



**ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR INDONESIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS IN CLASS VII SMP NEGERI LHOKSEUMAWE**

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**Abstrak**

**Background:** Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there appears to be a major shift in learning processes at all levels of education. The importance of the teacher's method in the online learning process cannot be isolated from the appearance of numerous hurdles experienced by students in this study. Particularly in Indonesian disciplines, where these subjects are already well-known for containing a great deal of theory and narrative. Teachers must utilize proper tactics when teaching, especially in Indonesian subjects, to make the teaching and learning process effective and not boring.

**Research purposes:** Describe the most popular Indonesian language tactics employed in the online learning process in Indonesia, describe how the teacher has implemented Indonesian tactics to improve the effectiveness of the online learning process in Indonesian class VII subjects in junior high school, discusses the Indonesian language barriers that teachers experience while teaching online.

**Research methods:** A qualitative research approach is employed with the type of case study research to attain the desired aims. The Indonesian class teacher is a crucial component. Interviews, observation, and documentation were utilized to obtain data. By removing extraneous data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions, the data was evaluated.

**Research result:** The learning system from face to face to online suddenly happened, then gave rise to various responses and obstacles as well as changes in learning models for the world of education in Indonesia, including teachers who are the spearhead of education who directly deal with students. Several teachers and students experience problems when carrying out online learning including learning applications that are new and not yet understood, limited internet quota, learning management, assessment, and supervision that is not optimal.

**Conclusion:** The learning method is also adapted to this online period so that learning remains effective even though behind it there are many shortcomings. From the whole method, the researcher can conclude that, the method that is mostly used by the teacher council is by providing learning materials through whatsapp groups, using google classroom, and for students who do not understand or are less capable in the field of technology, they can come directly to the school. their respective schools to get direct learning. This is also enforced so that students continue to receive material during the school period. In addition, the teachers give tolerance to every student who is late in collecting assignments, because during the pandemic there are certainly many obstacles and obstacles experienced by students.

**Kata kunci:** **Teacher Strategy, Learning Effectiveness, Indonesian Language Learning**

**Abstrak**

**Latar belakang:** Akibat pandemi Covid-19, tampak terjadi pergeseran besar dalam proses pembelajaran di semua jenjang pendidikan. Pentingnya metode guru dalam proses pembelajaran online tidak terlepas dari munculnya berbagai kendala yang dialami siswa dalam penelitian ini. Khususnya dalam disiplin ilmu di Indonesia, di mana mata pelajaran ini sudah terkenal banyak mengandung teori dan narasi. Guru harus menggunakan taktik yang tepat saat mengajar, khususnya mata pelajaran Bahasa Indonesia, agar proses belajar mengajar efektif dan tidak membosankan.

**Tujuan penelitian:** Mendeskripsikan taktik bahasa Indonesia yang paling populer digunakan dalam proses pembelajaran online di Indonesia, mendeskripsikan bagaimana guru menerapkan taktik bahasa Indonesia untuk meningkatkan efektivitas proses pembelajaran online pada mata pelajaran bahasa Indonesia kelas VII di SMP, membahas bahasa Indonesia hambatan yang

dialami guru saat mengajar online.

**Metode penelitian:** Pendekatan penelitian kualitatif digunakan dengan jenis penelitian studi kasus untuk mencapai tujuan yang diinginkan. Guru kelas bahasa Indonesia merupakan komponen yang sangat penting. Wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi digunakan untuk memperoleh data. Dengan menghapus data asing, menyajikan data, dan menarik kesimpulan, data dievaluasi

**Hasil penelitian:** Sistem pembelajaran dari tatap muka menjadi daring yang terjadi secara mendadak, kemudian memunculkan berbagai macam respon dan kendala serta perubahan model pembelajaran bagi dunia Pendidikan di Indonesia, tak terkecuali guru yang merupakan ujung tombak pendidikan yang langsung berhadapan dengan siswa. Sejumlah guru dan siswa mengalami kendala ketika melaksanakan pembelajaran daring diantaranya aplikasi pembelajaran yang baru dan belum dimengerti, kuota internet yang terbatas, pengelolaan pembelajaran, penilaian, dan pengawasan yang kurang maksimal.

**Kesimpulan:** Metode pembelajaran pun di sesuaikan dengan masa daring ini supaya pembelajaran tetap efektif walaupun dibalikinya terdapat banyak kekurangan. Dari keseluruhan metode, peneliti dapat mengambil kesimpulan bahwa, metode yang banyak dilakukan oleh para dewan guru yaitu dengan cara memberikan materi pembelajaran melalui grup whatsapp, menggunakan google classroom, serta bagi siswa/i yang kurang paham ataupun kurang mampu dalam bidang teknologi dapat langsung datang ke sekolah mereka masing-masing untuk mendapatkan pembelajaran secara langsung. Hal ini pula diberlakukan supaya siswa/i yang tetap menerima materi selama masa sekolah berlangsung. Selain itu para guru memberikan toleransi kepada setiap siswa yang terlambat dalam melakukan pengumpulan tugas, karena pasti selama pandemi sangat banyak halangan dan rintangan yang dialami oleh para siswa.

**Kata kunci:** Strategi Guru, Efektivitas Pembelajaran, Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the outbreak of the pandemic caused by the Corona virus in Indonesia (Zaharah et al., 2020), the government has taken many ways to prevent its spread (Galbadage et al., 2020). One of them is through a circular letter from the Ministry of Education (Azzahra, 2020) and Culture (Kemendikbud) Directorate of Higher Education No. 1 of 2020 regarding the prevention of the spread of Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) in schools. Through this circular, the Ministry of Education and Culture gave instructions to schools to conduct distance learning and advised students to study from their homes (Pragholapati, 2020). Education is an institution that is intentionally organized to pass on and develop knowledge (Watkins et al., 2011), skills and expertise by the older generation to the next generation (Mellander & Florida, 2021). Through education people try to improve their level of life (Finlay et al., 2021). There is a strong relationship between a person's level of education with the level of social life (Stinson, 2021). If a person's education advances, of course his life will progress and vice versa (Elumalai et al., 2021). The main learning objective is to equip students with abilities (Ibrahim & Alamro, 2021). Educators are one of the human components in the teaching (Howell & Mikeska, 2021) and learning process that play a role in efforts to form potential human resources in the field of development (Bremner & Schwartz, 2021). Therefore, teachers who are one element in the field of education must play an active role (Masyhum, 2021) and place their position as professionals, in accordance with the demands of a growing society (Garcia et al., 2021). In a special sense, it can be interpreted that the teacher has a responsibility to bring his students to maturity or at a certain level of maturity (Pomerance, 2021). In this context, the teacher is not solely a teacher (transfer of knowledge), but also as an educator (transfer of values), and at the same time as a mentor who provides direction and determines students in learning (Top et al., 2021). In order to

carry out their duties, professional teachers must have various competencies (Guillén-Gómez et al., 2021). The competencies of professional teachers include: the ability to develop students' personal, especially intellectual abilities, and to bring students to become members of a unified Indonesian society based on Pancasila. For this purpose, it is necessary "Every student in every educational unit has the right to receive religious education in accordance with the religion he adheres to and taught by educators of the same religion". The implementation of education that occurs in the classroom by the teacher must be effective and efficient so that the teaching and learning process becomes a pleasant process. To be able to create fun teaching and learning activities, a teacher must be able to manage teaching and learning activities in the classroom. The management of teaching and learning activities is an effort made by the teacher so that the learning process can run well and smoothly. The success of the teacher in carrying out teaching and learning activities cannot be separated from how the teacher manages the learning carried out so that students can achieve an optimal level of ability in accordance with the expected goals. Teaching and learning management is an important element of teacher competence and must be implemented. Because teaching and learning management is needed in learning activities. Before the teaching and learning process takes place, a teacher should functionally master the teaching system approach, method procedures, teaching techniques, master in depth and structured teaching materials and be able to plan the use of teaching facilities. Therefore, to achieve the desired educational goals, teachers are expected to have several efforts that can increase student effectiveness. Thus, education will run in accordance with the national goals that have been outlined in the 1945 Constitution, namely "to educate the life of the nation". The creation of a developed nation with educated citizens. So this task cannot be carried out by just anyone without having expertise as a teacher, because the success or failure of student education is very dependent on the responsibility of the teacher in carrying out his duties and functions, as expressed by Uzer Usman, that the more accurately teachers carry out their functions, the more secure, created and the development of one's readiness and reliability as a human development. In other words, the portraits and faces of the nation in the future are reflected in the portraits of today's teachers. Indonesian language subjects emphasize the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor descriptions needed to make students active, critical, civilized, and aware as citizens who can play a role in a multicultural, socialist and tolerant society. This needs to be prioritized in order to achieve a prosperous and harmonious society. The scope of Indonesian language learning is society, economic, social activities among each other which is nothing but what is experienced in the life of the community around us. Focus learning strategies that are carried out by teachers and students and what they do, are not only giving and mastering theory, but also paying attention to life skills for students. Learning strategies can be carried out by describing various activities, involving students directly, making students more active and responsive. Learning strategies can provide a different learning experience for students with life skills to solve problems in the school, home, and community environment. Appropriate learning strategies and support from the school environment, community, and family will create an effective learning atmosphere so that students are active and creative. As a result of the pandemic outbreak of the Corona virus (Covid-19) has caused various panics, one of which is in the realm of education. Schools have to lay off teachers and students. Schools which normally are mostly conducted face-to-face in class must change the format to online learning. In Indonesia, the world of education is a very fast group and the first to make a decision to apply online learning as an application of the form of Social Distancing. These actions and attitudes need to be appreciated. Moreover, the future of the country is in the hands of three generations in technological development

called (1) the Millennial generation, (2) Generation Z, and (3) Generation Alpha. certain social media, such as Facebook with Messenger, and WhatsApp. Thus, the world of education in Indonesia needs to be heartened regarding the OnLine learning system that has been set by the current government. However, this incident should be an encouragement and encouragement for the world of education to create variations of virtual learning or it can also be in the form of a flipped classroom. In the countryside; at the level of kindergarten, elementary, junior high and high school children use Facebook and WhatsApp to monitor their students' learning by sending videos and pictures when the child is studying or doing Take Home. While in urban areas; use WhatsApp and Line more. The form of information technology development that can be used as a learning medium is online learning. Online learning is an innovation that can be utilized in the learning process, not only in the delivery of learning materials but also changes in the abilities of various student competencies. Through learning, students not only listen to the description of the material from the teacher but also actively observe, perform, demonstrate, and so on. Teaching materials can be virtualized in various formats so that they are more interesting and more dynamic so that they can motivate students to go further in the learning process. Research purposes is describe the most popular Indonesian language tactics employed in the online learning process in Indonesia, describe how the teacher has implemented Indonesian tactics to improve the effectiveness of the online learning process in Indonesian class VII subjects in junior high school, discusses the Indonesian language barriers that teachers experience while teaching online.

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research, entitled the strategy of Indonesian language teachers in increasing the effectiveness of learning in Indonesian subjects for class VII students at SMPN Lhokseumawe City, used qualitative descriptive research. Researchers use qualitative research because in the process of this research is mostly done in the field and direct observation. In this qualitative research, the data collected are generally in the form of words, pictures. The location of this research is all Junior High Schools (SMP) in the Lhokseumawe City area. As a sample, there are about 10 Junior High Schools (SMP) in Lhokseumawe City, and six schools that will be sampled. The instruments used in this study were observation sheets, questionnaires/questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. Data collection is done by using a non-test technique. The non-test techniques are in the form of observation, interviews, questionnaires, and documentation studies. Techniques of observation, interviews, and documentation studies were used to see how the learning models applied by the teacher in the learning process. After the required data has been collected, the next stage is data analysis. The researcher will explain the research data so that conclusions can be drawn from the data.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In this study, researchers chose secondary schools in the Lhokseumawe city area, both public and private schools because they were smaller in scope and easily accessible because there was no need to travel far from campus. besides that, other reasons are the problem of time and mobility which are considered easy to take and not disturbing during the researcher's lecture process. For that reason, we chose schools around the city of Lhokseumawe, because we also saw that there were many differences and various methods and models were used in each school.

Most of the informants we studied were Indonesian language teachers who were still actively teaching at SMP Negeri Lhokseumawe. At the time of the research day, many of our informants were also teaching from their chosen online application, be it Google Classroom, Zoom and so on. We found many methods in the field and different ways of implementing them. To obtain accurate data, the researchers used the method of observation and interviews. The researcher occasionally participates in seeing and following all the online teaching activities of the teacher council. The schools in this study were 10 schools, Lhokseumawe City State Junior High School. With this number of schools, researchers have done as much as possible to get as much information as needed. The population identified is all teachers with Indonesian subjects, because the resource persons needed are Indonesian language teachers who directly know and participate in online learning. The resource person is a very important research subject, so in this study the real name of the informant is deliberately displayed because it has obtained approval from both parties. Below is a table of questions we asked when conducting the observation and interview procession. Broadly speaking, the questions we gave to each source were the same.

Based on the results of interviews that have been conducted, it is known that applying the online learning method directly is the initial stage carried out by each school included in the object of this interview. There are various ways for teachers to present material to students. "Making outreach in advance about online learning is our way of informing students about what is happening right now". And there are also resource persons who argue that "we immediately created a study group on WhatsApp by combining all classes to make learning easier. From the results of interviews with resource persons, there is the same method used to continue the teaching and learning process, namely by learning online using assistance applications such as WhatsApp, Zoom, Google Meet and so on.

Below is a table of questions we asked when conducting the observation and interview procession. In detail, the following is the interview data with the teacher councils (resources) based on the schools that have been determined, including the following:

**1. Ajizah, S.Pd and Intan Nurmalasari, S.Pd**

He is a teacher who serves as an Indonesian language teacher at SMP Negeri 1 Lhokseumawe. In the interview process, we asked 10 questions related to online learning models applied to SMP Negeri 1 Lhokseumawe, here are the questions and answers from the interviewees:

1) What strategies do you do during online learning?

Response: The strategy that I do during online learning is to provide video material via whatshaap and then allow the child to ask questions if there is something they don't understand or understand.

2) Are online learning methods/learning more effective for students and teachers?

Response: For us, online learning teachers are currently less effective because we lack communication with students. As for the students themselves, online learning is currently widely preferred because children prefer to study at home rather than at school.

3) How is the teaching method used by the teacher council during this pandemic?

Response: There is a notification from the education office. There is a shortening of time in the syllabus during the current online learning.

4) How is the ability to master Indonesian language subject matter by class VII students as long as you apply this online learning strategy?

Response: The ability of students is different, some understand the material provided and some students do not understand it at all and their parents help or do their work at home during online learning currently taking place.

5) How do you teachers improve the effectiveness of student learning in the midst of this Covid19 pandemic? especially for teacher and student councils to adapt to online learning?

Response: My way to increase the effectiveness of student learning in the midst of the current covid-19 pandemic is by controlling children. If there is a child who does not understand then he can ask and I will answer the question.

6) Is the attendance and assessment process for students also done online during the pandemic?

Response: The attendance process is done online during the current online learning process via whatshaap, and I will record anyone who is present.

7) How do students respond to the current online learning method?

Response: The response of students to online learning is that they prefer online learning compared to face-to-face learning because they prefer to study at home than face-to-face learning at school.

8) Can online or offline methods improve Indonesian language learning towards students' assessments, both final assessments and other assessments?

Response: The online method can improve Indonesian language learning because through online children are assisted by their parents in doing assignments so that students' grades are good.

9) What obstacles do you face when teaching online? Given that technology is being intensively developed and also increasingly sophisticated if there is one student who is less able to operate in their gadgets or devices, is there a way from the school to respond to this?

Response: From the school in responding to children who do not have mobile phones in online learning, the child is told to come directly to school and take part in face-to-face learning with the teacher. As well as assignments are still given but done at home.

10) As an Indonesian teacher, what are the advantages and disadvantages you feel when this online learning method is implemented?

Response: -The advantages of doing online learning at this time I feel there are no advantages. -The weakness that I feel during online learning at this time is that many children are not focused and there are also children who do not do the tasks that have been given by the teacher. As well as many children who are late in collecting the assignments that have been given.

## **2. Suheri, S.Pd**

He is a teacher who serves as an Indonesian language teacher at SMP Negeri 3 Lhokseumawe. In the interview process, we asked 10 questions related to the learning models applied at SMP Negeri 3 Lhokseumawe, here are the questions and answers from the interviewees:

1) What strategies do you do during online learning?

Response: The strategy used is to use android, so I as an Indonesian teacher provide a lesson from the group that we have created. After that the students repeat it at home, for those who are constrained by gadget problems, we give tolerance in collecting assignments, they can take their assignments by coming to school, so it doesn't matter being late, the most important thing is to collect them.

2) Are online learning methods/learning more effective for students and teachers?

Response: Very ineffective, because of this online learning we can't fully control the students, so we can't see their understanding directly.

3) Does the Education office provide notification of changes to the syllabus or lesson plans regarding learning models or methods to adapt learning during the pandemic?  
Response: There is no training on how we deliver material, when a pandemic occurs we take the initiative to adapt it to existing conditions

4) How is the ability to master Indonesian language subject matter by class VII students as long as you apply this online learning strategy?

Response: In my opinion, the mastery of learning materials is below 50%, because through the online method the application is very limited, maybe some can understand but the percentage is very small.

5) How do you teachers improve the effectiveness of student learning in the midst of this Covid19 pandemic? especially for teacher and student councils to adapt to online learning?

Response: So during the pandemic there is no special way, so we teachers immediately adjust to the conditions. But if I personally as an Indonesian language teacher, I often tell stories, because for me learning Indonesian requires many stories, then from these stories students determine good writing, sentences and words in the stories that have been given.

6) Is the attendance process and student assessment also done online during the pandemic?

Response: The assessment is still being carried out, so attendance is more of an assignment collection, so every student who has finished working on an assignment is considered to be present

7) How do students respond to the current online learning method?

Response: During the pandemic there were those who complained maybe because during learning from home they did not get the maximum knowledge they should. But there were also those who were happy maybe because they got a lot of free time and could be used to play

8) Can online or offline methods improve Indonesian language learning towards students' assessments, both final assessments and other assessments?

Response: According to you, if online there is no improvement, it is even more of a setback, because if students are given material it is easy to forget, one of the factors may be because in this gadget there must be a game, so when you study for 1 hour you will get bored and switch to games on gadgets

9) What obstacles do you face when teaching online? Given that technology is being intensively developed and also increasingly sophisticated if there is one student who is less able to operate in their gadgets or devices, is there a way from the school to respond to this?

Response: I think the obstacle is the quota, if we use it, we can provide information and we can teach each other how to use it, but the small internet quota is the main factor

10) As an Indonesian teacher, what are the advantages and disadvantages you feel when this online learning method is implemented?

Response: The drawback in explaining is very limited, because Indonesian really needs to provide stories and explanations in each material so that it is easily understood by students.

### **3. Ainun Mardiah, S.Pd**

He is a teacher who teaches Indonesian at SMP Negeri 7 Lhokseumawe. In the interview process we gave 10 questions related to the learning models applied at SMP Negeri 7 Lhokseumawe, here are the questions and answers from the resource persons:

1) What strategies do you do during online learning?

Response: The strategy is to use social media such as WhatsApp, so every task is sent via the WhatsApp group, besides that we also use other platforms such as Google

Classroom. Unfortunately, the learning system does not use the zoom application, so communication between teachers and students is very limited

2) Are online learning methods/learning more effective for students and teachers?  
Response: According to you, it is very ineffective, because of the lack of student participation in learning, as a teacher, you hope to be able to do a face-to-face learning system, even though face to-face is more tired, but there is a sense of satisfaction in teaching

3) Does the Education office provide notification of changes to the syllabus or lesson plans regarding learning models or methods to adapt learning during the pandemic?  
Response: There was no training, so at the beginning of the pandemic we immediately adjusted to the existing conditions

4) How is the ability to master Indonesian language subject matter by class VII students as long as you apply this online learning strategy?

Response: For their own abilities, many can do it, because as long as they are given questions, their answers are always correct, maybe because of the ease with which they can access answers from the internet, but I am not sure about their understanding in every answer they answer

5) How do you teachers improve the effectiveness of student learning in the midst of this Covid19 pandemic? especially for teacher and student councils to adapt to online learning?

Response: Mother always provides information through whatsapp groups about learning materials and schedules, Mother also does not forget to always provide learning motivation to all students so that they are always enthusiastic about learning and working on assignments even though learning is carried out in the midst of a pandemic

6) Is the attendance process and student assessment also done online during the pandemic?

Response: The routine attendance process is carried out, but we give tolerance to every student who is not absent in the schedule listed, perhaps due to limitations and tolerance for students who are late in sending assignments

7) How do students respond to the current online learning method?

Response: During the pandemic, some students are happy, maybe because they can play at home and have more free time, but there are also those who complain and are sad because the learning and knowledge they get are not optimal

8) Can online or offline methods improve Indonesian language learning towards students' assessments, both final assessments and other assessments?

Response: Quite helpful because we teachers can try new things such as sending learning videos in which there is humor but education, this makes students happy and not bored in participating in learning activities, and for academic assessments we see from Minimum Competency Access ( AKM) and moral judgments and traits we see from the collection of assignments

9) What obstacles do you face when teaching online? Given that technology is being intensively developed and also increasingly sophisticated if there is one student who is less able to operate in their gadgets or devices, is there a way from the school to respond to this?

Response: So we help each student one by one to use their respective gadgets, whenever they are confused, we immediately provide solutions for use, even we teach until the evening, and those who do not have gadgets can come to school to pick up learning materials

10) As an Indonesian teacher, what are your strengths and weaknesses? feel when this online learning method is implemented?



Response: The advantage is that we know more about technological developments, for us teachers maybe in our spare time we can do homework. The advantages for students may be that some students are happy and easy to accept learning from the material we provide, because the learning material is not boring. The drawback is that students are not optimal in receiving lessons and the most important factor is that they are constrained by internet quotas.

## CONCLUSION

The learning method is also adapted to this online period so that learning remains effective even though behind it there are many shortcomings. From the whole method, the researcher can conclude that, the method that is mostly used by the teacher council is by providing learning materials through whatsapp groups, using google classroom, and for students who do not understand or are less capable in the field of technology, they can come directly to the school. their respective schools to get direct learning. This is also enforced so that students continue to receive material during the school period. In addition, the teachers give tolerance to every student who is late in collecting assignments, because during the pandemic there are certainly many obstacles and obstacles experienced by students. However, from all these events, there are certainly benefits that can be felt by teacher councils, such as teacher councils becoming more technology literate today and getting new and modern learning models. For students, the benefits that can be felt are certainly being able to adapt to technology and become wiser in using technology. Thank you to PNPB Malikussaleh University who has funded this research with Number: 130/PPK-2/SPK-JL/2021 dated July 15, 2021.

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