

INVESTIGATING STUDENT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses how active students participate in online discussion forums. The purpose of this study is to find out how active students are in the learning process using online discussion forums on the Canvas forum. Mixed methods were chosen to be used in this study. Data were analyzed numerically and then explained using paragraphs. The participants in this study were 55 fifth semester students of English Language Teaching for Young Learners who used an online discussion forum in the form of Canvas in their learning process. To collect data, observation of student activities was carried out by checking several indicators of active student criteria. An open questionnaire was also administered to obtain more in-depth information. The results showed that students who learned to use online discussion forums were quite active. This can be seen from the results of observations which show that students meet the criteria and exceed 75% in 5 of 8 indicators. From the results of data collection, it can be concluded that how students actively participate in providing comments and discussions in written form using online discussion forums, namely by always participating in carrying out assignments, being involved in problem solving, students' efforts to seek various information from other sources, and problem solving efforts. . Therefore, this finding may be taken into account by teachers when considering to use ODFs as a media for their teaching.

Key Words: Online Discus Forum, Student Active Participation.

INTRODUCTION

Since the development of communication technology, the learning process in Indonesia has been introduced with an online learning system, where all teaching and learning activities are carried out using the internet and existing

technology. One of the uses of technology and the internet for the teaching and learning process is using online discussion forums.

Online Discussion Forums (ODFs) are features in online learning platforms that can be used to improve written communication skills. In addition to complementing online courses, its use in

conventional learning environments as a complement to face-to-face training is increasing and has now become a general education strategy in higher education (Zhang and Franklin, 2013). The advantages of using online discussion groups and peer-to-peer learning to enhance student learning are well established. One of the advantages of online discussion is that it encourages students to improve their writing skills and develop their critical thinking. In this case, students can practice using grammar and vocabulary properly before posting their comments on discussion forums (Krasnova, 2015).

In this online learning process, online discussion forums will play a very important role in the success of the learning process. Students are active subjects in learning. One of the elements supporting student success in the learning process is activeness and getting maximum learning outcomes. The success of students in learning is influenced by the quality of the student's activities (Widiyanto, 2015). This means that the competence achieved from the learning process can be measured by two indicators, namely student activities during learning activities (student enthusiasm) and results obtained after learning.

There are many factors that

contribute to online participation in student activities, namely in terms of content, students themselves, teachers and assessments. In this study, researchers will also consider some of these factors in student activities. Because these factors are important and also affect student activities. So this study aims to see how active students are in the online learning process using online discussion forum media.

METHOD

This research used a mixed method where she first collected the data quantitatively and described it qualitatively. This is used to provide a more in-depth information about the variable.

The data on this research is how do students actively participate in providing comments and having discussions in written form using online discussion forums. The data in this study were obtained from the observation checklist. The data in this study can be seen from the 8 existing indicators related to the criteria for active students. The indicators are participation in carrying out assignments, students involvement in solving problems, initiative to ask the teacher or friends, students efforts in seeking various information from other sources, group discussions according to the instructions given by the teacher, self-assessment of abilities and learning outcomes, attempt to solve a problem, application of learning outcomes

Instruments In this study used

documentation in the form of students observation checklist and opened questionnaire as a instruments.

After collecting the data, the researcher then analyzed data analysis from activity observation students by reflecting on the results of observations in the form of student learning activities were analyzed by steps to calculate learning search of the eight indicators and divide it by the maximum gain. Analyzing data of opened questionnaire

The interactive analysis methodology according to Miles and Huberman in Saripatun (2018) was used to analyze the data in this study. There were three aspects in the analysis of this interactive model: data reduction, data presentation, and verification or drawing conclusions for analyze data of opened questionnaire.

In this study, the researcher used triangulation technique to validate this research. According to Moloeng in Ananda et al (2018) triangulation is a technique of checking the validity of data that utilizes something else in comparing the results of interviews with the object of research. The researcher used data triangulation to see if the data collected by one procedure matched the data collected by another procedure

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Student Active Participation in

The first thing the researcher found was student participation in online discussions using Canvas. In learning, there are 7 discussions made by the teacher and must be followed by the students.

Table 1. Number of Students Participation in Online Discussion Forums

| Dis cus sio ns. | Number of students participat ing actively | Number of students Participati ng but passively | Number of students Not participati ng |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| 01. | 27 | 8 | 20 |
| 02. | 36 | 10 | 9 |
| 03. | 35 | 12 | 8 |
| 04. | 30 | 16 | 9 |
| 05. | 31 | 13 | 11 |
| 06. | 34 | 11 | 10 |
| 07. | 33 | 11 | 11 |

Hasil Based on the table 1, it can be seen that the number of students who participate and are also active in the discussion is more than students who participate but are passive and also students who do not participate. Students are called active students, that is, if they meet 75% of the indicators or about 6 of the eight indicators. While students who participate but are not active are students who always participate in discussions but do not reach 75% of the indicators or only meet less than

6 existing indicators. Passive students are students who do not participate at all in class discussions. This result obtained from the observations of researchers using eight existing active criteria.

The highest number of active participating students was found in the second discussion, which reached 36 students. However, in subsequent discussions until the last discussion, the number of active and participating students was decreasing. Student participation in the first discussion had the least amount; there were only 27 active students, 8 passive students, and 20 students who didn't participate in it.

Table 2. Average Student Activity for Each Indicator

| Indicators | Percentage |
|--------------------|------------|
| First Indicators | 80,5 % |
| Second Indicators | 80,5 % |
| Third Indicators | 29% |
| Fourth Indicators | 78% |
| Fifth Indicators | 29% |
| Sixth Indicators | 64% |
| Seventh Indicators | 80,5% |
| Eighth Indicators | 80,5% |

The Average student activity results can be seen from each of the existing indicators. These results were obtained from

observations made by researchers. There are also eight indicators that become criteria for active students, namely: (1) participation in carrying out their learning tasks; (2) engagement in problem solving; (3) Initiative to ask peers or teachers if they do not understand the problem they are facing; (4) Efforts to find various information needed for problem solving; (5) group discussions following the teacher's instructions; (6) self-Assessment on capabilities and the results obtained; (7) attempts to solving problems and (8) The opportunity to use or apply what is obtained in completing the task or similar problems it faces (Sudjana, 2004).

Active student criteria are students who exceed 75% of each given category. It can be seen from table 2 that there are five indicators that have numbers above 75% and only 3 indicators that are below 75%. Therefore, it can be concluded that students are classified as active in learning discussion. the first of the three indicators that get a low percentage is the initiative to ask the teacher or friends, in this study it was found that students were low in asking teachers or friends because they preferred to seek information from other sources such as youtube, articles or journals. the second indicator is discussing according to the instructions given by the teacher, in this study students who are

classified as active, can discuss according to what the teacher instructs, while in passive students, they do not discuss according to the instructions given by the teacher. then the last one is self-assessment, based on the results obtained from the opened questionnaire that has been implemented, not all students can do self-assessment on themselves.

Therefore, the result of this research is that students are classified as students who are active in discussing using Online Discussion Forums in the form of Canvas. Students are said to be active because students meet 5 of the 8 indicators of active students. Thus, how do students actively participate in providing comments and having discussions in written form using online discussion forums is to fulfill all the tasks given by the teacher, involvement in solving problems, efforts in seeking various information from other sources, attempt to solve a problem and application of learning outcomes.

By discussing using ODFs can make it easier for students to be able to participate and also work on existing assignments so that the level of student participation in doing the assignments given by the teacher is high. The level of students' courage in asking the teacher or friends in discussions is also still low. However, most students are able to do self-

assessment. So that students are active in learning using an online discussion forum in the form of Canvas.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and findings, students became active in the learning process by discussing using an online discussion forum in Canvas form. This study resulted in students meeting 5 of the 8 indicators of active students.

So how do students actively participate in providing comments and having discussions in written form using online discussion forums is to fulfill all the tasks given by the teacher, involvement in solving problems, efforts in seeking various information from other sources, attempt to solve a problem and application of learning outcomes. By discussing using it can make it easier for students to be able to participate and also work on existing assignments so that the level of student participation in doing the assignments given by the teacher is high. The level of students' courage in asking the teacher or friends in discussions is also still low.

However, most students are able to do self-assessment. So that students are active in learning using an online discussion forum in the form of Canvas.

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