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EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONFOR DISTANCE LEARNING

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Abstract
The purpose of this study was to determine effective communication for distance learning. Which is viewed from the presence, response, understanding information from lecturers, and use of student communication applications in effective communication for distance lectures. This research uses descriptive quantitative method. Data were collected by administering a questionnaire accompanied by the reasons for choosing the answer chosen. The data in this study were analyzed descriptively which was presented in the form of a round diagram to describe effective communication for distance learning for students of the Islamic Education study program at the TarbiyahMuhammadiyah University of TanjungRedeb. The results showed that the attendance of students on a predetermined class schedule was 92%. Judging from the student response from the presence of lecturers by 100%.In terms of the student's ability to understand information from the lecturer, 55%. And in terms of online communication applications that are easier to use by students who are learning distance, WhatsApp is 62%. This shows that the message delivered by lecturers in distance learning can be accepted by all students. And the use of WhatsApp as a communication application that is most widely used by students has helped to realize effective communication for long-distance lectures.

Keywords: *Effective communication, communication applications, distance learning.*

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INTRODUCTION

Since March 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic that has hit all corners of the world has changes the challenges of everyday human life. Various sectors of life, one of which is the world of education, has changed the way of learning. If

previously students came and met the teacher at school, now the teacher is at school and students are learning from home.

Likewise with students of the Tanjung Redeb Muhammadiyah School of Science, the Islamic Religious Education study program Semester 1, since lectures begin in September 2020 students and lecturers learn to teach from home. This long distance learning uses mobile phone facilities and cellular telephone networks. This research was conducted at the TarbiyahMuhammadiyah School of Science in TanjungRedeb. By involving students majoring in semester 1 of the Islamic Religious Education program. The start of the 2020/2021 academic year, where lecture activities are carried out online.

The learning process from home can also be done by students and lecturers in every class schedule. Therefore, new students still feel the attention of the lecturers, who in fact have just recognized their name and have never met in person. Learning from home is a new experience for students and lecturers. Distance lectures require effective communication, due to time constraints. Interaction is only allowed using cellphones or via social media such as, whatsapp, google classroom, youtube or Zoom. Therefore, it requires effective communication between students and lecturers for distance study.

Communication is the process of sharing information, thoughts and feelings between people through speaking, writing or body language. To achieve effective communication, a concept is needed so that the material sent is accepted and understood by others. The goals of effective communication include creating general perceptions, changing behavior and obtaining information.

Joseph A. Devito's view, communication refers to the action, by one or more people, who send and receive messages that are distorted by interference (noise), occur in a certain context, have a certain effect and there is an opportunity for feedback. According to Ricky W. Griffin, communication is the process of conveying information from one person to another. DanMcShane and Von Glinow, "communication refers to the process by which is transmitted and understood between two or more people". That communication is the process of transferring information and understanding between two or more people. Next is

James Campbell Quick and Debra Neison, "Communication is the evoking of a shared or common meaning in another person". Communication is something that can create meaning / significance to others, or can be understood in general.

No matter how talented a person is, no matter how superior one is, success will never be obtained without mastery of effective communication skills. Wilbur Schramm in OnongUchjanaEffendy, called it "the conditions of success in communication", namely the conditions that must be met if we want the message we convey to produce the response we want. The Conditions of Success in Communication include:

1. The message must be designed and conveyed in such a way as to attract the attention of the intended target.
2. The message must use signs that point to the same experience between the communicator and the communicant, so that both can be understood.
3. The message should arouse the personal needs of the communicant, and suggest some ways to meet these needs.
4. The message must suggest a way to obtain these needs that are appropriate for the group situation where the communicant is at the time he is moved to provide the desired response.

In delivering the message, the lecturer selects what message to convey, this shows the readiness of the lecturer in facing students. The message that is conveyed correctly, has a communication effect on the communicant. Communication effect is defined as the influence generated by the communicator's message in the communicant. There are three influences within the communicant, namely cognitive (someone becomes aware of something), affective (a person's attitude is formed, for example, agrees or disagrees with something), and conative (behavior, which makes someone act to do something).

Mujamil Qomar in Ngainun Naim stated that the communication process must also be endeavored to have attractiveness. The factors that influence the attractiveness of communication are, personal communicant. In this aspect there are several principles that must be considered: the person must be viewed as a

complete entity; the person is dynamic; each person has its own values; each person is unique; and the person is difficult to judge.

The meaning of the word or sentence. Each person interprets the word according to his life experience. So, in communicating, key words must be explained in detail with examples.

Self-concept. Accuracy in understanding this self-concept is very helpful for communication effectiveness.

Empathy. This needs to be obtained from other people so that communication can be effective because there is a common point of view between the communicator and the communicant. Feedback. Communicators in communication need to get feedback from the communicants to find out the possibility of errors / differences in interpretation.

The dynamic personality of the lecturer will bring a pleasant atmosphere and students will feel interested in communicating with the lecturer. The information conveyed by the lecturer is clear and understandable to students. The discussion of learning material becomes interesting because of the same point of view, namely the completion of learning.

In communication, there are elements in the communication process, including (1) the sender of the message (sender) or the communicator and the material (content) of the message, (2) the language of the message (coding). (3) media, (4) interpreting the message (decoding), (5) message recipient (communicant), (6) feedback (response of the message recipient), and (7) interference that hinders communication.

Berau Regency with an area of 34,127.47 km² is a very large area. And the signal provider coverage is limited to certain areas. Meanwhile, learning from home requires a good signal network. And this caused some students to experience problems because the signal network was not stable and the Internet could not run properly. In certain areas such as Maratua Island, not all islands can pick up signal providers, but there are special locations where the signal catching capacity is strong enough.

This communication tool in the form of a mobile phone uses an Android-based program, with a touch screen and with various applications in it. Easy to use and flexible to carry anywhere. And including the use of a laptop or netbook to prepare lecture material for lecturers and work on assignments for students.

By using communication tools, of course, will change the way of communicating between students and lecturers. The previous one directly, turned into reading the message. Communication using an Android-based mobile phone requires a communication application from the Google Playstore. The applications used are WhatsApp, google classroom, youtube, and Zoom.

WhasApp Messenger, or simply WhatsApp, is an America freeware, cross-platform messaging cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP (VoIP) service owned by Facebook, Inc. It allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other media. WhatsApp's client application runs on mobile devices but is also accessible from desktop computers, as long as the user's mobile device remains connected to the Internet while they use the desktop app The service requires users to provide a standard cellular mobile number for registering with the service.

Google Classroom is a free web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students. And YouTube allows users to upload, view, rate, share, add to playlists, report, comment on videos, and subscribe to other users. It offers a wide variety of user-generated and corporate media videos. Available content includes video clip, TV show clips, music videos, short and documentary films, audio recording, movie trailers, live streams, and other content such as video blogging, short original videos, and educational videos.

Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (Zoom) is a United States communications technology company headquartered in San Jose, California. The company provides cloud computing P2P-based online videotelephony and chat

equipment services that are used for teleconferencing, remote work, remote learning and social networking.

The research results of Saputra., & Salim., (2016) show A review of student attitudes in the use of technological devices shows that most students have a positive attitude in using technological devices. Students have an attitude of respecting differences of opinion, respecting the privacy of others, paying attention to legal risks in communicating, having a strong will, and reading content carefully.

METHODS

In this study using a quantitative descriptive research method which aims to determine effective communication for students from home. This research was conducted at STIT Muhammadiyah Tanjung Redeb for students of the Islamic Religious Education Study Program for the odd semester of the 2020/2021 academic year.

The population in this study were all semester 1 students of the Islamic Education Study Program of STIT MuhammadiyahTanjungRedeb, totaling 95. While the research sample was taken by purposive sampling technique, namely from two classes, each of which was taken 20 people per class so that the total sample was 40 students.

The variables measured in this study were the effective communication of students studying from home with the lecturers used by the students of the Religious Education Study Program I which were observed: 1) The presence of students in online lectures, 2) Student responses from the presence of lecturers, 3) The ability of students to understand information from lecturers, 4) online communication applications that are easier to use by students learning distance.

Data were collected by administering a questionnaire accompanied by the reasons for choosing the answer chosen. The data in this study were analyzed descriptively which was presented in the form of a bar chart to describe effective communication for learning from home for students of the Islamic Education Study Program of STIT Muhammadiyah Tanjung Redeb.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description of effective communication for distance learning among students of the Islamic Education Study Program of STIT Muhammadiyah Tanjung Redeb is categorized into 4 categories, namely 1) The presence of students in online lectures, 2) Student responses from the presence of lecturers, 3) The ability of students to understand information from lecturers, 4) An online communication application that is easier to use for students who are learning distance.

Student Attendance

Distance lectures follow the lecture schedule set by the academic. The time and day are in accordance with the existing schedule, therefore the attendance of students and lecturers should be on time. The student responses to attendance can be seen in the following picture:

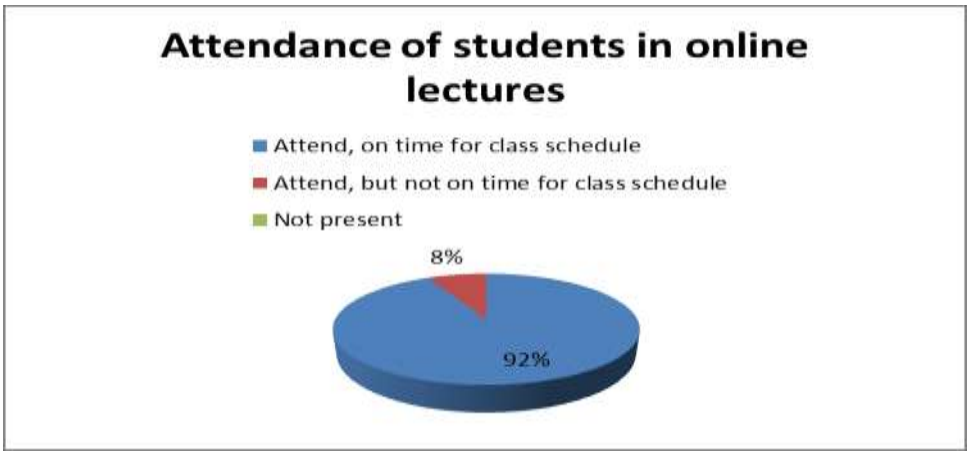

Figure 1.Student Attendance

Based on the percentage of student attendance on time on class schedules is as much as 92%. And attendance but not on time for class schedule is 10.3%, while those who do not attend are 0%. This shows the enthusiasm of the students to attend lectures according to the predetermined schedule. Although separated by distance, the enthusiasm for studying is very high.

Student response from the presence of lecturers

As soon as the lecturer enters the chat room, the first thing to do is greet. Responses from students who have prepared with communication devices or laptops will give their responses. As illustrated in the circular diagram below.

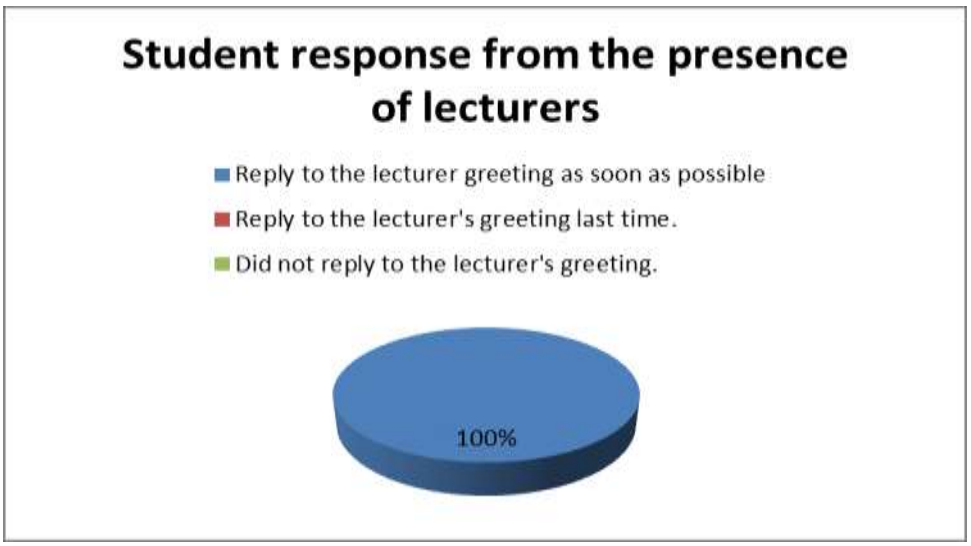

Figure 2.Student response from the presence of lecturers

100% of students gave good responses to the presence of lecturers in the chatt room. This shows that students are prepared to receive lecture material from lecturers.

Students' ability to understand information from lecturers

The results of student answers to students' ability to understand information from lecturers are as follows:

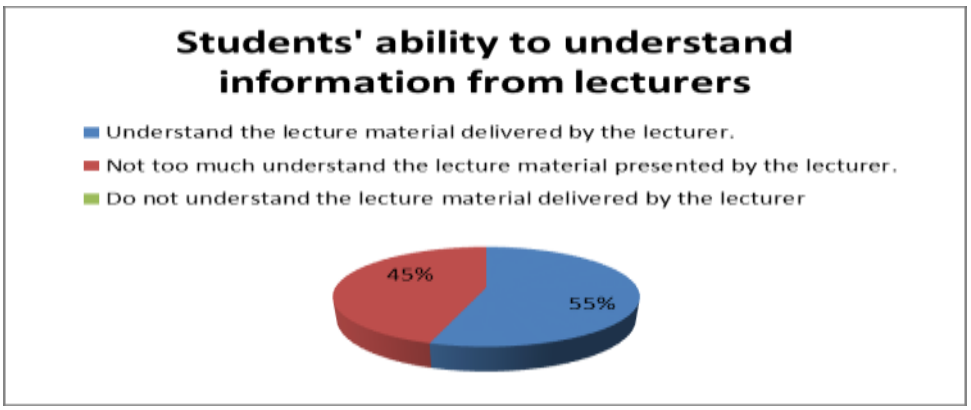

Figure 3.Students' ability to understand information from lecturers

As many as 55% of students understand the lecture material delivered by the lecturer. And as many as 45% somewhat understand the lecture material presented by the lecturer. And 0% do not understand the lecture material delivered

by the lecturer. This shows that the delivery of lecture material from lecturers can still be accepted by more students in meetings in the chaat room.

An online communication application that is easier to use for distance learning students.

The communication applications of choice for students are as follows:

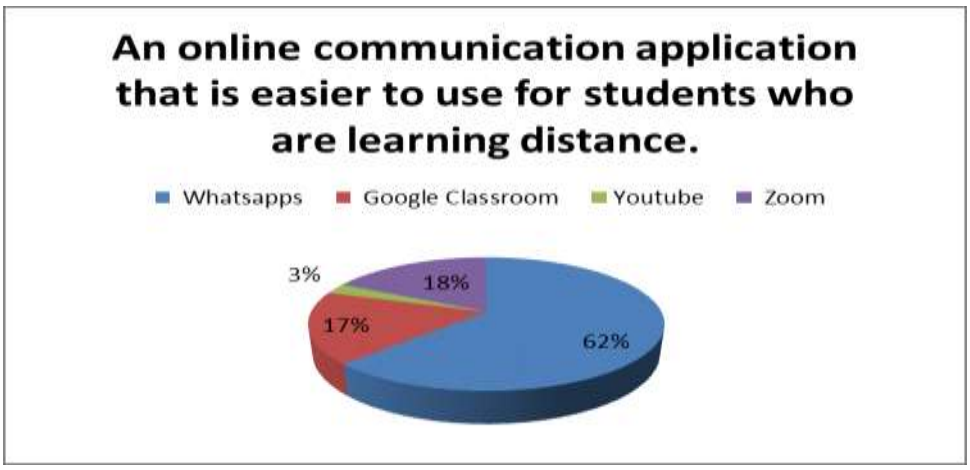

Figure 4. An online communication application that is easier to use for distance learning students.

62% of students choose to use WhatsApp, 18% choose to use Google Classroom, 17% choose to use Zoom Video Communication, and 1% chooseYoutube. This shows that Whatsapp is more popular and easier to use anywhere.

The results of Jumiatmoko's research (2016) show that Whatsapp provides an opportunity for the academic community to hold various online-based virtual classes and multimedia features without time and space limitations.

CONCLUSIONS

Effective communication built by lecturers to students will create a sense of comfort, enthusiasm, attention to all students even though they are not face to face. This is because the habits in the lecture hall must be eliminated while the Covid19 pandemic still exists. Of course, feeling a mutual need between lecturers and students to share knowledge and receive knowledge is an important thing for students' need to study.

Communicating in a chat room is not only present to convey material, but how to create a comfortable learning environment with enthusiasm for all who attend. This conducive atmosphere must be created by lecturers who teach, so that students feel at home and always miss meeting with lecturers again.

Distance lectures require additional facilities needed so that the message conveyed can be accepted by all members of the distance study. Sending lecture materials, sending voice messages, sending links to students feels faster and easier via WhatsApp. The choice of using the whatsapp application is because this application can quickly receive message notifications. Compared to using the Zoom Video Communication application or Google Classroom, it requires a stronger internet network. If you use virtual meetings, some students cannot attend lectures. By using the WhatsApp application to solve the problem of delivering messages directly to students.

For those who will continue this research, hopefully this work can be a reference for on going research.

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