

## INVESTIGATING STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF LANGUAGE TERMS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AT DEHASSEN UNIVERSITY

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DOI: 10.29300/ling.v7i1.4441

Received: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Accepted: June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Published: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has made various changes in all aspects of life, such as economy, social, politics, lifestyle and education. This can be seen from the government urging the public to limit their activities and enforce self-isolation so as to encourage increased access to technology. Technology has become a very important role and is needed in the current situation because the government urges to reduce social activities. Likewise in the field of education, with the Covid-19 pandemic, all learning processes at all education levels are conducted online. This is the basis for the findings of several previous studies related to the emergence of several new terms used by the government and socialized to the public related to pandemics. From those several previous studies, the researchers saw that there was no research related to the level of public understanding of new terms that appeared during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, this study aims to determine the level of student understanding of new terms that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic. This study used a survey method for students at University of Dehasen Bengkulu using a questionnaire. From the research result, it can be concluded that most students at University of Dehasen Bengkulu, specifically Physical Education Study Program do not know the new terms. This is because many of Physical Education students are in remote areas which are very affected by the weather and electricity, so accessing information on TV and the internet often faces obstacles.

**Keywords:** Students perceptions, language term, technology

## INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has spread throughout the country since 2019. This then has an impact on all aspects of our lives such as, social, economic, educational, and political and also lifestyle. There have been many changes in all these aspects, for example in the social sector, we are required to minimize interactions with others, many workers are laid off or lose their jobs because the government recommends lockdowns or self-isolation to reduce the

spread of the virus so that it has an impact on the economic and political situation. Apart from that, from the perspective of the world of education, there have also been several changes such as learning activities carried out at home, no activities at school, everything is carried out online, both learning and examinations. It also aims to reduce the spread of covid-19, which is one of the largest programs of the Government. Blended learning or even full online learning is applied to all students at all levels in elementary, junior high school, high school and college. One of example of online learning by using e-learning. E-learning is one of the existence of technology has changed many life aspects in covid-19 pandemic (Syakur et al., 2020).

E-learning is a form of learning model which is facilitated and supported by the use of information and communication technology. It has some characteristics including (a) interactivity; (b) independence; (c) accessibility; (d) enrichment. Sumarni & Kadarwati (2020) state that e-learning is also known that Project Based learning which is integrated to improve critical thinking skills and also creative thinking but it can be implemented in Indonesia because Indonesia still have many remote areas. Students will be difficult to access e-learning. That is why teacher usually used google classrom or whatsapp grup in online learning. Because of that the researchers wants to investigate the role of technology to students in covid-19 pandemic related to new term emerged during pandemic.

This research departs from the writer's findings regarding new terms or vocabulary in Indonesian which began to appear again during Covid-19 pandemic. Oktavia and Hayati (2020) with the results of this study indicate that there are 38 data on the characteristic patterns of the covid-19 language variants. Furthermore, Rahman Abdul (2020) in his research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a discourse analysis approach. The results of the study found that there were 34 terms with most of the existing terms still in foreign languages, almost all terms had been matched or translated into Indonesian and there were still some terms that were not widely understood by the public.

On the other hands, Alfarisy Fitri (2020) in his research with a qualitative descriptive study by analyzing the implementation of government policies in society, especially in the digital world. The results of his research show that there are 45 foreign equivalent words about corona and have been socialized through the internet. The foreign equivalent given by the government turns out to be used well by the wider community.

From those three relevant studies above, it can be concluded that the three previous studies examined new terms in Indonesian that arose as a result of pandemic Covid-19. In addition, the findings in this study only focus on new words that appear during Covid-19, no one has yet researched the understanding of these new words in society. Therefore, the researcher chose this title "Investigating Students' Perceptions of Language Terms through

Technology at Dehasen University” to find out the level of students understanding in the Physical Education study program related to new terms that emerged due to the Pandemic Covid-19.

### ***Students' Perception***

Perception is person understanding about something influenced by prior knowledge and society. Amir et al. (2000) state that Perception is an individual's interpretation. While, Corbin et al. (2020) indicated that if the individual has a good view or understanding of something or other people that also benefit to him/herself. In line with theories before, according to Hadi et al. (2017) that perception is interpretation by individuals, and influenced by internal and external factors of each individual. Based on those theories it can be concluded that perception is a person's view or understanding in his mind about something that can affect the five senses in attitude and society.

### ***Terms / Vocabulary***

A term is a word or a combination of words that functions to express the meaning, process, concept, or characteristic that is a characteristic of a particular field. According to Wiratno (2017, p. 37) the term is called vocabulary that is in a person's memory and will cause a reaction after being read and heard. Meanwhile, according to Keraf (2009, p. 80), vocabulary is the whole word that is in a person's memory and can cause a reaction when he hears reading material. Vocabulary is not only about the accuracy of the use of words and meanings, but also about whether the word is accepted or not by the general public. Mastering a language means understanding terms or vocabulary, understanding spelling, understanding the meaning of terms, and using them in sentences (Bustomi & Afriani, 2020). In interpreting words, one should understand the implied and implied meanings.

Language change and development can occur at the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic levels (Yohanes Orong, 2017). Or in other words, changes and developments that occur affect the structure of language. With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, many new terms have also emerged in Indonesian society. These terms are heavily influenced by foreign languages with their various forms, single vocabulary, word combinations, abbreviations, and some even in the form of acronyms. Foreign terms such as droplet, suspect, lockdown, social distancing, local transmission, WFH (work from home), and so on. With the large number of foreign vocabulary or terms that appear, researchers are interested in studying understanding in society, especially the perceptions of Physical

Education Study Program students at Dehasen University Bengkulu, because there has been no research related to this topic.

## **METHOD**

This type of research is descriptive quantitative. The method used is a survey by using a questionnaire. According to Sugiyono (2017), the survey method is one of the quantitative methods as follows: the survey research method is a method for obtaining data that occurs about beliefs, opinions, characteristics, behavior, variable relationships and to test several hypotheses about the sociological and psychological variables of samples taken from certain populations, data collection techniques with observations (interviews or questionnaires) are not in depth and research results tend to be generalized. In this research, the questionnaire was given to students of Physical Education Study Program in the University of Dehasen Bengkulu through Google Classroom.

### **Population and Sample**

The population in this study were all new students in the Physical Education Study Program, amounting to 115 people. This population comes from students who are in 3 classes in the Physical Education Study Program, namely Class A1, A2 and A3. The sampling technique used in this study was purposive sampling in which the sample selection was taken with a specific purpose from the researcher, namely with the consideration of students who had just started lectures and were affected by the spread of Covid-19 so that the entire learning process was carried out online.

### **Instruments**

The instruments of this study consisted of 38 questions related to new terms in emerging languages related to the Covid-19 pandemic and 4 additional questions as a reference for researchers to conclude student perceptions related to the dominant factors that determine the acceptance of these new terms by students. These 38 new terms were obtained from the results of Ocktavia and Hayati's research (2020) in the journal *Tabasa: Journal of Language, Literature and Teaching*. Of the 38 words, the term Covid-19 is classified into: 14 words in English terms, 9 words in synonyms terms, 10 words in abbreviation terms and 5 words in acronym terms.

## **Procedures**

To find out how far the Physical Education Study Program students understood new terms during the Covid-19 pandemic, there were several steps taken by researchers in collecting data, namely:

- 1) The researchers collected new terms in the language that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic, which was done by looking for research results / findings in journals or proceedings related to the new term so that the source was valid and scientific.
- 2) The researchers prepared a research instrument in the form of a questionnaire which will be filled out by students of the Physical Education Study Program via google form, because all activities related to lectures are carried out online.
- 3) The researcher asked the students as a sample in this study to fill out a questionnaire that had been prepared clearly and honestly according to their understanding.
- 4) Then the researchers analyzed the data obtained after the students filled out a questionnaire via Google form.
- 5) Finally, the researchers drew conclusions from the results obtained from the questionnaire and made the percentage level of understanding of new students in the Physical Education Study Program related to new terms that have emerged due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are influenced by technological advances.

## **Data Analysis**

The data in this study were obtained from the results of students' answer of questionnaires on Google form and then the researcher checked the correctness of students' answers about the meaning of some new terms. Then the data were analyzed by making a percentage of the results of student answers in the Physical Education Study Program, Dehasen University. According to Umrati & Wijaya (2020) data analysis is an activity carried out during the research, starting from collecting data to writing reports. Students' answer categorize into some indicators related to form of new terms. There are five types of 38 terms that are in Covid-19 pandemic which consist of 5 indicators such as: English terms, synonym terms, English abbreviation terms, Indonesian abbreviation terms and acronym terms.

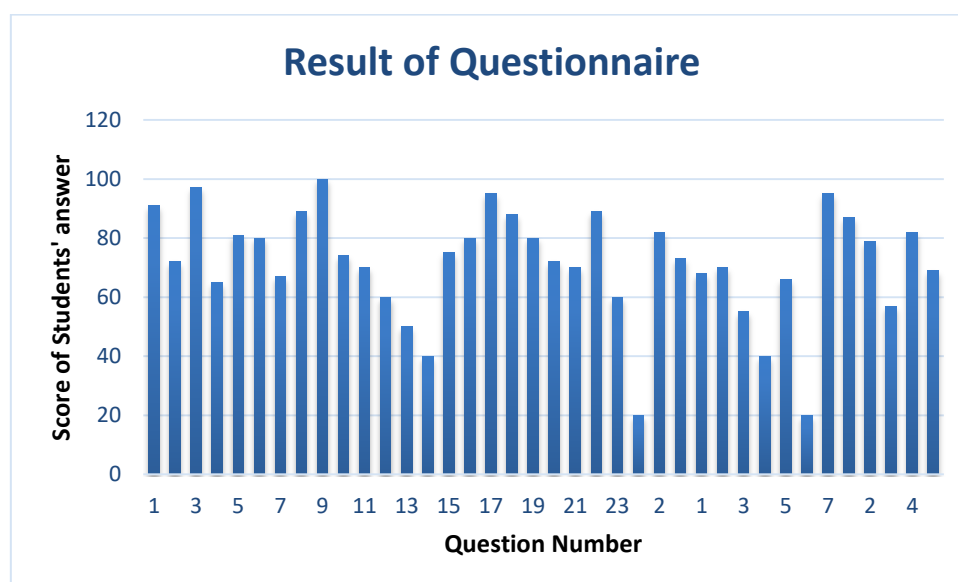
## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

The results of this study indicate that students in Physical Education Study Program at the University of Dehasen Bengkulu have occurred an online learning process. This is evidenced by the answers to the student questionnaires which show that the learning process

in all courses involves several applications, including Whatsapp groups, Google Classroom, Zoom, YouTube and Cisco webex. During Pandemic Covid-19, learning processes were carried out online and students were required to study independently by following the government's appeal, namely study from home.

Then related to student perceptions in terms of understanding new terms that emerged during pandemic Covid-19, there were 38 questions which were divided into several word forms, namely: (1) The form of English terms represented by 14 questions, (2) the form of synonymous terms consisting of 9 questions, (3) The form of the English abbreviation which consists of 3 questions, (4) The Indonesian abbreviation form which consists of 7 questions, and (5) the form of the Acronym term which consists of 5 questions. The results of questionnaires that answered by students in Physical Education Study Program in understanding new terms that emerged during Covid-19 pandemic can be seen in the graph below.



**Graph 1. Result of Questionnaire**

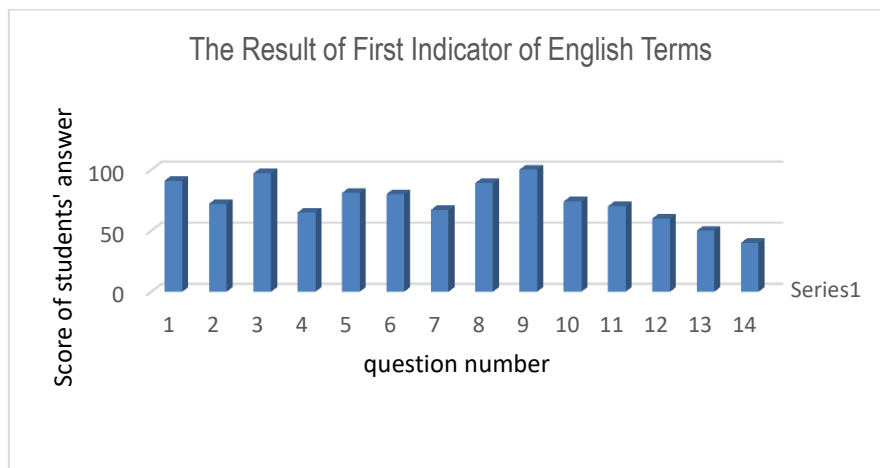
From the graph 1, it can be seen that most students in Physical Education study program already known the meaning of new terms that emerged during Covid-19 pandemic. There are only a few questions where the percentage of correctness is still very low. For further students' answers are then divided into 5 forms of terms to make it easier to find out their understanding.

**Table 1. English terms emerged Covid-19 pandemic**

Question No	Words	Meaning
1.	New Normal	Normal Baru
2.	Social Distancing	Jaga Jarak
3.	Physical Distancing	Pembatasan Fisik
4.	Lockdown	Penutupan

5.	Swab Test	Tes Usab
6.	Rapid Test	Tes Cepat
7.	Suspect	Terduga
8.	Hand sanitizer	Pensanitasi tangan/ pencuci tangan yang mengandung alkohol
9.	Local transmission	Penularan lokal
10.	Imported case	Kasus impor
12.	Panic buying	Kegiatan membeli suatu barang yang tergesa-gesa sehingga merusak tatanan ekonomi
13.	Herdy immunity	Kekebalan kelompok
14.	Flattering the curve	Pelandaian kurva

Source : Oktavia & Hayati (2020)



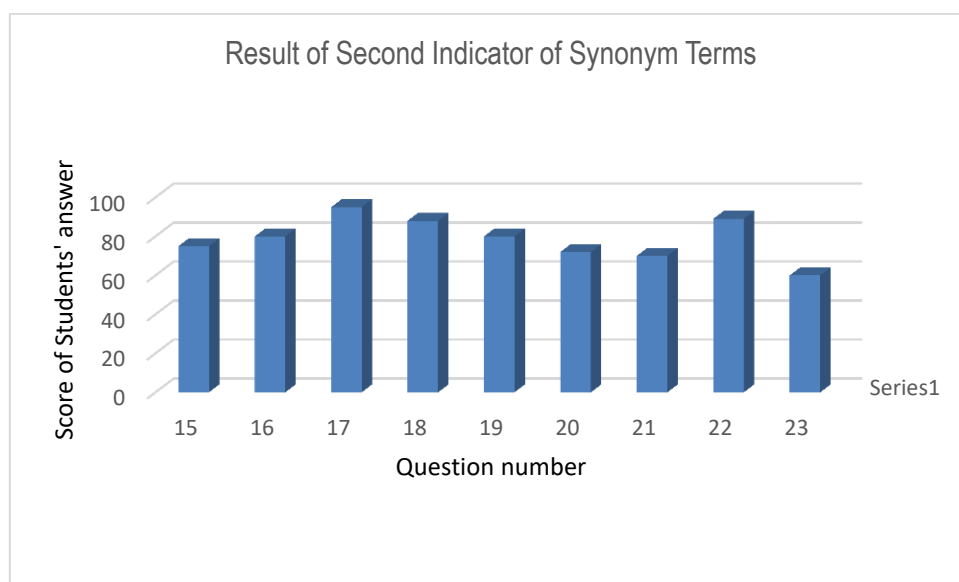
**Graph 2. Result of Students' Perception in Foreign Language Terms**

From the graph 2, only a few terms are not known by many students in Physical Education Study Program, including panic buying, herdy immunity and flattering the curve. This is indicated by the average score of the questionnaire of 74. The researcher found that this is because this term rarely appears in various news, such as on online media and social media.

**Table 2. Synonym Terms**

Question Number	Words	Meaning
1.	Isolasi Mandiri	Berdiam diri
2.	Disinfektan	Pemusnah bakteri
3.	Karantina	Penahanan
4.	Positif	Terjangkit
5.	Wabah	Peningkatan
6.	Pandemi	Penyebaran covid
7.	Antiseptik	Cairan
8.	Protokol	Aturan main
9.	Klaster	Kelompok

Source : Oktavia & Hayati (2020)



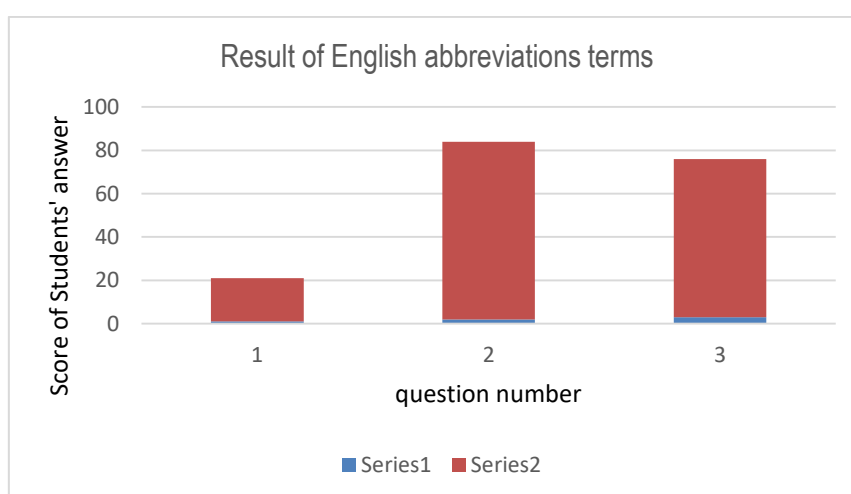
**Graph 3. Result of Students' Perception in Synonym Terms**

In the form of the second term, namely synonyms, the students' understanding in the Physical Education Study Program is already good. Synonyms form in this research represent by 9 questions in the questionnaire, the average score that students have answered correctly is 79. From the graph above, it can be seen that the majority of students in physical education Study Program already known the form of new synonyms that appeared during pandemic Covid- 19.

**Table 3. Forms of English abbreviation terms**

No	Words	Meaning
1.	WFH	Work From Home
2.	SFH	Study From Home
3.	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction

Source : Oktavia & Hayati (2020)



**Graph 4. Result of Students' Perception in English abbreviations Terms**

In the third category, the form of the English abbreviation term that appeared during pandemic Covid-19 is only represented by 3 questions in the questionnaire, namely WFH,

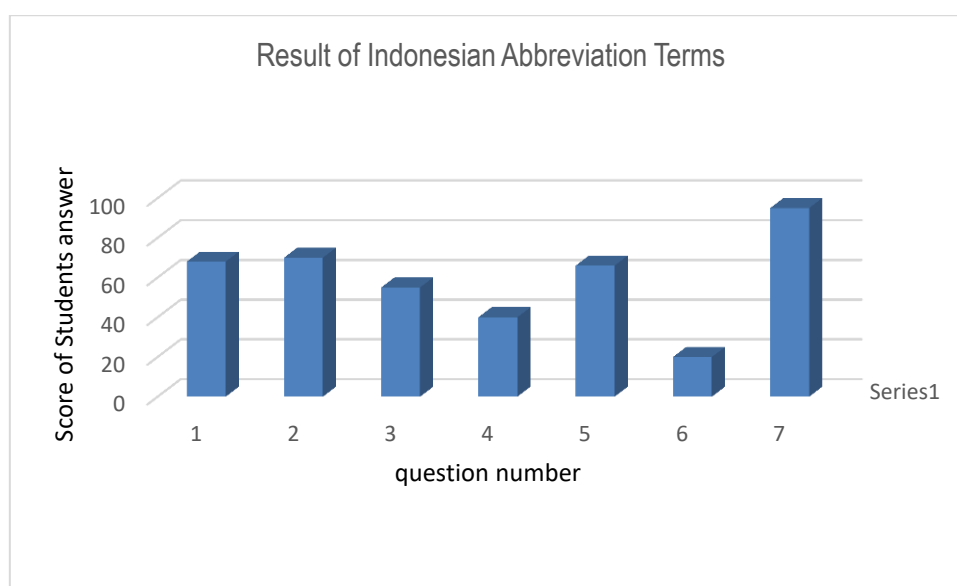


SFH, and PCR. In the three abbreviations, only the first term is not widely known by students of Physical Education study program. This is evidenced by the majority of students' answers to no. 1 is not knowing. The average score in this third category is 58.

**Table 4. Indonesian Abbreviations Terms**

No	Words	Meaning
1.	ODP	Orang dalam Pentauan
2.	PDP	Pasien Dalam Pengawasan
3.	ODR	Orang dalam Risiko
4.	OTG	Orang tanpa gejala
5.	KLB	Kejadian luar biasa
6.	PSBB	Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar
7.	APD	Alat Pelindung Diri

Source : Oktavia & Hayati (2020)



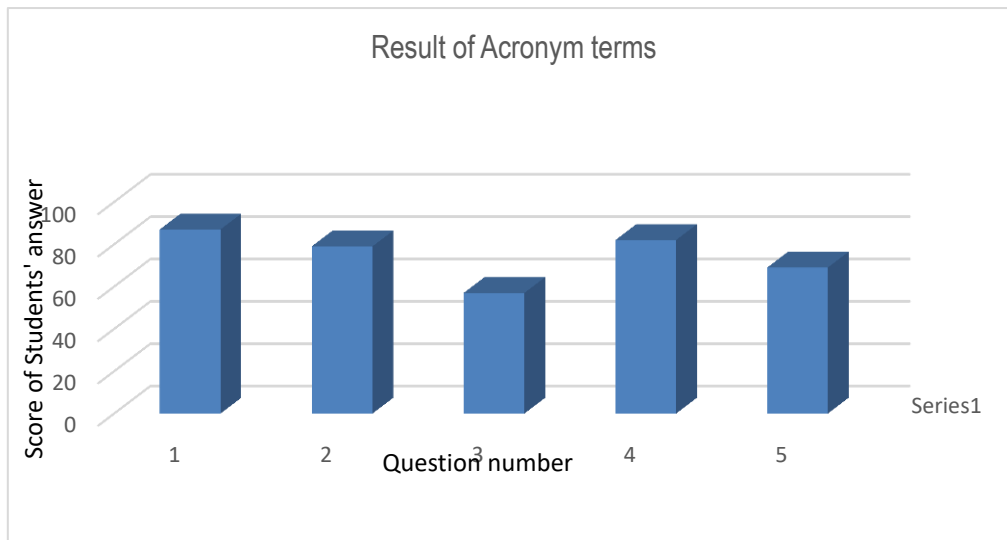
**Graph 5. Result of Students' Perception in Indonesian abbreviations Terms**

In the fourth category of graph 5, namely the form of Indonesian abbreviation terms that appeared during pandemic Covid-19 which consists of 7 questions in a questionnaire. From 115 students of Physical Education Study Program who answered correctly in the fourth category had an average score of 59. The average student did not understand the terms OTG and PSBB.

**Table 5. Acronym Terms**

No	Words	Meaning
1.	ODP	Orang dalam Pentauan
2.	PDP	Pasien Dalam Pengawasan
3.	ODR	Orang dalam Risiko
4.	OTG	Orang tanpa gejala
5.	KLB	Kejadian luar biasa

*Source : Oktavia & Hayati (2020)*



**Graph 6. Result of Students' Perception in Acronym Terms**

In this fifth category, the form of the acronym term is represented by 5 questions. The results of the answers from the students' perceptions in the Physical Education Study Program to 5 questions in this questionnaire with an average score of 75. So that most students already understand and know the meaning of the new terms that appeared during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of the research previously described, it can be concluded that the level of understanding of students in Physical Education Study Program at Dehasen University of Bengkulu towards new terms that appeared during pandemic Covid-19 is included in the good category. This can be seen from the results of questionnaires that have been answered by students via google form that the average score obtained is 71. The biggest source of information from understanding new terms during pandemic Covid-19 was obtained by students through technology, namely various social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok and YouTube.

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