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### Zoom Meeting and Dromology: Manifestations of the Folded World in the Lecture Process of University of Sumatera Utara Students

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#### ABSTRACT

Zoom meetings are a tool used by University of North Sumatra students to hold lectures when a pandemic occurs or certain obstacles arise. The use of zoom meetings is based on efficiency and the many features available in it. Zoom meetings show a form of dromology and a manifestation of a folded world. Seeing how zoom meetings show the existence of a form of dromology and the manifestation of a folded world is the aim of this research. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. University of North Sumatra students were the subjects of this research. Observations and interviews are the primary data sources for this research. Meanwhile, secondary data regarding dromology and the use of zoom meetings was obtained from journals and websites on the internet. This research uses Miles and Huberman data analysis techniques. This research shows that dromology is visible in learning through Zoom Meetings which causes the lecture process to run in real time without any obstacles of distance, time and space which causes interactions between students and lecturers to become a blend of physical and virtual reality. Meanwhile, the manifestation of a folded world can be seen from the existence of folded lecture rooms due to the use of Zoom, which causes the distance and time for lectures to be shorter, minimal and instantaneous.

**Keywords:** Zoom Meeting, Long-distance learning, Dromology, College Students

#### ABSTRAK

Zoom meeting menjadi alat yang digunakan bagi mahasiswa Universitas Sumatera Utara untuk melangsungkan perkuliahan saat pandemi terjadi ataupun adanya hambatan tertentu. Penggunaan zoom meeting didasarkan pada efisiensi dan banyaknya fitur yang tersedia didalamnya. Zoom meeting menunjukkan adanya suatu bentuk dromologi dan manifestasi dari dunia yang dilipat. Melihat bagaimana zoom meeting menunjukkan adanya suatu bentuk dromologi dan manifestasi dari dunia yang dilipat merupakan tujuan dari penelitian ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Mahasiswa Universitas Sumatera Utara menjadi subjek dari penelitian ini. Observasi dan wawancara merupakan sumber data primer penelitian ini. Sementara data sekunder mengenai dromologi dan penggunaan zoom meeting didapatkan dari jurnal dan website di internet. Penelitian ini menggunakan Teknik analisis data Miles dan Huberman. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dromologi terlihat dalam pembelajaran melalui Zoom Meetings yang menyebabkan proses perkuliahan berjalan secara real time tanpa adanya hambatan jarak, waktu dan ruang yang menyebabkan interaksi antara mahasiswa dan dosen menjadi perpaduan realitas antara realitas fisik dan virtual. realitas. Sedangkan manifestasi dunia yang dilipat terlihat dari adanya ruang kuliah yang terlipat akibat penggunaan Zoom yang menyebabkan jarak dan waktu pelaksanaan perkuliahan menjadi lebih pendek, minimal, dan instan.

**Kata Kunci:** Zoom Meeting, Pembelajaran jarak jauh, Dromologi, Mahasiswa



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## 1. Introduction

The development of information and communication technology has a great influence in various fields of human life. The development of technology and information has made many things in life easier than before. For example, the invention of the telephone has made it easy for people to talk to each other without being limited by distance and time. A person in Germany, for example, can interact with his friend in Canada without having to go through long distances and long periods of time with the help of technology in the form of a telephone. This shows a big change in the field of human life that was previously slow-paced, becoming fast-paced and instantaneous. Technology has succeeded in changing existing patterns in the fields of human life, for example in the field of education.

One of the changes caused by technology in education is the introduction of distance education which has become an important phenomenon in the world of higher education. Basically, distance learning (also known as online learning or e-learning) is a form of education where the teaching and learning process is not limited to physical presence in a particular location. This phenomenon is becoming increasingly important as students begin to adopt and engage with various aspects of distance learning as the main agent in their learning process. This opens the door to education for students who previously had limitations of distance, transportation, and other resources. Online learning is learning that is carried out remotely using electronic devices such as gadgets, laptops, and other electronic devices via the internet (Siti Ayu Handira et al., 2022). Online or distance learning system is a form that utilizes technology to support the teaching and learning process.

Distance learning can take place through various media, including Zoom Meeting. Zoom Meeting is a massive media used for educational purposes (Haqien & Rahman, 2020). Zoom Meeting has features such as video conferencing, *online* meetings, mobile collaboration, and *chat*. The platform offers benefits such as time savings, lower costs, and a more customizable environment (Vhalery et al., 2021). Zoom provides a *real-time* interactive experience similar to face-to-face learning with high-quality video and audio capabilities. In addition, one of the main advantages of Zoom is its flexibility. Students can follow the learning from home or anywhere they have an internet connection. This allows students to fit learning schedules around work, personal commitments or time differences. Distance learning through Zoom allows students to save time and travel costs that would normally be incurred when attending face-to-face learning. This provides additional benefits in terms of efficiency and convenience.

In Indonesia itself, Zoom Meeting became widely used during the outbreak of *Covid-19* in the world. *Covid-19* caused the closure of various schools or universities to anticipate the spread of the virus (Faisal, 2009). *Covid-19* also caused the phenomenon of “*work from home*” and restrictions on activities outside the home carried out by the government so that the *Covid-19* outbreak did not spread to all regions in Indonesia. This has caused a shift in learning patterns that are usually carried out offline (face-to-face) to online (distance learning without the need for face-to-face). This distance learning uses certain applications to support the smooth learning process, one of which is Zoom Meeting.

Online learning through Zoom Meeting shows a manifestation of the folded world, as described by Yasraf Amir Piliang in his book, where there are no clear boundaries between distance, space, and time. The Zoom Meeting phenomenon can also be explained using Paul Virilio's theory, where he says there is a dromology (acceleration) that occurs in the world today, so this research aims to see the dromology that occurs through the use of Zoom Meeting as a manifestation of the folded world in students at the University of North Sumatra. Departing from the background of the problems that have been described above, the researcher takes the formulation of the problem in this study by looking at how the form of dromology occurs in distance learning and how the manifestation of the folded world is felt by students of the University of North Sumatra through Zoom Meeting.

## 2. Methods

This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative research methods. This research is based on seeing the form of dromology and the manifestation of the folded world that occurs through the use of Zoom Meeting for students at the University of North Sumatra. This research uses the analysis of Dromology

theory coined by Paul Virilio. The subjects of this research are students at the University of North Sumatra. Primary data sources in this study were obtained through observations and interviews about the use of Zoom Meeting in distance learning by students at the University of North Sumatra. Meanwhile, secondary data in this study were obtained by finding information about dromology in the use of Zoom Meeting through journals and websites from the internet. The data validity technique of this research was carried out by triangulation. Then, researchers used data analysis techniques using the interactive model from Miles & Huberman (1992) which consisted of several stages, namely collecting data, reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions (Rijali, 2018).

### 3. Result and Discussion

Zoom is a video conferencing platform that allows users to conduct meetings, presentations, and training virtually. Zoom began to be widely used in the world of lectures in early 2020. This is due to the implementation of work from home during the Covid-19 pandemic (Kemendikbud RI, 2020). Zoom is an alternative tool for campuses in Indonesia to carry out lecture activities when face-to-face lectures are not possible. The reason is, Zoom provides facilities in the form of real-time video interaction between lecturers and students that can support lectures without the need for direct face-to-face in the classroom.

At the University of North Sumatra (USU) itself, online lectures using the Zoom application began in 2020. Online lectures cause a change in the routine pattern of lecture activities at the University of North Sumatra, which initially lectures are held offline in class *toonline* lectures in their respective homes. Zoom as an online lecture media is massively used due to the pandemic that forces lecturers and students to *work* from home. In addition, various features also play an important role in choosing Zoom as a lecture media, such as the screen sharing feature to display the material to be taught, *chat* and *reaction* features to show student reactions during lectures, *breakout room* features that make it easy for students to create discussion rooms, *whiteboard* and *note* features, *records*, and others. Not only that, Zoom also displays a screen that contains all videos of participants in it, so that lecturers can supervise students. The efficiency and convenience provided by Zoom is also one of the reasons why Zoom Meeting is used in lectures at the University of North Sumatra. This efficiency and convenience can be seen from the ease of accessing Zoom for lectures without the need to be bound by distance, space, and time.

he use of Zoom certainly has an impact on lectures, both positive and negative. The positive impact of Zoom can be seen from the efficiency and convenience offered. This can be seen in Zoom which allows students to attend lectures from anywhere as long as they have an internet connection, thus providing an opportunity for students whose homes are far from campus to still be able to attend lectures. In addition, Zoom allows students to attend lectures according to the time and place they want. This certainly provides convenience for students who have other activities outside of lectures. Furthermore, with Zoom, students can save on transportation and accommodation costs because they do not need to come to campus to attend lectures. Behind the positive impacts that Zoom offers, such as offering various features, efficiency, and convenience in the lecture process, Zoom actually has several negative impacts. The negative impact can be seen from Zoom, which limits the interaction that occurs between students and lecturers. This can cause students to feel less engaged in the learning process. Zoom also makes it difficult for students to concentrate, especially when they are in a crowded environment or due to prolonged exposure to the radiation of the devices used, causing students to become easily tired. In addition, Zoom sometimes experiences technical glitches, such as internet connection or sound interruptions that can disrupt the learning process.

From the overall explanation above, we can know that Zoom Meeting has succeeded in helping the learning process of students and lecturers without the need to be constrained by distance, space, and time, which shows a dromology or acceleration in the learning process between students and lecturers. Dromology, according to Virilio, is a phenomenon where there is an acceleration caused by technology, so that there is no clear distinction between space and time (Ardiyansyah et al., 2019). Dromology is seen in the use of Zoom Meeting as a technology that causes no clear boundaries and melts the distance, space, and time of its users. This can be seen when the lecture in the Zoom Meeting takes place. Students and lecturers can interact directly and in *real-time* without the need to be in a certain place, travel a certain distance, and at a certain time. In Zoom Meeting, students and lecturers can interact in *real-time* or directly as lectures usually occur while in class offline, which is due to the many Zoom features that facilitate lectures to occur as usual in class offline. Zoom features such as screen sharing, breakout rooms, or real-time video screen features cause

interactions that occur in Zoom to be like real interactions in the real world, so that the original reality and virtual reality merge into something that causes no difference in reality that occurs both during online lectures with Zoom and during offline lectures. This fusion shows the existence of a dromology in the use of Zoom Meeting during lectures.

The explanation above also shows the manifestation of a folded world in the use of Zoom Meeting for USU students. The manifestation of a folded world means that the world in space and time has been 'folded' due to the logic of acceleration and technology in today's world. For USU students, the manifestation of a folded world can be seen in Zoom Meeting which allows students to attend lectures from anywhere, as long as they have an internet connection. This causes the classroom to become increasingly flexible and no longer limited to the physical space on campus. This flexibility due to Zoom Meeting causes the classroom to be folded, where students from various regions can gather in one virtual class together simultaneously and instantly in the Zoom Meeting application. This causes no clear boundaries between physical reality and virtual reality that occur when lectures through Zoom take place, so that the implementation of lectures becomes instant and fast. This lecture on Zoom shows that the space for lectures has been 'folded', because Zoom Meeting shrinks the distance of space, in the sense of minimizing the travel time to carry out lectures.

#### 4. Conclusion

From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that Zoom Meeting with its efficiency and sophisticated features has shown the existence of dromology and the manifestation of a folded world in the lecture process of North Sumatra University students. Dromology can be seen in the Zoom Meeting which causes the lecture process to run in *real-time* without the barriers of distance, space, and time which results in the interaction between students and lecturers becoming a fusion of reality between physical reality and virtual reality. Meanwhile, the manifestation of a folded world can be seen from the existence of a folded lecture room due to the use of Zoom which causes the distance and time to carry out lectures to be shortened, minimized, and become instantaneous.

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