

Google Drive as Instructional Media to Facilitate Students' Assignment Submission: Opportunities and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

In the 21st century of learning, the usage of technology has become an important role in education. Google drive, as media in collecting assignment, is able to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of student assignment management. This study aims to explore the use of Google Drive in the submission of student assignments in English language learning. This study used a descriptive qualitative method by using questionnaire as a technique in data collection. The subjects of this study were 50 English department students. The results showed that besides assisting students in assignment collection management and increasing technological literacy, the use of technology also helps improve student collaboration and independent learning. However, it also found that the challenges faced by the students are not only related to accessibility, but also the lack of understanding Google Drive features, thus it makes some students are errors in uploading assignments. This study concluded that Google Drive can help to improve the quality of English language learning with some adjustments related to technical constraints and understanding of Google Drive features need to be overcome to make the assignment collection process goes smoothly and effectively.

Key words: Google Drive; Instructional media; Students' Assignment; Independent Learning; ELT

INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology has had a huge impact on various sectors of life, including education. In the 21st century, education does not only focus on content and pedagogy, but also on the application of technology to improve teaching and learning experiences. The teachers must comprehend the three main components (content, pedagogy and technology) in enhancing learning quality (Mishra & Koehler, 2021). It makes technology become an integral part of the learning process as the use of technology supports flexible and personalized learning. It helps to create the interactive and apply collaboration-based (Kukulka-Hulme, 2021; Vooght & Roblin, 2021) One technology that is widely utilized in education is cloud-based platforms such as Google Drive. This media allows teachers and students to access, store and share various files and learning materials online. The use of Google Drive in English learning provides

various conveniences, especially in the collection of student assignments, which facilitates the process of collecting, assessing and providing feedback efficiently.

English learning involves different types of tasks such as writing essays, making presentations, or listening to conversations. This can be optimized by utilizing digital media. Digital technology can make the assignment collection process more organized and efficient (Liu & Chiu, 2020; Zhao & Liu, 2020). One of the main obstacles students experience in conventional learning is the collection of assignments that can be time-consuming and require inefficient manual processes (Bates, 2020; Henderson & Romeo, 2020; Hsu & Ching, 2021; Jamil & Ramli, 2022). By using Google Drive, students can submit assignments in a fast and timely manner without geographical or technical barriers, provided they have access to adequate devices and internet. It also provides room for students to learn more independently and manage their time better (Alam & Shah, 2022; Sari & Sukardi, 2023).

In addition to the ease of assignment submission, Google Drive offers various collaboration features that are very beneficial in English language learning. The sharing and collaboration features in Google Drive allow students to work together in groups to complete assignments, make comments and give each other feedback (Cheng & Tsai, 2021; Zhu & Liu, 2022). This leads to increased interaction between students, which contributes to the development of communication and cooperation skills that are crucial in English language learning. This collaboration is not only limited to individual tasks, but can also be done in group projects, such as the creation of presentations or group discussions (Henderson & Romeo, 2020).

However, the use of technology in education is not free from challenges. One of the main challenges in implementing Google Drive in assignment collection is accessibility. Some students may experience difficulties in accessing this platform due to device limitations or unstable internet connection issues (Wang & Li, 2023). In addition, some students may not be familiar with the use of this digital platform, so they need time to adapt (Chen & Chen, 2020). Therefore, there needs to be a solution to ensure that all students, regardless of their access conditions, can make the most of this technology.

Nonetheless, the benefits derived from using Google Drive in student assignment collection far outweigh the challenges. In the context of English language learning, assignment submission using Google Drive can help students develop their writing, speaking, listening and reading skills through a variety of assignments that can be customized to their individual needs. In addition, the use of this platform also allows students to be more creative in completing assignments, as they can include different types of materials such as images, audio and video in the assignments they submit.

This research aims to explore the opportunities and challenges of using Google Drive to facilitate students in assignment submission in the English learning process. Thus, this research is expected to provide new insights into the use of technology in English language learning as well as provide recommendations for further implementation in educational contexts.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Related Study

A number of studies on the utilization of Google Drive have been conducted. In studies related to the advantages of Google Drive utilization Azizah & Fadillah (2023) and Sari & Sukardi (2023) in their studies revealed that in English language learning, Google Drive supports student learning in terms of storing subject matter, collecting assignments and collaboration between students. Then, Kurniawan & Hidayat (2022) and Cheng, L., & Tsai (2021) in their studies also found that this media supports collaborative learning in English language teaching, where students work together on group assignments and share course materials in the form of documents that can be edited together.

Furthermore, studies related to the influence of Google Drive in improving students' English language skills, Pallof & Pratt (2020) found the Google Docs feature on Google Drive improved their writing skills by writing together and providing immediate feedback. Moreover, Rahmawati & Tanjung (2022) found the collaboration feature on Google Drive helped improve students' speaking and writing skills. In addition, studies related to challenges in accessing technology are also a major concern in the implementation of Google Drive, as in the research of Nugroh, (2023) and Henderson & Romeo (2020), revealed that although Google Drive offers convenience, not all students have adequate access to use this platform, especially in areas with limited internet infrastructure.

Google Drive

Google Drive is one of the platforms developed by Google in 2012 (Google inc., 2012). Google Drive has a cloud-based storage service that allows users to store various types of files on the internet and access them from anywhere and any device connected to the internet (Surahman et al. (2023). This service provides 15 GB of free storage capacity for each Google account, which can be used to store files such as documents, photos, videos, and more. Google Drive also allows users to synchronize files between devices, so that stored files can be easily accessed anytime and anywhere. In addition to the storage function, Google Drive has integration with various Google productivity apps, such as Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides and Google Forms. In learning, these apps help to share information between teachers and students. These apps allow

users to create, edit and collaborate on documents directly without the need for additional software (Guerrero, 2023).

Google Drive as Instructional Media in ELT

The application of technology in English language learning in particular can provide significant benefits, given the importance of language skills in an increasingly connected global world. English language learning in the digital era requires teachers to utilize technology so that students can have a more engaging, interactive and relevant learning experience (Hocky, 2020). Google Drive, as one of the effective media, can be used to collect students' assignments, allowing for more flexible teaching and learning. In addition, Google drive also allows students to access their assignment files and re-upload them upon completion, thus supporting students in terms of independent learning (Choi & Lee, 2021). Google Drive helps to create a more interactive, collaborative and flexible learning environment and greatly supports the development of students' English language skills.

Facilitating Students' Assignment and Independent Learning with Google Drive

In the context of assignment collection, Google Drive provides benefits for both students and teachers. Students can submit assignments easily without being hampered by distance, time, or technical constraints such as limited stationery and physical media (Ally, 2020). They can also access assignments and teaching materials anytime and anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet. This provides flexibility for students to learn more flexibly. On the other hand, Google Drive can also facilitate independent learning by providing various tools and features that support the learning process flexibly and efficiently. Independent learning is a process in which students organize and manage their own learning without relying entirely on direct teaching from teachers (Ceylan, 2021). Google Drive strongly supports self-directed learning by providing easy-to-access tools, allowing time flexibility, and the opportunity to organize, collaborate and access materials independently. This helps students to take more responsibility for their own learning and creates a more personalized and effective learning experience.

METHOD

Design and Sample

This research uses qualitative. Qualitative research provides deep insight into social phenomena, human experiences, and the contexts that influence them. Qualitative research is an approach used to understand the meaning, experience, and perspective of humans in a particular context (Creswell, 2004). The research was conducted at the university of Muhammadiyah Makassar. which implemented the use of Google Drive in the collection of English assignments. The research subjects consisted of 50 students

in the English education study program.

Instrument and Procedures

Data collection was conducted through interviews. The interview questions were designed with reference to the research focus, namely students' experience in using Google Drive in facilitating the assignments collection and students' independent learning. Student interviews were conducted to explore students' perceptions regarding the benefits and constraints of using Google drive media in learning, especially in collecting assignments. Furthermore, interviews were also conducted to explore students' experiences of how the use of Google drive helped foster independent learning.

Data Analysis

Data on the use of Google Drive in English language learning was analyzed based on the stages of Miles et al. (2014), starting with data collection through interviews with students regarding their experiences in using Google Drive to do assignments and collaborate. At the data reduction stage, the researcher grouped the data based on key themes such as ease of access, collaboration, time management, and technical difficulties faced by students. Irrelevant data was filtered to focus on significant information. Furthermore, at the data presentation stage, the researcher organized the data in the form of narratives or tables to illustrate patterns and findings related to the benefits and challenges of using Google Drive. Finally, the researcher drew conclusions based on the analysis conducted and verified the results by comparing the data obtained from interviews, observations, and other references, to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the interview results, it was found that the use of Google Drive provides convenience for students in collecting English assignments. Most students find the app easy to access and they find it easier to collect assignments. They can also access their assignments anytime and from any device, which allows them to be more flexible in doing their English assignments. In addition, the app also supports students' independent learning. However, there are also some challenges that some students face, such as internet access and lack of understanding of the features in Google Drive.

The Opportunities of Google Drive to Facilitate Students' Assignment Submission Easy Access and Collaboration

Google Drive makes the students easier to access learning materials and work on assignments more efficiently. Most students found it easier to access assignments given

by lecturer through Google Drive, as they can instantly view and download assignment materials without having to wait for physical distribution or email. This allows them to work on assignments anytime and anywhere, as long as they are connected to the internet. This convenience also helps students manage their time better, as they are no longer bound to strict time or place restrictions. By accessing assignments directly from Google Drive, students can be more flexible in determining the right time to complete their work.

In addition, Google Drive offers a document sharing feature that allows students to work collaboratively despite being in different locations. This feature allows students to share files or documents with classmates and work together in real time, commenting or editing documents simultaneously. This collaboration is especially beneficial for group assignments, where group members can contribute in person without having to physically meet. In this way, Google Drive not only facilitates the completion of individual assignments, but also enhances teamwork between students, allowing them to complete assignments more effectively and efficiently.

Efficiency of Assignment Collection

Students find it more efficient to submit English assignments as Google Drive allows them to avoid time-consuming processes such as printing assignments or sending emails. By using Google Drive, students can simply upload the assignments they have worked on directly into the platform, without having to worry about physical or other technical limitations. Assignments stored in this digital format can be accessed anytime and anywhere, either from a computer or mobile device, which provides more convenience in collecting assignments practically and quickly.

In addition, the use of Google Drive minimizes potential technical issues that often occur with traditional assignment collection methods. For example, students do not have to worry about their assignments being lost or missed as documents uploaded to Google Drive are securely stored in the cloud. The file sharing feature makes it easy for students to send assignments to lecturers by simply sending a link, without having to worry about the delivery issues that usually occur via email. This makes the assignment submission process smoother and reduces the chances of technical errors.

Large Capacity Storage Space

One of the main advantages of using Google Drive is the almost unlimited storage space, which allows students to store various assignments, course materials, and references easily. With a huge storage capacity, students don't have to worry about limited space to store important documents. Whether it's English assignments, papers, presentations, or other course materials, everything can be safely stored within Google Drive. The ability to store various types of files, such as documents, images, videos,

and other files, makes Google Drive a very flexible platform to support students' learning needs.

In addition, the abundant storage capacity allows students to organize their assignments and materials in a more structured manner. They can create separate folders for each course or topic, as well as store relevant supporting files, such as articles, journals, or learning videos. This way, students can easily access all the learning materials they need without having to search through various places or devices. Google Drive also allows them to group materials that have been completed and those that still need to be updated or worked on, helping them to stay organized and more focused in the learning process.

Increasing Independent Learning

The utilization of Google Drive for assignment collection is very helpful in facilitating students in terms of independent learning. Google Drive allows students to organize and store various learning materials neatly, so they can access them at any time without difficulty. Each assignment can be stored in a separate folder based on specific topics or courses. Thus, students can easily find relevant assignments or references without having to search in various places, which of course increases efficiency in learning and doing assignments. In addition, Google Drive also allows students to take notes directly using Google Docs, which can be accessed and edited in real-time. The document sharing feature allows students to share notes and study materials with classmates, as well as discuss or comment on them. This encourages more active collaboration and can enrich understanding of course material. With the ability to save and edit notes at any time, students can more freely develop their understanding without being tied to a specific time or place. This not only increases students' independence in learning but also allows them to manage their time and learning materials more effectively.

The Challenges Faced by the Students in Using Google Drive

Some students face technical difficulties, mainly related to internet connection issues, when using Google Drive. While Google Drive is a cloud-based platform that offers easy access to materials and assignments online, students who have unstable or limited internet connections often struggle to access, upload or download files smoothly. The next obstacle is errors in uploading assignments. For example, they may accidentally upload the wrong file or not know how to upload the file to the right folder. This can lead to confusion in organizing their assignments or materials. When assignments are not uploaded correctly or are in the wrong place, students may lose time to correct the errors, which can affect the smoothness of submitting assignments on time. In addition, the lack of understanding of the features of Google Drive is also a challenge for some students. Some advanced features, such as sharing documents, making comments, or using Google Docs and Sheets for collaboration, may not be fully understood by some

students. Without a good understanding of how to use these features, students may find it difficult to maximize the benefits that Google Drive offers in the learning and assignment submission process. Therefore, it is important for the teachers to provide training or guidance on how to use Google Drive effectively, as well as ensuring that students understand each step in uploading assignments and using the features available.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, the use of Google Drive provides various benefits for students in the learning process, especially in the collection of English assignments and independent learning. Google Drive makes it easy for students to access learning materials, collect assignments efficiently, and work collaboratively despite being in different locations. The reminder feature, auto-save, and large storage capacity allow students to manage time and tasks in a more structured and flexible manner. Although there are some constraints such as limited internet access and varying levels of technological understanding among students, overall Google Drive can be a very useful tool in English language learning. For the future, it is suggested that teachers should be more active in providing training on the utilization of Google Drive features and overcoming internet access constraints so that all students can optimally utilize this technology in the learning process. For future research, it is recommended to explore more deeply the effect of using Google Drive on students' collaboration, communication and creativity skills in completing shared tasks. In addition, it is important to conduct a more in-depth study of technical constraints to find practical solutions or strategies that can be implemented to optimize this platform in supporting the learning process.

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