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An Analysis of EFL Learners' Learning Style in Online Speaking Class

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melaporkan data tentang jenis gaya belajar siswa yang digunakan siswa di kelas berbicara *online*. Data dianalisis menggunakan *The VARK Questionnaire* oleh Neil Fleming. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Metode ini bertujuan untuk membuat deskripsi, ilustrasi secara sistematis, faktual dan akurat tentang fakta-fakta objek penelitian. Penelitian ini dapat memberikan pemahaman tentang empat jenis gaya belajar yang digunakan di kelas berbicara *online*. Subjek penelitian ini adalah siswa yang berusia 19-23 tahun. Untuk menganalisis data, data ditampilkan dalam penelitian sesuai dengan jenis gaya belajar. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa gaya belajar yang paling sesuai pada siswa kelas berbicara online adalah *auditory*.

Kata Kunci: Pelajar EFL, Gaya Belajar, Keterampilan Berbicara, Pembelajaran *Online*

Abstract

This research aims to report the data about the kinds of students' learning style used by the students in their online speaking class. Data were analyzed using The VARK Questionnaire by Neil Fleming. This research uses the qualitative descriptive method. This method aims to make a description, illustration systematically, factually and accurately about the facts of the research object. This research can provide an understanding of four types of learning styles used in the online speaking class. The subject of this research is students aged 19-23 years. To analyzed the data, the data were display in this research according to the type of learning style. This research shows that the most suitable learning style in student online speaking class is auditory.

Keywords: *EFL learners', learning style, speaking skill, online learning*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a cultural process to determine the future. Educational outcomes are considered of high quality if their performance is good in tertiary institutions and society. Language learning activities are to coordinate understudies to precise their feelings and communicate their feelings, thoughts, and considerations by utilizing signs, sounds, or gestures that have conventionalized to understand the meaning (Brown, 1980: 5). Harmer (2007: 19) states that EFL described situations where students were learning English in arrange to use it with any other English speakers in the world – when the students may be sightseers or commerce individuals. EFL is prepared for the students within a particular time or occasions. Using English for international communication, particularly on the internet, implies that our

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students are in reality part of a worldwide target-language community. They are prepared to communicate by using English as a worldwide language in the future. Because English becomes an effective influence in way of life finally learning it since an early age is required. The language that is most utilized by people in every country is English. In Indonesia, English roles as a foreign language that must be learned by students from elementary until senior high school.

Learning style is an educational instrument which is an important part of the learning process.

Whereas Dunn (1994) state that learning styles are how each student begins to concrete, process and maintain new and difficult information. Learning styles are characterized in an unexpected way by having more or less agreement almost retaining, handling, and holding new information and aptitudes (Robertson, 2011). According to Wong & Nunan (2011), for the case, proposes that „learning styles are characteristics of cognitive, affective, and physiological behaviours that serve as moderately stable indicators of how learners perceive, associated with, and react to the environment. Learn“. The VARK learning styles questionnaire created by Neil Fleming. The model is developed from the Neuro-linguistic programming model. VARK stands for *Visual, Aural, Read / Write, and Kinesthetic*.

As stated by Fleming & Bonwell (2019) learning style is originates personality factors including cognitive structures, psychologist, socio-cultural background, and educational experience. Generally human learning Styles can be divided into 4 categories:

1. Visual

Visual learner focus on realistic displays such as charts, graphs, illustrations, handouts, and videos. It is helpful learning instruments for visual learners. Visual learners require more motivation to review and get the data visually before understanding something. Visual learners will assimilate the lesson through picture descriptions because they have high affectability in remembering.

2. Aural / Auditory

Aural (or auditory) learners learn best by hearing information. They tend to get an awesome agreement out of lectures and are great at recalling things they said before. They would incline toward listening to a lecture over reading a textbook or hearing the information.

3. Reading or Writing

Reading and writing learners prefer to require in the information shown as words and text. They are the type of understudies who don't mind sitting down and reading through a course reading to gain valuable understanding. Read or write learners, frequently perform well in lectures as they tend to require point by point notes of everything the teacher says. Their note-taking plays to their quality because it helps strengthen their learning and serves as an essential study instrument later on.

4. Kinesthetic

Kinesthetic learners learn best by touching and doing. Hands-on involvement is imperative for kinesthetic learners. The kinesthetic learner has unique characteristics such as talk slowly, uncomforted with a loud situation. Touching is a symbol to inquire the consideration, early developed by big muscle, memorizing something by moved and looked, utilize body language and incapable sit nicely in a long time.

In language learning, speaking is a basic part of the objective of learning a foreign language. Oradee (2012) states that in teaching and learning foreign languages, the speaking ability is the most important skill because it is the foundation for communication and it is a most difficult skill. Speaking is additionally an instrument to express a message to the audience whether the listener understands or not (Tarigan:1986). Furthermore, speaking is also a process of constructing and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in various contexts (Chaney:1998). Speaking could be key in communication since it is an essential point for communication. It is an interactive handle of constructing meaning that includes creating, accepting, and handling information. So, the activities in the speaking course ought to cover those creating, receiving and handling information.

The classrooms of nowadays reach outside of the classroom dividers to communicate with the community, the country and the world. Online learning can be an important mode of

delivery for learners and teachers in the case made to improve learning and collaboration with others outside of the classroom. Online learning can convey “new” information not contained in conventional sources, effectively strengthening other course information by offering illustrations, explanations, assessments, and exercises. learning in an online environment requires a critical amount of discipline and self-motivation (Golladay et al., 2000; Serwatka 2003).

METHODOLOGY

This research is using descriptive qualitative method. This method aims to make a description, illustration systematically, factually and accurately about the facts of the research object. The primary point of descriptive research is to provide a substantial and accurate representation. Creswell, 2011 in Basra & Purnawarman, argues that several of qualitative research is requires exploration of a problem and provide detailed information on a phenomenon. This research is collecting data to show the importance of the depth and detail of the data studied. This research is categorized as qualitative research. The subject of this study is students aged 19 until 23 years old with the total number of the subjects are 33 person. In this research, the researcher focus on finding the frequency of learning styles that are often used on online speaking clases. The learning style analysis using The *VARK* Questionnaire version 8.01 by Neil Fleming. To get the results, the researcher calculates the number of responses from the research object through a summary of the google form. The highest amount is the result of the frequency of learning styles used by students in online speaking class.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents research findings and a discussion of the learning style used by the students in their online speaking class. The results of this research is based on the *VARK version 8.01* questionnaire response. Learning styles are characterized in an unexpectedly by having more or less agreement almost retaining, handling, and holding new information and aptitudes (Robertson, 2011). Each student has their own learning style. They have a unique learning style in responding to the learning material, and the learning style is chosen based on the student's mindset. Learning style refers to the reliable way of students to respond and utilize stimuli in learning. In learning English, especially speaking, students have their own learning styles to make it easier to understand the material. In line with As stated by Fleming & Bonwell (2019) Mode The tendency in the learning process: Visual Learning by looking at pictures, graphs, videos, and illustrations. Seem not to take complete note during the presentation. Auditory receive learning by listening strategy, speaking or from music, dialogue, and explanation. Reading prefer word and writing as a piece of information obtaining strategy. They like presentation style, by text or article. Kinesthetic More likely to involvement through physical movement angle while studying, such as, touch, feel, hold, perform and move something. They lean toward handiwork, the practical, project, and genuine involvement.

Table 1. Result of the learning style

Learning style	Frequency
Visual	3
Auditory	7
Reading	4
Kinesthetic	19

Based on the *VARK* questionnaire version 8.01 that related to this research, the subject of this study is students aged 19 until 23 years old with the total amount of the subjects are 33

people. The results of the questionnaire are as follows: Out of 33 participants of the research, There are 3 students using visual learning style . There are 7 students who use auditory (aural) learning style. 4 students using reading/writing learning style and there are 19 students using kinesthetic learning style. Students' speaking skills online class with kinesthetic learning styles is the dominant respondent in this study. From the results of the questionnaire it can be seen that students tend to use kinesthetic learning styles compared to other learning styles. In line with Alan Pritchard (2009), kinesthetic learner learn toward to memorize something by doing. They are great at reminding things and interface feelings or physical experiences with memory. They do not have an interest in tuning in clarification or watching shows. It caused by the need of consideration in a visual and auditory sense.

In this research, the kinesthetic learning style gave dominant support toward student English speaking ability than *visual, auditory, or reading (writing)* learning style, because 19 understudies have a kinesthetic learning style. Concurring with Chuah Chong-Cheng (1988), learning styles not only needed by students but also individuals in need in academic environments. Most students will prefer to study and absorb information based on learning style. That is why the results in this study of students' kinesthetic learning styles are most widely used by students speaking in online classes because students after receiving the material will immediately practice it.

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and discussion above there are four learning used by students speaking in online class. It is VARK (*Visual, Auditory, Reading, Kinesthetic*). The result of the research determined from the VARK questionnaire version 8.01. Based on the finding and discussion above there are four learning used by students speaking in online classes. The total amount of each learning style used by speaking students in the online class is Visual 3 person, Auditory 7 person, Reading or Writing 4 person, and kinesthetic 19 person. The use of kinesthetic learning styles is the most established used learning style in speaking in online classes in comparison with other learning styles. Kinesthetic learning styles are useful in capturing information by moving hands or practicing directly to help students in online speaking classes.

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