EFL Students' Preferences for E-learning Platform:
A Case of Schoology and Google Classroom

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate students' preferences on the use of Schoology and Google Classroom as online platform in EFL classroom. The participants of this study consist of 20 students. The research method uses a qualitative approach with descriptive data analysis technique. The qualitative data obtained by administering questionnaire and students' reflection based on learnability, visual design, and satisfaction category were analyzed qualitatively. Learnabilty revealed that Google Classroom is the easiest platform for student to use compared to Schoology, while in terms of visual design, it revealed that Google Classroom is more attractive design than Schoology as a result, in the level of satisfaction, students were more satisfied with the features of Google Classroom than the features of Schoology.

Keywords: EFL Students, E-learning, Google Classroom, Schoology

INTRODUCTION

In this age, technology leads the way to productivity, and the internet has become the vehicle of choice for markets and educational institutions (Wani, 2013). Technology is becoming part of humans. People use technology in all aspects of their life. For a student, one of the technology tools that is often used to learn is E-learning (Najmi, Jaafar,& Paiz, 2016). The term of E-learning comes from "e" which means "electronic", E-learning incorporates all of the education activities both of teacher and students working online (Naidu, 2016). Google Classroom and Schoology are one of the e-learning platforms that are usually used in the online learning process.

In the last decade, many researchers are interested in seeking the use of Google Classroom andSchoology. Ventayen, Estira, Espinosa, Guzman, and Cabaluna (2018), conducted research to investigate the usability of Google Classroom. This study found that many of the respondents agreed that Google Docs, Sheets are easy to understand and operate, and then on the level of satisfaction of using Google Classroom, most of the respondents agreed that they would recommend it for online learning. Another study, conducted by Al-Maroof, and Al-emran, (2018) showed that Google Classroom is easy and useful, and the participants are highly motivated

toward the incorporation of such pedagogical tools in student's learning process. While Low (2017) showed that Schoology could motivate students and had a positive effect on students' learning outcomes. Then, Biswas (2013) evaluated the different prospect of Schoology supported classroom management. The result of this study shows that Schoology can be advanced tool that help school stakeholders fulfill the demand for strong literacy skills and development for students.

In the Indonesian context, Google Classroom and Schoology have been an issue in the EFL classrooms. Nurhayati, Az-Zahra, and Herlambang (2019) examined student's experience using Google Classroom and Edmodo. This study found that Edmodo is suitable for the learning process that uses full online learning, while Google Classroom is more suitable to be used as supporting / complementary learning. Another study conducted by Sibuea (2019) this research showed that Google Classroom was a satisfying LMS (Learning Management System) for blended learning in PLU course (Pengantar Linguistik Umum) because of its features, user-friendliness, and appropriateness in higher education program. Rama, Rahim, and Alberth's study (2018) shows that students gave positive responses to Schoology. The advantages of Schoology for teaching reading comprehension were responsible, collaboration, ease of use, and accessibility for students. Meanwhile, Wibowo (2016) found that Schoology can be an effective way as a medium for teaching and learning.

However, a study to explore what are students' preference for Google Classroom and Schoology is profoundly limited. Therefore, this investigation became necessary and essential as we know that both platforms can facilitate online learning although we do not know which one is the most favorable among students in the context of this present research. According to Hodges, Lockee, Trust, and Bond (2020) and Farida and Sismoro (2020), students' attitudes towards online instruction can affect the perception of the success of teaching and learning. In addition, little attention has not been paid to concerning study of EFL students' preference for Google Classroom and Schoology at one of universities in Southeast Sulawesi. Therefore, the present study can be one of the important considerations for teachers or faculties in providing appropriate e-learning platforms for students.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research implemented a qualitative approach with descriptive data analysis technique to investigate students' preferences regarding Google Classroom and Schoology. The qualitative data were analyzed using questionnaire and students' reflection based on learnability, visual design, and satisfaction category. A total of 20 students responded to the questionnaire and reflection. Questionnaire consisting of 14 statements including students' satisfaction and students' learnability of Google Classroom and Schoology adapted from (Rubin & Chisnell, 2008). While the reflection consisting of 4 questions including, learnability, visual design, and satisfaction adapted from (Rubin & Chisnell, 2008) and (Hassenzahl & Tractinsky, 2006). The researcher distributes questionnaire and reflection through Whatsapp documents periodically. After collecting questionnaire data, the researcher calculates the data, classified, and analyzed it. While the reflection is done through code in the reflection (Braun & Clarke, 2006). After coding the data, the researcher then classified into some predetermined theme, and interpret the data.

RESULT
Results from Questionnaire
The learnability and students' satisfaction for Google Classroom and Schoology

The results of this study reveal that most of the students agree that Google Classroom is an online learning media that is easy to access (Q2), this can be seen in the response of 80% of students who answered strongly agree with this statement. While Schoology has the lowest value for Q2 there are 60% of students who answered strongly agree with Q2. Moreover, students also agree that the display of Google classroom is easy to understand, it can be seen from 75% of students who answered strongly agree with this statement. While Schoology has the lowest value compared with Google Classroom for Q1, there are 50% who answered agree that the display of Schoology is easy to understand.

For the category of satisfaction indicated that most of the students answered neutral both Google Classroom and Schoology. It can be seen in Q8 that states they are study harder because of Google Classroom/Schoology, there are 60% students who answered neutrally of this statement and Schoology got 75% students who answered neutrally for Q8. Meanwhile, the percentage of students who answered strongly agree was quite small, it can be seen in Q13 that state the grading system in Schoology helps them to monitor their performance during class, there are 30% of students who answered strongly agree and for Google Classroom there are 15% students who answered strongly agree for this statement. Further, the percentage of disagreeing was quite low, it can be seen in Q10 Google Classroom/Schoology makes students more excited to do the quiz, there are 5% students who answered disagree, and for Schoology, there are 10% students who answered disagree for Q10. Moreover, students who answered strongly disagree were the lowest both Google Classroom and Schoology, it can be seen in Q11 that state the notification of Schoology/Google Classroom helps students to manage their assignment, there are 10% students who answered strongly disagree for this statement, and for Google Classroom there are 5% students who answered strongly disagree.

Results from reflection
The learnability for Google Classroom and Schoology

The term of learnability related to how easy an application or website is to use. The following reflection exhibits that most of the students preferred to use Google Classroom than Schoology. It was because Google Classroom was easier to log in, the features of Google Classroom were very simple and easy to understand, and Google Classroom also uses Bahasa. In addition, most of the students argued that Schoology was difficult and complicated to log in because when they first logged in in Schoology they needed to fill some forms before log in and Schoology is use English. The following are students' statements for Schoology. This can be seen in the following excerpts:

"Google Classroom is easier to log in than Schoology, Google Classroom only requires an email to login and after filling in the email we can automatically log in in Google Classroom"(ST.5)
"Google Classroom is used Bahasa so it it easier to use the application" (ST.8)
"I prefer to use Google Classroom because Google Classroom is simple and easy to understand"(ST.7)
"honestly at the first time, I accessed Schoology I had trouble to logging in" (ST.3).

"at the first time I join in Schoology all of the features are used English it is makes me little confused" (ST.8)"

Students' preference related to the visual design between Google Classroom and Schoology.

The data reveal that most of the students argued that they preferred for Google Classroom appearance than Schoology. It was because Google Classroom has a different color and different picture for each course than Schoology which has monotonous colors. In addition, some students argued that Schoology has a more attractive appearance than Google Classroom because Schoology has a contemporary design, Schoology is tidier and more organized, and Schoology has a different icon for each of its features. The following are students' statements for the appearance of Google Classroom and Schoology.

"in each course, Google Classroom has a different color which makes it easier for me to distinguish between my course" (ST.14)

"Google Classroom is more interesting than Schoology because the image and colors of each course were different"(ST.10)

"while the appearance of Schoology, in my opinion, is a little boring because the colors were less varied"(ST 8).

"Schoology has a very aesthetic and contemporary design" (ST.3)

"I think, the appearance of Schoology is more attractive because the initial appearance and inside were more neat and organized" (ST.4)

Students' satisfaction for the features of Google Classroom and Schoology.

Measurement of satisfaction includes aspects of the benefits obtained from users. Based on the data in the reflection it is indicated that most of the students prefer Google Classroom than Schoology. It is because Google Classroom notifications provide a lot of information especially information about assignments and materials given by the lecturer. Then, sending assignments from Google Classroom is easier than Schoology, Schoology features are very complicated and difficult to understand. Besides, Schoology does not provide a feature to delete an assignment that has been mistakenly submitted by students. While, for Google Classroom students can delete their assignment if students mistakenly send their assignment. In addition, one of the students prefers Schoology it is because Schoology has many more features than Google Classroom. This can be seen in the following excerpts:

"Google Classroom notification's really helped me to find out about the assignment from the lecturer"(ST.2)

"the features in Google Classroom were very simple and easy for me to get information or collect assignment"(ST.4)

" While, Schoology, we have to open the course, choose the task list menu, open it, and then upload it" (ST.7)

"Schoology features are little complicated" (ST.3)

"Google Classroom has an option to delete assignment if I sent the wrong assignment, but in Schoology there is no features to delete assignment" (ST.7)

"in my opinion, a very helpful features is Schoology because Schoology provides many features"(ST.6).

DISCUSSION

Based on the findings of the questionnaire analysis, it indicates that most of the students prefer for Google Classroom than Schoology. Most of the students agree that they are easy to understand the features of Google Classroom than Schoology. In addition, they are agreeing that they are easy to find out the latest information on Google Classroom through notification of Google Classroom. Janzen (2014) stated that Google Classroom is designed purposefully to simplify the instructional interface and options use for delivering and tracking assignments; communication with the entire course or individual is simplified through the announcement, email, and push notification. Further, in terms of the learnability or the ease with which students access Google Classroom and Schoology. It is indicates that the findings of students' reflection found that Google Classroom is more accessible to students than Schoology. It can be seen most of the participants stated that the first they opened Google Classroom they only need to enter their email to make a Google Classroom account. Other than that, even the network was unstable students still can access Google Classroom whether it's sending an assignment, do the assignment, or downloading the material from the lecturer.

However, this is different with Schoology most of the participants state that the first they opened Schoology they were a little confused to logging because there were several things they have to fill in before logging to Schoology. They need to register before making a Schoology account and fill out some form with students' information such as first name, last name, email, email password, confirm password, and their birthday. Then, the participants in this study argue that when the network is unstable in Schoology, the task that sent was very slow to be submitted, so that sometimes they were note to be late in sending an assignment. Even, another researcher found that students easily access Schoology through their mobile phones, and convenient for students to do the activities in Schoology (Low, 2017).

In addition, based on the result of this study shows that most of the participants agree that Google Classroom is easier to access than Schoology. It is in line with Iftakhar (2016) which agree that Google Classroom is easily accessible and useable to instructors and learners in both a face-to-face learning environment and a fully online environment. In addition, based on the students' satisfaction or the benefits that students get while using Google Classroom indicate that Google Classroom features help students a lot during online learning than Schoology. According to Sukmawati and Nensia (2019) state that Google Classroom is effective for both learners and faculty members due to its features. One of the features that the students prefer is Google Classroom notification's which always appears on the students' smartphone panel. According to Harjanto and Sumarni (2019), the use of Google Classroom is helpful for students engagement it is because its ability to give notification through the email account of the students, so it helps students to get the latest information.

Other than that, the other feature that the students prefer in Google Classroom is the feature to delete assignments if students mistakenly send their assignment, all of the systems on Google Classroom that use Bahasa, and the first display of Google Classroom provide the class choices and the name of the class lecturer. In addition, when compared with Schoology in this study most of the participants argue that Schoology notifications only appears when they open the Schoology applications. Actually, the participants' statements were wrong it is because Schoology has a

notification but most of the participants do not activate it in the Schoology setting as Ardi (2020), states that the Schoology account can be managed to receive notifications about new materials, comments, and updates.

Further, the participants argue that Schoology does not provide a feature to delete an assignment that has been mistakenly submitted by students, Schoology only provides resubmit. Actually, resubmit on Schoology is more beneficial for teachers and students than Google Classroom. It is because resubmitted on Schoology shows a draft of student assignments so that teachers can see students' progress. While, in Google Classroom students can delete their assignment if students mistakenly send their assignment so that the teacher can not see students progress. Then, other the weakness of Schoology based on the students' opinion is the system on Schoology use English, and in the first appearance of Schoology, does not provide the class choices and the name of the class lecturer Schoology only provide recent activity. Moreover, in this study, most the students prefer to use Google Classroom because its features are more helpful. It is in line with Iftakhar (2016) that state Google Classroom provides a set of powerful features that make it an ideal tool to use with students.

CONCLUSION

The finding shows that most of the participants prefer to use Google Classroom than Schoology. Based on students' learnability of Google Classroom, reveal that most of the students prefer for Google Classroom than Schoology because Google Classroom is simple and easy to understand, Google Classroom is easy to access, and Google Classroom is easy to log in. While Schoology is difficult to access, and Schoology is difficult to log in. In addition, based on students' satisfaction, it can be seen most of the students prefer for Google Classroom than Schoology. It is beacuse Google Classroom notification help students to manage their assignment, sending assignment via Google classroom is easy. While, Schoology notification sometimes is not appear in the panel of students phone. Moreover, based on vsiual design of Google Classroom and Schoology, it can be seen that the appearance of Google Classroom is more attractive because it has a different color for each course. While, Schoology have monotonous colors.

However, some participants prefer to use Schoology, they argue that Schoology has a quiz that can be seen its value after doing the quiz, Schoology's notification help them to see the due date of the assignment, Schoology has a contemporary design, Schoology is tidier and more organized, Schoology has a different icon for each of its features, Schoology has a lot of features than Google Classroom. At the end of the conclusion, it can be said that most students prefer to use Google Classroom, which is simple and easy to understand than Schoology which is difficult and complicated for student to understand.

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