STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF SCHOOLOGY DISCUSSION FORUM IN WRITING CLASS AT STUDENTS OF UHAMKA

A PAPER

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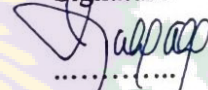
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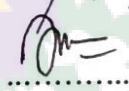
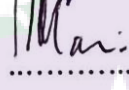NIDN. 0317126903

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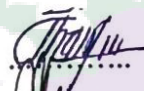
ABSTRACTS

Kintan Kinanti, (1601055004). Students' Perception of Schoology Discussion Forum in Writing Class at Students of UHAMKA. A paper of the Study Programme of English Education, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, the University of Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA.

The aim of this study was identified the students' perceptions of Schoology discussion forums. The aspects that were studied are cognitive, affective, and conative aspects. This research used a qualitative method. The participants were 31 students of the Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA University taking Essay Writing 1 in class 4B. They were asked to filled the questionnaire, then 6 students were interviewed by telephone.

To collect the data, the researcher used a questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire consisted of both open and close-ended questions. The students filled out the questionnaire in google form. It has 18 statements. After that, the researcher interviews 6 students who had high, middle, and low score. After that, students who were interview were chosen according to their score namely high, middle, and low scorer. Then, the data recorded from the interview was transcribed. The interview data have three ways to analyze. First, reducing the data, presenting the data, and taking the conclution. Then all the data were analyzed descriptively and qualitatively.

Moreover, this study indicated several result. First, the students said that the Schoology forum discussion would improve their writing skills. Besides, they were still nervous when using English in the discussion forum. In addition, they were not fully attention in the Schoology discussion forum because the discussion and learning were to do at home. In summary, almost all of the answers given by the students were quite good. The researcher suggests that English teachers can use Scchoology discussion forum when teaching writing. Then, it can also be a consideration for students that forum discussions help them to improve their writing skills. Furthermore, it can be a reference for further research on students' perception.

Keywords: Schoology, Students' Perception, Discussion Forum.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

English language skills are divided into four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing by Brown (2002, p. 232). Then all of the skills are related; one of them is writing skill. It is a challenging skill to learn (Bennui, 2016; Hermilinda & Corresponding, 2016). Since writing is unlike other skills, it requires some practice with the process if the learner wants to have good writing.

During writing, it requires practice in developing ideas. Ideas in writing come from collect authors' knowledge or experience directly related to the topic by Stapa and Majid (2012, p. 148). Writing is not only about a topic of interest, but there are several steps to achieve good writing. To support students in developing their new ideas, the teacher should make an exciting way to teach English writing.

In the technological era, there are several online media that can apply in teaching-learning, which is LMS (Learning Management System). LMS is a tool for organizing distance learning by Kerimbayev et al., (2020, p. 1970). It indicates that LMS can help virtual learning. The teacher can carry out class management in LMS, create materials, make discussion forums, give assessments, do online examination systems, and

all other features related to the teaching and learning process. All of the activities are carried out online without face-to-face between the teacher and students.

As stated by Ferdianto and Dwiniasih, (2019, p. 2), Schoology is one of the LMS (Learning Management System) programs that can be used in the teaching and learning process. It is a platform that mixes social networking and LMS. It offers learning as simple and easy to use as Facebook by Wardono and Mariani (2020, p. 2). The students can also interact during learning in Schoology such Facebook platform in Schoology discussion forum. There are several procedures to use the Schoology discussion forum.

First, the teacher must have an account as an instructor on the Schoology website to create a discussion forum. This stage makes the teacher be the controller in the Schoology discussion forum and can monitor during the discussion. The teacher also provides a topic for each discussion. Second, the teacher must share the code with the students. This step is to provide access for each student to participate in discussion activities in the Schoology. Finally, students can have a discussion together. Those who can participate in the discussion are only teachers and students who have joined the code that the teacher previously gave. In the Schoology discussion forum, they can provide opinions and share their knowledge of writing. After that, they can hold discussions every time the teacher creates a discussion forum.

Related to Scoloogy discussion during online learning, online learning is still rare to use in Indonesia. However, since February 2020, Indonesia is one of the countries which is affected by the COVID-19. Furthermore, the government asked that the entire teaching and learning process carry out from home. This situation forces the lecturer to use e-learning as a tool in the teaching and learning process. During an extraordinary condition, the lecturer should use the new learning system with online learning. It happens to the students, either. Both students and the lecturer experience the latest teaching and learning process, which is using online learning.

After looking at the pandemic condition, which requires lecturers and students to use online learning, the writer makes observations to see what application or online learning is used for an online writing class. When the writer did the observation in Essay Writing 1 classes, one of the classes, which is 4B class, use Schoology to support their learning of writing. Besides, they do discuss in the Schoology discussion forum on the teaching and learning process of writing. Certainly, Learning activities were carried out not in the classroom but carried out in online classes available at Schoology.

In the online class, the lecturer creates a discussion forum on the Schoology website. It enables the lecturer and students to communicate between them. A topic was given in the discussion forum about writing material by the lecturer. Furthermore, the lecturer facilitates the students to

take and share information about the issue mentioned on that day. Also, the students can contribute to answers directly to their friends' questions that need to clarify. The lecturer asks the students to use English as an instructional language in Schoology discussion forums. Nevertheless, the lecturer still allows them to use Bahasa if they are hard to explain the questions or answer the questions.

According to the writer's experience, the writer never used an E-learning or Schoology discussion forum in writing class. During the COVID-19 period, all teaching and learning activities must have to do from home and use e-learning for study. It is inversely proportional to the author's experience, who has never used E-learning, especially using the Schoology discussion forum in writing class. That's why in this research, the writer only focuses on students' perception of Schoology discussion forum. If this research has positive opinions, so it's an excellent way to use blended learning when COVID-19 disappears from Indonesia.

Next, several studies have tested the effectiveness of the discussion forum as a tool to help communicate to improve their students' skills (Sánchez-Gómez et al., 2017, p. 56; Stapa & Majid, 2012, p. 120). They decided that these facilities also fostered peer interaction, assisted learners in adapting their writing to their reading audience, and helped them use more formal English in their blogs and wikis. Researchers have stated that discussion forums in learning can be a medium for learning and improving students' skills.

After the writer has finished observing and summing up some of the bases of this research, the writer interests in researching the issue about "*STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF SCHOOLOGY DISCUSSION FORUM IN WRITING CLASS AT STUDENTS OF UHAMKA*."

B. The Identification of the Study

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher can identify problems as follows:

1) Since February 2020, Indonesia has been infected by COVID-19, so learning has been carried out from home, and it uses online learning.

2) The teacher and students are not familiar with the use of Schoology Discussion Forum in writing class.

3) The author has never felt to the Schoology discussion forum in writing classes.

C. The Limitations of the Study

To avoid misunderstanding and to clarify the problem. There are limitations to this research. First, the participant is only on the students of Essay Writing 1 4B class on English Education of UHAMKA in Academic Year of 2020/2021. Second, this investigation is conducted to determine the students' perception of the Schoology discussion forum for writing class. Third, this research only looks for three aspects, namely: cognitive aspect, affective aspect, and conative aspect.

D. The Question of the Study

From the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, and the limitation of the problem, the writer formulated the problem in the following question, as follows: "how the students' perception of the Schoology discussion forum in writing class of UHAMKA students' is?"

E. The Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to investigate the perception of students about the Schoology discussion forum in writing class at students of UHAMKA.

F. The Significances of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be able to give some benefits as follows:

For the teacher, this research is expected to give the teacher more knowledge that the discussion forum in Schoology can support teaching writing. For the student, this research hopefully gives some consideration to increase students' use of the discussion forum to improve their ability of writing. Furthermore, the writer hopes that it used a reference to conduct other researchers related to this research.

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