics. While the teacher explains the material, young learners tend to have little attention or focus on something (Aziza & Syafei, 2018). That is the reason

why the teacher needs to have an alternative way of teaching English or media to keep their focus on learning English as long as it is still on the topic. Teachers need to choose one of the various techniques that are best for students.

Meanwhile, vocabulary as the core of learning English needs to be taught from the beginning level. Students should acquire a lot of vocabulary or words and know how to use them accurately (Aziza & Syafei, 2018). Besides, vocabulary is all about words and their meanings in a particular language. The vocabulary contains recognizing the word and its meaning as well as its spelling (Febrina et al., 2016). Therefore, vocabulary is one of the language components that students need to comprehend since young.

Electronic learning (e-learning) is the learning supported by digital electronic tools and media (Kumar Basak et al., 2018). E-learning is an approach in the process of teaching and learning. It represents all or part of the educational model applied, which is based on the use of electronic media and devices as tools to improve access to training, communication, interaction and that facilitates the adoption of new ones how to understand and develop learning (Sangra Albert et al., 2012). In this case, e-learning is used as an approach in the English teaching and learning process, and the e-worksheet is used as the media, especially for facilitating young learners' English vocabulary mastery.

An electronic worksheet (e-worksheet) is a form containing both textual and visual elements that are designed based on classroom learning content. The students can use the e-worksheets to practice what the students' have learned to consolidate their knowledge (Zhang, 2021). As stated before, there can be inserted into the e-worksheets some pictures, videos, audio, animations, and navigations that make users more interactive.

F. Previous Studies

There are some previous studies that focus on a similar area with the current research. The first is a research conducted by Khusna et al. (2019), who focus on developing e-learning worksheets-based information technology for tenth-grade students at vocational high school in English learning. The type of this study is

Research and Development (R & D). The research procedure is conducted by adopting the model from Dick and Carey. This process has been adopted to meet the students' needs and go for effective research. The result of this study shows that the appearance of the media contained in the media products produced is included in the criteria of very good or very feasible.

The second study is conducted by Syafitri & Tressyalina (2020), who identify the importance of electronic learners' worksheets (E-LKPD) based on Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) approaches in the study of English descriptive text during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research uses a survey method through questionnaire or poll as the research instruments created and distributed to 30 junior high school teachers via Google form. Based on the data collected, this study shows that E-LKPD is indispensable in online learning, especially in learning to write a descriptive text. Most respondents agree that the E-LKPD theme is adjusted to the context (CTL). The result of this study shows that E-LKPD based on Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) is very useful for learning to write English descriptive text during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The other study is conducted by Nasution et al. (2020), who discuss the development of an English Listening Digital Worksheet for tenth-grade vocational high school students of the Hospitality Major. The research is conducted by using Research and Development (R&D) design through six stages; need analysis, planning, designing digital worksheet, materials evaluation, and revising (final product). The data is conducted through interviews with the English teacher and distributed a questionnaire to one class of tenth-grade consisting of 36 students to get the students' needs. The results prove that the students' needs of English listening digital worksheet are appropriate with the students' major.

However, the previous researches have different focuses with the current study. In comparison, two of the three studies discussed more testing the feasibility and quality of the e-worksheet or digital worksheet used in English online learning. One of the three studies revealed the importance of worksheets for English learning of Descriptive Text in CTL-based electronic form. Meanwhile, the current research

focuses on discussing the process, the teachers' opinion, the students' response, and the students' mastery of English vocabulary using e-worksheet media to support it.