

The Use of Media Online Blogging Edmodo in Learning English Grammar

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This study aims to determine the effectiveness of Edmodo media used to improve the ability of English language students especially grammar mastery. The method used in this study is the quasi experimental method with the population all of the first semester students of Basic English Structure in 2016/2017 Academic Year. The samples taken are of 2 classes (as experiment and control sample) from IC and IB class by using purposive sample technique. The total of them are 60 students.. The instruments used in this research are pre-test and post-test by following the test requirement analyses of the Chi Square normality test and homogeneity test. Then it was supported by the questionnaire given to the experimental class. From the normality test result for control class, both pre-test and post-test were obtained $\chi_o^2 = 2.89 < \chi_t^2 = 9.49$, and $\chi_o^2 = 7.12 < \chi_t^2 = 9.49$ then H_o was received and the sample of the population is normally distributed. In the pre-test of experiment class it was obtained $\chi_o^2 = 0.65$ was smaller than $\chi_t^2 = 9.49$, and $\chi_o^2 = 0.71$ was smaller than $\chi_t^2 = 9.49$, so H_o was accepted and the sample of the population was also normally distribution. Based on the homogeneity test, the writer got variance of pre-test score between experiment class and control class that is $F_{observed} < F_{table}$, ($1.00 < 2.17$), and the post test score between the experimental class and control class is $F_{observed} < F_{table}$, ($1.22 < 2.17$), hence, H_o was accepted and both data variances are homogeneous. From the calculation of independent t-test, $t_{observed} > t_{table}$ ($1.79 > 1.67$) it was found H_o was rejected and H_i hypothesis was accepted which meant that students' mean value using Edmodo as media is higher compared with students using conventional method; without media, so it can be concluded Edmodo media can increase students' grammar mastery in their learning.

Keywords: Edmodo media, quasi experiment, grammar mastery

Studi ini meneliti efektifitas penggunaan Edmodo untuk memperbaiki penguasaan grammar siswa. Metodologi yang digunakan adalah kuasi eksperimen dengan jumlah siswa sebanyak 60. Instrumen yang digunakan adalah pre-test dan post-test, Chi Square normality & homogeneity test, dan questionnaire. pre-test dan post-test yang diperoleh adalah $\chi_o^2 = 2.89 < \chi_t^2 = 9.49$, dan $\chi_o^2 = 7.12 < \chi_t^2 = 9.49$, sehingga H_o diterima. Berdasarkan homogeneity test, diperoleh $F_{observed} < F_{table}$, ($1.00 < 2.17$), dan post-test adalah $F_{observed} < F_{table}$, ($1.22 < 2.17$), sehingga H_o diterima dan kedua variasi data homogeny. Hasil perhitungan independent t-test adalah $t_{observed} > t_{table}$ ($1.79 > 1.67$), sehingga H_o ditolak dan H_i hypothesis diterima. Ini artinya bahwa kelas dengan Edmodo lebih baik. Kesimpulan dari studi ini adalah bahwa Edmodo mampu meningkatkan kemampuan grammar siswa.

INTRODUCTION

The weaknesses and shortcomings of learners in mastering English grammar occur in many students of English Study Program of UHAMKA include the first semester students. Based on the curriculum and the existing syllabus, the first semester students get Basic English Structure subject that emphasis on the basic learning of the part of speech. Eventhough the materials are very simple but the students mostly could not differenciate the use of them well. From the initial observation in several classes it was also found that the students did not understand what part of speech itself and how to use it. In addition, the absence of media variations and even the use of qualified technological media in the class was seen as a factor affected the student's success in mastering grammar. In short, the lecturers of the subjects actually can use technology media as a device to improve the ability of the student's English and make the teaching learning process in the class become interesting . Indeed, one way to be able to encourage the improvement of the students' ability in mastering the grammar is using media.

Along with the development of information communication and technology (ICT) in the market today, the use of ICT in helping lecturers or teachers to deliver English language learning material in the classroom has grown up and tend to have positive impact. Lundby pointed out that tehcnology media are particular technology that facilitates the storage and modification, articulation and exchange of signs, in the form of text, images, numbers or sounds”(Lundby:2008). In this perspective, the media are specialized technology used to store and organize various information, whether in the form of merging or exchange form of images, writings, or sounds. Eshetu quotes Markova's opinion that there are at least two advantages of media use in the context of learning or education, 1) facilitating the implementation of learning instruction, 2) improving the performance and outcomes of learning process (Eshetu; 2015). By using the technology as the media it is hoped can well support the improvement of students learning especially in English grammar.

One of the media that can be suitable in improving the performance as well as the grammar mastery of English in the 1st semester students of English education UHAMKA is Edmodo. Edmodo is one of the online micro blogging technology based media platforms that offer easy and secure learning solutions for sharing various activities in learning something (Vicarra, 2015). In a simple way, Edmodo provides online-based store or place with social networking characteristics like Facebook which is intended for the creation of integrated and comprehensive learning process. According to Danver (2016) the main purpose of Edmodo media use is to provide facilities or provide a customizable learning environment (Danver, 2016). With the development of technology, especially the internet today, learning is not always to be done in the classroom, but it can be done anywhere. Edmodo provides a place for lecturers and interact in the relation of learning. Finally, it is hoped that Edmodo will be the answer for improving students' grammar mastery.

Grammar is an important component of learning English to support speaking and writing skills. Grammar is a structuring rule of a language such as how to combine word, compose word, and change word based on their relationships with other words that become a clear sentence or unit of meaning. Harmer (2004) states grammar is a way of describing words that can form meaning and can be combined with other words so it can be meaningful.

Borjars and Burridge state further that with the grammar knowledge that people have when they write or say something such as a report, a speech or other else, they can also evaluate their words in order to be understood by the readers and listeners (Borjars & Burridge, 2010). Because the more neat arrangement of words that we make, the easier the listener or reader understand what we deliver. It can be concluded grammar is a set of rules in a language which is usefull in arranging words into a systematically meaningful idea.

There are many methods of learning that can be used in learning grammar. However, related to the development of ICT in this era, it is very advicesable an English teacher or lecturer can use technology as learning media in the classroom. One of the sophisticated media which can be taken by the teacher is an interactive online blogging media; Edmodo.

According to Henich (2002) media is a communication channel. Channels that connect between the information sender and the recipient of the information. Without any media in communicating the information, there will be no information can be be conveyed so that the role of the media is very important especially when dealing with learning. With the existence of sophisticated media and technology in this time, learning can be done through long distance without having meeting each other. One of the media which can be used is Edmodo. It is a forum or online based blogging platform with social networking characteristic that is intended for teachers or lecturers and their students. Edmodo was first developed by Nic Borg and Jeff O'hara in 2008. Edmodo on its website (www.Edmod.com) said it is the most secure and missile platform for educators in communicating and collaborating with students or parents with each other. In addition, Edmodo emphasizes on an efficient learning system with its features similar to the existed social networking; Facebook, but Edmodo has different function that is an education online portal. From this point it can be understood that Edmodo has double function; as common communication media and as teaching learning tool. By having these functions it is hoped Edmodo can attract the students and can be an effective method in increasing the students skills.

There are many benefits that can be taken in the use of online media blogging Edmodo,they include; 1) Edmodo is an effective and efficcint medium for communication and discussion between teachers or lecturers and learners, 2) By using Edmodo, the learners can interact each others easily and discuss directly , can 3) Edmodo facilitates a communication among teachers, learners and parents as w ell, 4) As a mean of giving test or quiz to the students, 5) Teachers can provide teaching materials such as questions, photos, learning videos to learners easily at once so the learners can also download the teaching materials, 6) Parents can monitor their children's learning activities easier .

METHODS

The research was designed using experimental research by way of experimental test conducted on a class. The experimental research was devoted to explore whether or not media online Edmodo is effective for use in learning Grammar. For getting the data of this reasearch the tudents were given tests; pre-test prior the treatment and post test at the end of learning process after the treatment. Furthermore, to complete the analysis of the data the students were given a questionnaire. The sample was 30 students who was learning Basic English Structure in the odd semester.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Normality Test

The result of the normality test of pre-experiment class, it is known and found that χ_o^2 (chi square observed) = 0.65 < χ_t^2 (chi square table) = 9.49, then Ho was accepted and sample from the population were normally distributed. Likewise, on the post test calculation it was found (chi square) = 0.71 < (chi square table) = 9.49, thus Ho was accepted, it means the sample was distributed normally.

Homogeneity test

The homogeneity test used in this study is by following the Fisher formula. It was found that the pre test Fobserved < Ftable; (1,07<2.17) while in the post test score, Fobserved < Ftable(1.22<2.17). Bbecause Fobserved is less than Ftable, then Ho was accepted and both data variances are homogeneous.

Hypothesis testing

At hypothesis testing, the researcher used test-t form at a significant level $\alpha= 0.05$ and degrees of freedom (dk) 20. Based on the test result, it was obtained tobserved at 1.79, whereas from the list of critical values of t-test with a significant level $\alpha= 0.05$ and degrees of freedom (dk) 58, it was obtained ttable = 1.67, Ho was rejected, thus Hi was accepted which states that the use of Edmodo has positive impact and effective to improve the students mastery on Grammar at English study program of UHAMKA.

Based on the result of statistics calculation and analysis of research data using t-test, it was found the $t_{observed}$ is bigger than t_{table} (1.79 > 1.67) by the degrees of freedom = 58 and significant degree $\alpha= 5\%$. It means H_0 was rejected and H_i was accepted. Thus, it can be concluded that Edmodo gives positive impact and effectively improves the students' grammar mastery. It is also supported by the questionnaire data that there were around 70% students who are already familiar on using technology.

CONCLUSIONS

There are three points which can be concluded from this study. First, Edmodo gives positive impact to improve the students' speaking skill, which is supported on improving the interaction and communication in various activities arranged according to the learning scheme. Thus, using Edmodo as often as possible in many lessons can improve many skills such speaking and writing. Second, by using Edmodo, the researcher supports other researchers or readers to use this medium in other learning skills such as vocabulary building which also requires students to add new vocabulary from the discussion in Edmodo. Finally, the researcher also hopes the results of this study can be a reference or supporting literature to apply Edmodo in the field of lessons or other subjects, so it can enrich the sources or evidence of research that are already existed.

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