



Exploring Junior College Students' Experience on Using Medium Blogs Integrated Essay Reading and Writing Class

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the life experiences of students in using blogging media as a tool for teaching writing in reading and essay writing classes. The respondents were English language students at Mercu Buana University, Yogyakarta, who had been using the blog medium since the third semester. The findings reveal the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the blog medium as a result of students' experience writing blogs using the blog medium in reading and essay writing classes. Medium Blog is seen as a tool that is freely accessible, has a variety of features. In addition, it was discovered that the Medium Blogs contained a defect in the form of a limited number of free accesses, which forced students to maintain information separately or in different storages. Apart from that, the medium blog also displays the works of other writers so that it can become a reference for novice writers.

Keyword: Student Experience, Medium Blogs, Writing

INTRODUCTION

Writing activities are very important for several reasons, including: 1) increasing intelligence; 2) develop initiative and creativity; 3) grow courage; and 4) encourage willingness and ability to collect information Suparno & Yunus, (2007). Therefore, writing requires broad ideas and insights in order to be able to compose a word that fits the topic to be discussed in written form. Writing skills require the ability to use written language patterns to express an idea. These writing skills include various abilities, for example the ability to organize discourse in the form of essays, the ability to use appropriate language styles and word choices and so on. Writing also requires a process of learning and practice, because writing is a reflection of mastering student skills. Other skills include speaking and listening and reading. According to Raimes (1983) states that writing usually requires conscious effort because the writer thinks about how to combine and arrange sentences and

re-read what is written. There are several interrelated components, namely content, organization, grammar, syntax, word choice, purpose, audience and writer's process.

Every writer must have a clear purpose for the writing to be he wrote. According to Suriamiharja (1997), the purpose of writing is so that writing that is made can be read and understood properly by others who have the same understanding of the language used. Meanwhile, according to Suparno & Yunus (2007), the objectives that a writer wants to achieve are as follows. a. Make the reader think and reason. b. Let the reader know what is being reported. c. Making readers opinionated. d. Make the reader understand. e. Make the reader persuaded by the content of the essay. f. Make the reader happy by living the values that expressed as truth values, religious values, educational values, values social, moral values, human values and aesthetic values.

With the development of technology and time, every Indonesian needs to learn English, not only for completing education, but English is also useful for communicating with foreign nationals in Indonesia and abroad. Learning by using media can make it easier for teachers to expand teaching ideas and provide new experiences for students in learning. According to Yaumi (2018) learning media is something that has a form that is designed in a planned manner and is used to convey information and create communication between the sender of the message and the recipient of the message. The use of learning media can provide students' aspirations and motivation in learning, as well as assist teachers in providing understanding of the material by using new learning methods. according to Junaidi, (2019) that the use of new media for teaching and learning can be done to increase student awareness and aspirations, as well as to increase motivation among students can have a psychological impact on students.

In the world of education, technology is necessary, one of which is a teacher's role in the learning process. It is recommended to understand technology as media use learning that will be applied to students. By making use of the technology, learning tools, components, and learning systems that are incorporated into the teaching and learning process, instructional media is a tool or method that a teacher uses to assist in providing material to students. Historically, educational technology is the result or fruit of the growing industrial revolution,

so many teachers (educators) and educational activists have reconstructed the learning process based on teacher center learning to a technology-based learning system, which is seen as a multidimensional learning concept that provides the benefits of the application of knowledge by trying to find solutions that can be implemented in the problems of the teaching-learning process from students (Warsita, 2014).

Learning media can decide the outcome of educators in education. If the learning media are utilized in accordance with the field and subjects taught, teachers may be able to implement the material taught with greater creativity, innovation, and precision. Teachers can make it easier for students to choose and use media as learning tools thanks to the changing times and rapid technological advancements. Media that can be used as learning aids has been present in many spheres of life, one of which the blog. Blog was firstly introduced in 1990s (Farmer, Yue, & Brooks dalam Zake, 2010). Blog is an online platform, which is used to contain writing, pictures, or used as a reading tool and writing media. The use of blogs in learning media is able to make teachers and students more creative, innovative, interesting, and able to overcome students' difficulties in finding information during the learning process. Wrong One media blog that students can use is the medium blog.

According to Telkom Polytechnic (2012), blogs were chosen as an alternative learning medium for this study because they offer the following advantages:

1. anywhere, anytime. Because lecturers or students can access blogs at any time and from any location using internet facilities, the learning process is able to take place at any time thanks to blog media.

2. Save. As well as giving free blog administrations, sites as learning media can likewise defeat the constraints of room, time, and energy. because the learning process does not necessitate a predetermined location or time to access the information through a blog.

3. Interactive. The facility of the commenting system makes the teaching and learning process between students and learning resources more interactive. because responses to each of the posts can be provided by students or other visitors.

4. Open. Sites are an elective type of the diary model logical distribution framework. The owner's willingness to discuss his thoughts with readers is one advantage of a blog.

5. Simple and Quick. Now, all it takes to start a blog is a mouse click. To create a beautiful appearance, you don't need to know any complicated or confusing programming or graphic design skills; everything is there for you to use.

Blog content is typically read by the public, comments are posted, and asynchronous interaction is limited. Research has shown that, in addition to other things, individuals in the public eye are roused to compose websites to communicate their thoughts and in light of the fact that web journals are a spot to offer viewpoints and sentiments and perspectives by composing (in 2011 by Zagal & Bruckman).

The Medium blog is an online journal that features writing on a variety of subjects, including tutorial articles, news, opinions, fiction, and so on. Medium blogs can also be used to teach media students to read and write based on what is known and studied. Medium blogs have the advantage of being simple to use for reading and writing on a variety of topics, and more than five million people have downloaded them. It has a shade official, simple features, and an easy method of accessing it. In addition, the medium blog features well-known authors and interesting reading material.

Medium blogs have differences with other blogs, including, in using the blog medium, one will not be distracted by ads that appear. This is different from other blogs that often display advertisements when used, such as kompasiana.com, and other blogs. Apart from that, medium blogs also don't make it difficult for someone to create content with access and features in it, compared to other blogs like wordpress.org in which one must download affiliated open source software. Using the blog medium, the author can have his own audience because there are many readers in it, can follow other authors to get new information, and can be uploaded on social media.

According to Aginta (2021) there are four criteria for blog features that are worth visiting, because of the effectiveness of their use. First, blogs that are worth visiting are blogs that are always updated, not blogs that are basic. Second, blogs that are worth visiting are

usually interesting both in terms of appearance and content, so that readers are tempted to visit the blog. Third, the design of the blog is very well designed so that readers feel at home for a long time reading the material uploaded on the blog. Fourth, effective blogs, which have useful features, which make readers have more value when visiting the blog.

This research will use SWOT analysis. SWOT analysis is much of the time utilized as a scientific device utilized in an organization to track down the most proper technique so the organization can accomplish its objectives. As indicated by Rangkuti (2016), SWOT examination is methodical with different elements to plan corporate procedure. This examination depends on the relationship or the connection between interior components (qualities and shortcomings) and outer components (open doors, what's more, dangers). The SWOT investigation model can be considered as the most fundamental strategy for examination that is helpful to notice a point or issue from four unique points. Opportunities and threats are listed as external factors in the SWOT analysis, while strengths and weaknesses are included in the internal factors. Strength and Shortcomings are considered as sure and negative inward factors, while open doors and dangers are considered as inner variables determined as an outside factor (Antony, 2011). The purpose of this study was to find out the experience of students learning to use technology, namely the blog medium and to find out its strengths and weaknesses. As stated by Keengwe & Georgina in their research, it has been stated that technological developments make changes to the implementation of teaching and learning (Keengwe & Georgina, 2012).

METHOD

The method is a way in the process of teaching and learning. According to Sudjana (2005), "the learning method is the method used by the teacher in establishing relationships with students during teaching". Based on the research objectives, the researcher chose to use the SWOT Analysis method as a design method because it is comparable to data collection and from student experience. SWOT analysis is an abbreviation that comes from the four elements in this analysis method, namely Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The SWOT analysis method is used to obtain information about students' experiences with the application of learning media using medium blogs in essay reading and

writing classes. This SWOT analysis research Method aims to measure the experience of students of the English Department of Education on learning experience in the medium of blogs in essay reading and writing classes. According to Cojocariu, Lazar, Nedeff, & Lazar (2014) conducted a SWOT analysis to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of e-learning education services.

Participants

Semester 6 students of English Education were selected as participants in a study that took place at Mercu Buana University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Participants in this study were randomly selected and signed a self-consent form without being asked by the researcher. This study involved five volunteer participants, three women and 2 men aged around 20-23 years. After learning to write using the blog medium in the essay reading and writing class, the participants provided information to the researcher of their own free will.

Instrument

Semi Structured Interview

In this study using interviews. The interview is a face to face situation between the interviewer and the respondent intended to gather information expected, and aims to obtain data about respondents with minimum and maximum bias efficiency (Singh, 2002). Singh (2002) writes that there are two types of interviews: formal interviews and informal. Formal interview or also called structured interview is a procedure systematically to collect information about respondents with a condition where a set of questions asked in the order that has been prepared by the interviewer and the answers were recorded on the standardized form. An informal interview is an interview which is not prepared in advance questions, no order preparation questions, and the interviewer's plenipotentiary to determine the questions according to the main points (Singh, 2002). As a result, the questions are still prepared by the researcher, even though they may not be attached to the questions that have been prepared. The researcher asked a number of questions about the students and their experience with blogging during the interview. The interview was conducted face to face. Duration ranges from three to five minutes for each participant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

System problems and deficiencies were analyzed using the SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats) method. The results of the analysis carried out are explained as follows:

Strength "Can use our knowledge to explain why and how to make the paragraph, and then we can plan to call our record hour and knowledge about the world so we can give like every day's picture so we can describe it, and we make the story." (Respondent's response)

From the data above, the blog medium can be seen as a blog medium for writing and learning from other people's work. According to Aginta (2021) there are four criteria for blog features that are worth visiting, because of the effectiveness of their use. First, blogs that are worth visiting are blogs that are always updated, not blogs that are basic. Second, blogs that are worth visiting are usually interesting both in terms of appearance and content, so that readers are tempted to visit the blog. Third, the design of the blog is very well designed so that readers feel at home for a long time reading the material uploaded on the blog. Fourth, effective blogs, which have useful features, which make readers have more value when visiting the blog. In Özdemir & Aydın's research (2015) blogs as online media can be used for the learning process through a process-based approach. So that students can improve their skills both in terms of content, organization, discourse markers, vocabulary, sentence construction and writing mechanisms.

"I think one of the advantages of using medium in reading and writing class is that there is a feature here: there are some pictures that you can fold or give a comment in another as a writing, and you can also get the fourth in the comment from that you can get feedback from other people about your essay writing." (Respondent's response)

Weakness

Respondents also revealed that medium blogs have limited space for free access. This causes disturbances when writing because the writer cannot produce his writing because there is no internet access. That the blog can be accessed freely as long as the user has a computer and an internet connection. This means that technology can be reached by anyone Rahman Sidek & Md.Yunus, (2012) According to The internet has been integrated as a tool to complement language learning activities Martins, (2015).

"The weakness is if we don't have the internet to access something like media examples so we can work and we can't edit posts, then we can read the second message about there we can we can anything" (Respondent's response)

Opportunity

"I think it's effective because apart from being easy to access and upload, medium also provides lot's of essay variants that can be a source of reading." (Respondent's response)

"I think it's very effective to use fast writing media because yes we can like I said we can write our essays in media and we can get feedback from other people I think effective this media in class." (Respondent's response)

Based on the experiences of the students above, when accessing blog media, we can read and look for references from other writers. In writing, feedback can be given from other authors and users can also provide feedback on other people's work. it's also a support for budding writers. According to Sulismiati (2018) and Gunduz (2016) it helps to create an effective learning environment and can motivate students in learning. Zake (2010) and Torrijos (2019) also argue that using blogs as learning media can provide space for teachers to develop learning materials, share ideas, and increase interactivity with students.

Threat

Respondents also revealed that medium blogs have limited space for free access and lack of features in editing posts. This causes disturbances when writing because the writer cannot produce his writing because there is no internet access. this can inhibit users, and when publishing a work, the author cannot edit the work. Martius Tekege (2017) states that the efficiency of Information and Communication Technology media which can be accessed anytime, anywhere and however is the basis for the effectiveness of the student learning process. According to Martins, the internet has been integrated as a tool to complement learning activities, (2015).

"I think media platforms are already provided for writing posts and reading, so maybe if you don't have an internet connection and don't have a phone, when you open the website, you can't access the website. The problem is still on the internet." (Respondent's response)

"I think the problem or the title is only one if there is a feature when we write an essay we can save it in traffic before we publish it we can edit it but when we have published it we can't edit our essay whatever that is the problem." (Respondent's response).

CONCLUSION

According to interview findings, students at Mercu Buana University in Yogyakarta believe that using blogs helps them learn to write using blogs. students believe and feel that using the medium of blogs as a medium for learning to use technology is very helpful and assists their understanding of the work of other writers. In addition, students believe that the blog medium can help them learn, understand, and maintain writing skills. When they learn to use the blogging medium they can be facilitated with the features already available and they can also read and add to their knowledge of other people's work. They feel happy because they learn new things as well as gain learning experience using technology. The students realized that in order to improve their writing skills, they needed to learn how to write by creating online writing on the medium of a blog. This study shows that the use of the blog medium in class as a learning tool has Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Medium blog has several advantages or benefits for students, such as offering various features to create writing works that are easy to use as well as learning from other people's writings, providing free access for free accounts, and providing opportunities for students to access using different devices. Researchers suggest increasing the number of participants in future research to get more diverse student opinions and strengthen the affirmation of previous research. In addition, future researchers can conduct comparable studies with participants from various educational backgrounds. To determine which methods or techniques are most suitable for students, additional websites and applications should be investigated as learning media in future research.

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