

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING EDMODO IN EFL CLASSROOM

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Abstract: In the field of education, technology becomes an alternative tool in learning process, such as Edmodo. Edmodo facilitates students and teachers to connect each other inside and outside classroom. The present research aims to investigate the students' perceptions of Edmodo and to find out the benefits and challenges of using Edmodo in EFL classroom. The research involved 47 participants consist of students in twelveth grade in one of senior high schools in Majalengka, West Java. This research study used descriptive qualitative method and the data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaires consists of 20 questions that was divided by three groups, first is about students' perception of using Edmodo, second is about benefits of using Edmodo and the last is about challenges of using Edmodo. Five students were also interviewed to seek more information about their experiences during using Edmodo. The result revealed that students have positive perception toward the use of Edmodo in teaching and learning process since they think that learning using Edmodo facilitates and increases effectiveness of communication in learning. Edmodo was beneficial for students to have discussion with teacher outside the classroom easily. In addition, Edmodo helped students to comment other students' work effectively.

Keywords: *Perception, Information Communication and Technology (ICT), Edmodo*

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia in recent year, Information and communication technology (ICT) has been integrated into field of education. At present, foreign language teachers have the preferences to use technology in the classroom. Hence, technology is represented as one of factors in the 21st century education. As a result, teaching and learning approaches have changed to suit the digital age by adopting technology or incorporating e-learning into classrooms (Cowie & Sakui, 2013). Particularly, in language classroom there is innovation method that the teachers should be more creative to set up their classroom. On the other hand, teacher who is essentially a facilitator in learning process has number of tasks to be fulfilled during their professional career. Teachers and students today have an easy access to computers, internet and other technological devices that are started to be utilized as a useful tool in the teaching and learning process.

Technology, the Internet in particular, is playing a more and more important role in modern English teaching and learning. Information and Communications Technology or ICT has changed the way teachers teach and learn to teach. Trough the ability of the internet to bridge time and space, e-learning gives bigsupport for the EFL learners to learn anytime and anywhere without having trouble in managing time aslong as there is internet device. Some researchers in

a number of studies have represented the positive results towards using ICT in EFL Classroom (Tanduklangi; Alberth & Amri, 2014; Kim, 2009; Le & Witta, 2001; Gunawardena, Lowe & Carabajal, 2001).

Due to the statement mentioned above, Edmodo is offered as an online tool that can promote individual to join and interact with each other, especially in the learning process (Prasad & Prasad, 2012). Teachers can use both traditional face to face teaching instruction and online learning or by blended learning styles. One of favorite online learning used by educators is Edmodo. Through Edmodo, teachers can send out quizzes and assignments, give feedback, receive completed assignments, assign grades, store and share content in the form of both files and links, maintain a class calendar, conduct polls, as well as send notes and text (SMS) alerts to individual students or to the entire class.

According to Looi and Yusop (2011), integrating Edmodo provides some pedagogical advantages in teaching and learning. Firstly, Edmodo provides students to post comments, send notes, links, files alerts, assignments, events, and direct messages to the instructor. This can be a beneficial tool for increasing learning. Secondly, online discussion on Edmodo encourages incidental learning to take place. Teachers are able to encourage the learners by awarding them with reward badges when they perform well in their quizzes and assignments. This will motivate students to engage in the learning activities. Lastly, Edmodo provides students with a sense of community and engagement in their learning.

The use of Edmodo certainly has some challenges. First challenge is low internet speed and internet connection problems as highlighted by AlKhathiri (2015) and Enriquez (2014). Second challenge of using Edmodo as an educational social network is the small-sized screen of the phones which makes it difficult for students to view all the course materials on the phone (Al-Khathiri, 2015). Some students may not always access Edmodo from their laptop. It is also supported by Addison (2011) who notes that small-sized screen is one of barriers in implementing Edmodo as an educational social network.

The previous study is entitled *The Effect of Edmodo on EFL Learners' Writing Performance* by Abadi, et. all (2015) from *International Journal of Educational Investigations*. This research investigates the effect of Edmodo on EFL learners writing performance. A quasi-experimental design was used in this study. The result indicated that the use of Edmodo in writing was more effective on EFL learners writing performance participating in this study.

Reflecting on the previous elaboration, the researcher is interested to investigate the features on Edmodo. Furthermore, this study also aims to find out some problems and challenges from the students' perceptions when using Edmodo in their learning process. Considering the explained above, the researcher is eager to conduct the study under title "Students' Perception of using Edmodo in EFL Classroom".

METHOD

The researcher tried to explore the phenomenon related to student's perception of using Edmodo as ICT education in EFL classroom, the researcher choose to apply qualitative research design. According to Cresswell (2012), qualitative research design involves collecting the data based on small individual words in order to get description from the participants. Based on the explanation above, the researcher used descriptive qualitative as a research design. The use of descriptive qualitative was appropriate for the research purpose because the researcher wanted to report the results of the student's perception.

According to Lambert (2012), descriptive qualitative is a comprehensive summary of certain phenomenon in daily activities experienced by individuals or the group of individuals. In addition, to creating a comprehensive summary related to what the participant says, the researcher should obtain the data in its natural circumstance from the participant. The description made by the researcher based on the data collection. Then, the researcher analyzed the data in specific but brief and clear description.

The research participants were the students of twelfth grade. The participants were consisted of 32 students from MIPA 4 and 15 students from IPS 4. They were asked to fill the questionnaires, all of them asked to share their perceptions of using Edmodo. Furthermore, the participants of the interviewers were 5 students. The researcher had made sure that interview gave the detailed information about students' perceptions. The researcher chose them because the researcher felt that they were able to give their best information about their perceptions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Students' Perceptions of Using Edmodo in EFL Classroom

In this research, the researcher describes the students' perception of using Edmodo. The data were obtained from questionnaire and interview. The following was the results of the questionnaire.

Table 1. Students' perceptions of using Edmodo in EFL Classroom

No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Edmodo contributes positively to my learning experience	29.8%	70.2%	0%	0%
2	Explanation, quizzes, and other online task that given by teacher in Edmodo help me to improve my learning and comprehension about the material	21.3%	72.3%	6.4%	0%
3	Edmodo sharpens my discussion/ interaction skills	65.9%	19.2%	14.9%	0%
4	Edmodo makes me feel more involved with the class	12.8%	63.8%	23.4%	0%
5	Edmodo is one of innovative and creative supplementary teaching method that can be used to support face to face	31.9%	53.2%	14.9%	0%

	classroom interaction				
6	Edmodo enhances my ability to think critically	34%	59.6%	6.4%	0%
7	Edmodo allows for me to comment and discuss ideas with my peers and colleagues more efficiently as compared to traditional face-to-face classes	12.8%	68%	19.2%	0%
8	I feel more comfortable sharing and discussing my idea on Edmodo than I do face-to-face in the classroom	8.5%	36.2%	51%	4.3%
9	Easy to use Edmodo because in design of Edmodo is look like Facebook	17%	74.5%	8.5%	0%

From table 1, 70.2% Students' learning experiences are contributed through Edmodo. However, 29.8% students who answer strongly agree and none answer disagree or strongly disagree. This number implies that majority of students feel that Edmodo contributes their learning experiences. On the statement regarding to the use of some features of Edmodo, 72.3% students agree that doing quizzes, tasks, and other online assignments in Edmodo assist them to improve their learning and comprehension skill about the course while 21.3% of students strongly agree and 6.4% of them choose disagree. At the point of interaction and discussion between teacher and students, only 65.9% of students feel that Edmodo enable them to communicate with teacher and this group of students feel free and more confident to interact online rather than in real classroom. Conversely, there are 19.2% agree and 14.9% disagree. Through this statement and these students prefer to discussion with friends and teachers using mobile phone through Edmodo application.

Moreover, 68% majority of students agree that Edmodo allows them to comment and discuss ideas with their peers and colleagues more efficiently as compared to traditional face-to-face classes. Meanwhile, 19.2% students' rate this statement into disagree. This implied that not all students like to do online activities but still enjoy with traditional face to face classes. At the last of statements, students feel easy to use Edmodo because in design of Edmodo is look like Facebook. 74.5% students are in agreement and 8.5% the rest of them stay disagree.

Furthermore, based on the interview, due to the practicality, one of participants thinks that online learning should be promoted in the classroom. She thinks that online learning is quite simple and practical. She mentions that online learning can be easier because they do not need to hand-write their assignment. Some of students also mention that the online materials provided by their teacher through Edmodo are easily accessible. The online learning platforms allow teachers to create and share materials to support students' learning as well as to provide learning tasks to help them in practicing the language.

Benefits and Challenges of Using Edmodo

The result was obtained from questionnaires that responses on overall fields of perceptions scale is presented in table [2] which is consist of benefits of using Edmodo. Furthermore, in table [3] consists of challenges of using Edmodo.

Table 2.Benefits of Using Edmodo

No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Edmodo allows me to get immediate feedback from my teacher	19.2%	72.3%	8.5%	0%
2	When teacher absents, I can easily access class material and assignment trough Edmodo	29.8%	61.7%	8.5%	0%
3	Edmodo services give me running record of assignment due date and a description of what expected	23.4%	61.7%	14.9%	0%
4	Edmodo saves time and effort by doing and submitting assignment electronically	29.8%	65.9%	4.3%	0%
5	Edmodo offers me more opportunities to interact with my teacher and peers outside classroom	14.9%	68%	14.9%	2.2%
6	Edmodo provides quick and easy access to Assignment	29.8%	70.2%	0%	0%

Table 2 above shows students' perception on the benefits of Edmodo. Majority of students 72.3% agree and 19.2% strongly agree that Edmodo allows them to get immediate feedback from their teacher. Meanwhile, 8.5% students disagree that statement. Meanwhile, most of students 61.7% agree and 29.8% strongly agree that when teacher absents, they can easily access class material and assignment trough Edmodo. It is caused because the teachers can give extra room to discuss specific materials or course via online learning platform, Edmodo, without coming to the classroom. However, 8.5% students disagree with that statement.

Furthermore, one of benefits of Edmodo that experienced by students is its effectiveness in saving students' time and effort by doing and submitting assignment electronically. It is clearly shown by having 65.9% students agree and 29.8% strongly agree with this statement. However, some students 4.3% disagree. They do not consider Edmodo can save their time and effort by doing and submitting assignment electronically. At the last question, none of students disagree

(70.2% agree and 29.8% strongly agree) admitted that Edmodo provides quick and easy access to assignment.

As in the interview Some students state that since online learning only use laptop or cellular phone, it can save paper. The fact that Edmodo is available on android means that it is already openly network. The students highlight doing the assignment or test through Edmodo according to a predetermined time. Besides, they think that using Edmodo is very practical, simple, easy to use, can share the information in the group of Edmodo, effective, and efficient

Beside the benefits of using Edmodo, there are challenges of using Edmodo that have been perceived by students through questionnaires and interviews. Here is the table with percentage as the results.

Table 3.Challenges of using Edmodo

No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	I feel rushed to do the quiz in Edmodo because of limited time	25.5%	50%	25.5%	0%
2	I get frustased by using Edmodo because of the slow speed internet on my mobile phone	2%	32%	59.6%	6.4%
3	I dislike using Edmodo because the small sized screen causes me difficulty in typing	8.5%	23.4%	55.3%	12.8%
4	I lack of access to computers or any mobile device at home	4.3%	19.2%	68%	8.5%
5	Edmodo requires long time to master its use	4.3%	19.2%	68%	8.5%

Table 3 shows the challenges of using Edmodo. The data shows that half of students agree that they feel rushed to do the quiz in Edmodo because of limited time. Meanwhile, 25.5% students choose strongly agree and also 25.5% disagree with that statement. It showed that the challenges of using edmodo depend on the students' experience in using it. However, 59.6% of participants disagree that they get frustased by using Edmodo because of the slow speed internet on their mobile phone. It means they feel enjoy to using Edmodo as ICT education without think about internet connection. It might be because they have a good internet network. Other than that, 55.3% students disagree and 12.8% strongly disagree that they disliked using Edmodo because the small sized screen causes them difficulty in typing. That is because they often use their mobile phones with a small screen.

In theinterview,according to respondents there are four challenges of using Edmodo that faced by students. Firstly, is internet connection. Secondly, is the feature uses English. Thirdly, is having mobile phone. Fourthly, timewhenconducting online tests or quizzes in Edmodo which is they need more time to think but there is no certain time to complete the questions and they need to think fast.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of findings about the students' perception of using Edmodo, benefits and challenges of using Edmodo, the findings show that Edmodo is an effective tool for learning because it can help the students to improve their learning through an active students in online discussion and task. The findings showed that most students responded positively and accepted Edmodo as simple and meaningful learning platform which enable the students to learn anywhere and anytime without having face to face interaction with teachers and other classmates.

Edmodo is easy to use because students can take assignment; submit assignment, quiz, and doing task online. Students like to use it due to its simplicity in supporting their learning. Students enjoy doing the online assessment in Edmodo because the Edmodo is very easy to use. Another reason why they enjoy doing an online assessment because the online assessment is better than paper assessment, the last is it can save their time, it means they can do the online test anytime without having to go to school.

Furthermore, the majority of the participants agreed that Edmodo is a good learning tool to supplement face to face discussions and a good collaboration platform for students and teachers. However, there are also some challenges of using Edmodo such as time consuming, not all students have mobile phone, and not all students have access to the internet. Internet connection was the biggest problems faced by most participants. Basically from the results of the interview, the participants agreed that Edmodo can support their learning because it is quite easy to use, can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Besides, Edmodo is very helpful to get access with teacher and other classmates to discuss about the lesson.

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