



Discord as Learning Platform: A Review of Literature

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk me-review persepsi para guru dan siswa terhadap penggunaan Discord sebagai media pembelajaran online. Sejak terjadi nya pandemi Covid-19 seluruh kegiatan belajar mengajar telah dialihkan menjadi pembelajaran online. Discord dianggap mampu menjadi salah satu alternatif dalam pembelajaran online. Penelitian ini mereview 14 (empat belas) artikel yang dipublikasikan sejak tahun 2020. Terdapat 3 (tiga) artikel tentang persepsi guru dan 11 (sebelas) artikel tentang persepsi siswa tentang Discord. Baik guru dan siswa merasa Discord merupakan alat yang menarik untuk digunakan dalam Kelas online, meskipun terdapat beberapa siswa yang mengalami kesulitan dengan koneksi internet yang diakibatkan oleh wilayah tempat tinggal. Discord dianggap mudah untuk digunakan, bahkan bagi siswa yang baru mengenal aplikasi ini.

Kata Kunci: Covid-19; Perselisihan; Pembelajaran Online.

Abstract

The aim of this study is to review the teachers and students' perception toward Discord as an online learning platform. Every aspect of teaching and learning has been moved to online learning since the Covid-19 pandemic. Discord is thought to have the potential to be an alternative for online education. Fourteen articles published since 2020 were reviewed for this study. Three articles discussed how teachers felt about Discord, and eleven articles discussed how students felt about it. Both teachers and students find Discord as challenging tools in online classroom although there are some students face difficulty with internet connections owing to the area where they live. Even for students who are unfamiliar with the application, Discord is thought to be simple to use.

Keywords: Discord, Covid-19, Online Learning.

1. INTRODUCTION

The swift advancement of technology has had a significant impact on various fields. To have variety in the teaching and learning process, a variety of tools that might enhance education become essential. E-learning has become an increasingly important way of learning and teaching in recent decades and has been recognized as an effective learning method (Dayana, Andre & Arenas, 2020). Technology and education are different things, but in this modern era, we all can see that these two things are inseparable and become necessities (Ramadhan & Albaekani, 2021). Furthermore, Macleod et al. in Craig & Kay (2022) stated that the effectiveness of the learning environment will also depend on the educational technology selected.

Virtual Learning Environments is a phrase for learning conditions using technological help such as the internet, the web, and applications or platform (Ramadhan & Albaekani, 2021). While teachers may be familiar with web-based programs like Doodle, Google Classroom, and Zoom, Discord is something else entirely. Discord, according to Raihan & Putri, 2018; Rakhmawan et al., 2020; Wahyuningsih & Baidi, 2021, is essentially an Android-based program that is commonly used as a means of communication among gamers. Nonetheless, Discord is regarded as a well-known app among students because it is a program that is well-known to gamers.

Discord offered several features that not only users can do texting but also communicate by voice event video. Using discord application may positively influence the acquisition of EFL vocabulary (Odinokaya et al., 2021). Whereas Arifianto & Izzudin (2021) stated that discord can be used as an alternative online learning media, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Discord application could be an alternative media in online lectures (Jannah & Hentasmaka, 2021). The discord application is easy to download. Users can download this application in a small size, so it can be downloaded both by mobile phone and another device like laptop/PC.

Since Covid-19, educators are still trying to figure out how to teach students using a range of resources in the most effective method. More studies have been conducted on the attitudes of educators and learners on Discord as a teaching tool. One program that most gamers are familiar with is Discord. Discord is one of the media used by several organizations to facilitate online learning. Discord is a gaming app, so it's important to consider whether it's a useful tool for assisting with the teaching and learning process from the point of view of both users' teachers and learners.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

A comprehensive literature search was conducted through google scholar database to identify relevant studies. A restricted search filter was used to find only studies that have been published after 2020. In addition, reference lists of studies identified from the initial search were used to retrieve additional relevant studies. The search terms used were discord, online learning and E-learning. It was decided to create an inclusion and exclusion set to choose the most pertinent papers for the final evaluation. A total of 29 articles were collated with google scholar. Only 14 articles were selected for the final review. The abstract and title determined the final choice for the literature review.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Teachers’ Perception of Discord in Learning Process

There was a total of 129 participants from 3 (three) articles reviewed. They are 21 (twenty-one) teachers of UPG University of Ploeisti Romania (Bachelor and Master level), 2 (two) schoolteachers in Klaten Region Central Jawa Indonesia, and 106 (one hundred six) institutions teachers.

Table 1. Teachers’ Perception of Discord in Learning Process

No	Title	Objective	Participants
1.	Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: Online Education Community, Based on Discord	The experience of using discord for online class	21 teachers of UPG University of Ploeisti Romanis (Bachelor and Master Level)
2.	Scrutinizing the Potential Use of Discord Application as a Digital Platform Amidst Emergency Remote Learning	To engage in an emergency remote learning with an effective digital platform to assist teaching and learning activities	2 schoolteachers in Klaten Region Central Jawa Indonesia
3.	Teachers’ Feedback on Using Discord as an Online Learning Platform	a. to what extent discord effective as an e-learning platform b. the advantages of discord over other applications	106 institutions teachers in Vietnam

Source: Table

Discord was initially utilized to replace Slack to foster an online community of Computer Science students and alumni, according to a study conducted to 21 teachers at UPG University of Ploeisti, Romania. However, since the pandemic, several of Discord’s features –like voice, screen casting, and chat– are utilized for online learning. Additionally, online classes can incorporate the Discord characteristics of a channel, where users can share a screen or an application window in addition to exchanging text messages and attaching different files. (Vladoiu & Constantinescu, 2020)

The study findings, which involved two teachers from Klaten Region in Central Jawa Indonesia, demonstrated that the Discord app can be utilized for learning and teaching both inside and outside of the classroom. Users may send messages, exchange files, and perform other credential-related tasks with Discord. As a result, using the Discord app for online learning was engaging and participatory. (Wahyuningsih & Baidi, 2021)

Discord is a well-known app that is useful for setting up voice and text channels for online teaching and learning platforms, according to a study that examined 106 institutions’ teachers’ perceptions of the program’s fundamental features. Not only does it have flawless screen and voice quality sharing, but Breakroom has also received recognition for its superb design. (Uong, Nguyen, & Nguyen, 2022)

3.2 Students’ Perception of Discord in Learning Process

There was total of 139 Students of Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana (PUCPR), 44 Arabic Literature Department Students Faculty of Letters State of University of Malang, 6 students of 12 grade Senior High School SMAN 1 Cikarang

Timur, 80 Foreign Language and Linguistics/Languages and Intercultural Communication Students in Peters the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, 3rd semester of English Education Department Students at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik, 105 English Department STKIP PGRI Jombang Students, 20 students of University of Sciences and Humanities, 165 Bachelor and Master Computer Science Students of UPG University of Ploiesti Romania, 81 students Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying of University Teknologi MARA Malaysia, 122 Computer Science of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Students, 10 third year Computer Science Malardalens University Students in Sweden, 58 Engineering and non-Engineering Students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia are part of the study discussed.

Table 2. Students' Perception of Discord in Learning Process

No	Title	Objective	Participants
1.	Using Discord as an Extension of the Emergency Remote Teaching Classroom During the Covid-19 Pandemic	a. the relationship between education and remote experiences on digital platform "discord" b. the Impression and Feedback of the Student about the Platform	139 (one hundred thirty-nine) students of Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana (PUCPR)
2.	Students' Acceptance of Discord as an Alternative Online Learning Media	To determine students' acceptance of discord as alternative teaching and learning media	44 (forty-four) Arabic Literature Department Students, Faculty of Letters, State University of Malang
3.	Student's Response toward Utilizing Discord Application as an Online Learning Media in Learning Speaking at Senior High School	a. the effectiveness of the discord application b. the student's motivation to learn speaking skills while learning using discord application	6 students in grade 12 of Senior High School SMAN 1 Cikarang Timur
4.	Using the Discord Application to Facilitate EFL Vocabulary Acquisition	The role of discord application in teaching and learning EFL vocabulary	80 Foreign Language and Linguistics/Languages and Intercultural Communication Students in Peters the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University
5.	Using Discord to Facilitate Students in Teaching Learning Process during Covid-19 Outbreak	To analyze online learning activity using discord application to facilitate students in online learning process	3 rd semester students of English Education Department at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik
6.	The Use of Discord Application in Virtual English Learning: An Investigation on Students' Perception	Students' perception of virtual learning in using discord application	105 English Department STKIP PGRI Jombang Students

7.	Design of the Discord Application as an E-Learning Tool at the University of Sciences and Humanities	To use alternative tools of another communication tool for e-learning	20 students of University of Sciences and Humanities
8.	Promoting "Discord" as a Platform for Learning Engagement during Covid-19 Pandemic	The potential, the effectiveness and satisfaction of using discord as a digital learning tool among higher education students	81 students Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying of University Teknologi MARA Malaysia
9.	Discord Platform as an Online Learning Environment for Emergencies	Modern distance learning systems are not well developed for use in emergencies	122 Computer Science of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Students
10.	Designing Online Class Using Discord Based on Community of Inquiry Framework	How a gamer's platform discord can be used as an interactive online class	58 Engineering and non-Engineering Students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
11.	Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: Online Education Community, Based on Discord	The experience of using discord for online class	165 Bachelor and Master Level of Computer Science Students UPG University of Ploiesti Romania

Source: Table

The fact that discord was created as a virtual socializing platform is one potential advantage of synchronous online learning, according to a first study conducted with 139 students at Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana (PUCPR). Most students are familiar with Discord and have chosen it over other options. Additionally, the participants frequently use Discord to get together with their colleagues outside of class. But the report claims that the participants experienced certain technical difficulties, such as trouble with audio and video devices and connectivity (Moro et. Al., 2021)

A survey of 44 students in the Arabic Literature Department revealed that a larger percentage of them had never utilized the Discord app. Nonetheless, most respondents believed that the Discord software is helpful for learning, in part because it uses internet bandwidth efficiently. Moreover, Discord is simple to use and obtain. Discord also boasts a visually appealing user interface (Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021).

Six students from SMAN 1 Cikarang High School in grade 12 responded to Discord by letting others know that the text chat channel can be utilized to broadcast or announce announcements to all students in the Discord classroom. In contrast, voice chat tools can enhance student engagement through online presentations or debates. Additionally, the voice chat encouraged the kids to practice speaking English and gave them a platform to ask questions and share their thoughts (Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021).

Most study participants – eighty students from Peters the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University majoring in Foreign Languages,

Linguistics/Languages, and Intercultural Communication – said that the Discord app encourage their students to interact more actively and with greater engagement with their teachers and peers. Discord is also used for other community-building activities like socializing (Krylova, Rubtsova & Ivanovna, 2021).

The 3rd semester students of English Education Department at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik, mostly agrees that during the online learning process, the Discord interface was very user-friendly and straightforward. Additionally, the study demonstrated that Discord allowed for meaningful learning experiences by facilitating communication and the sharing of material files. In a nutshell, Discord provides students with an engaging and interactive learning environment, which motivates them (Ardiyansah, Batubara & Auliya, 2021).

There are 105 STKIP PGRI Jombang students in the English Department presented English presentation via Discord. According to the survey, nearly every participant concurred that using Discord while presenting has certain advantages/ Furthermore, the outcomes demonstrated how simple it was to use the Discord application for practice, simulation, and presentations. However, an unstable network connection may have occurred from an issue with the network connection in the rural region (Jannah & Hentasmaka, 2021).

Most participants in the trial, which involved 20 students from the University of Sciences and Humanities, reported no problems with the application's installation, server connection, audio program, or screen presentation, and it was recommended that the university utilize it (Dayana et al., 2020).

A study conducted by Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia's Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying with 81 students revealed that theoretical lessons are easily understood using Discord, and that discussion on Discord foster deeper learning. Any questions the students have about the lecture video on Discord can be asked directly during the conversation and will be stored in the channer for future use while they watch it. Additionally, learning sessions with instructors and peers are adaptable (Ayob et al., 2022).

Discord utilizes little system resources and is compatible with nearly all operating systems, according to a study conducted by 122 Bohdan Khmelnytsky Computer Science students. Nonetheless, users must install the program, download it from the official website, and complete the registration pricess. In summary, Discord offers a user interface that is simple to use, reliable operation, and high-quality conversation (Kruglyk et al., 2020).

The survey, which features 58 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia students, both engineering and non-engineering, revealed that most participants were familiar with Discord. In contrast to engineering students, non-engineering students felt that using Discord for the first time was challenging. Meanwhile, engineering students found that utilizing Discord was enjoyable and comfortable (Ghazali, 2021).

A study conducted by UPG University of Ploeisti Romania's 165 Bachelor's and master's level Computer Science students revealed that most of the participants were more engaged with one another. Further evidence that they are becoming faster and deeper than they were before utilizing Discord was also shown. Moreover, despite the challenges, the educational process has proceeded gradually (Vladoiu & Constantinescu, 2020).

Online learning quickly replaced in-person instruction due to Covid-19 (Mseleku, 2020). More educators need to use their creativity and create applications to enhance the teaching and learning process. Discord is now considered a viable option. Apart from applications offered, Discord as one of application that familiar among gamers become an option for teachers in supporting teaching and learning process. The results of the study indicated that the online classroom could benefit from a number of these characteristics. Discord allows users to share a screen or window, send messages, and exchange files – features that are seen to be beneficial for educators. This is consistent with the previous studies, Ramadhan & Albaekani, 2021; Uong et al., 2022; Wahyuningsih & Baidi, 2021, which found that more educators thought that employing Discord may improve the process of teaching and learning

From the students' side, Discord is helpful for learning, starting from the application installation that takes small storage and uses internet bandwidth efficiently (Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021; Kruglyk, 2020; Moro et al., 2021). Moreover, Discord is simple to use and obtain. The features of voice chat encouraged the students to ask questions and share thoughts to have an interactive learning environment especially because there is no time limitation in using Discord. This is in accordance with what Dewantara (in Ramadhan & Albaekani: 2021); Jannah & Hentasmaka, 2021. Furthermore, with screen share features, students can have practice, simulation and presentation. Since Discord is familiar among gamers, the features and display are designed to be attractive, enjoyable and comfortable for students. Nonetheless, some research indicates that students experienced rejection because of outside variables like a poor internet connection or a low-end gadget (Ardiyansyah et al., 2021; Arifianto & Izzudin, 2021; Jannah & Hentasmaka, 2021).

4. CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of the learning environment will also depend on the educational technology selected (Macleod et al. in Craig & Kay, 2022). The use of Discord as tools in teaching and learning process is not only interesting for teachers but also students. Both teachers and Students agreed that Discord may allow the online classroom to have interactive learning environment by having challenging practices. However, the review of this study only focused on Discord and conducted through 'google scholar' only. It suggested for further research to review other applications that might be challenging for teaching and learning process so that teachers have more option in stimulating and motivating the students.

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