

EDMODO : AN INNOVATIVE BLENDED-LEARNING TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' ENGLISH ABILITY

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Abstract

Edmodo is one of educational technologies that aims at providing teachers with tools to help them communicate with their students and parents. It can be used to help students to raise their motivation in learning English especially in reading ability. This research aims to identify the potentials and challenges of using Edmodo on reading ability. This research used qualitative descriptive design. This research is paper based research. The researcher carried out the information about Edmodo tools then discussed with the research before. The researcher focus on the benefit of using edmodo in teaching learning process. The writer carries out a qualitative research in this research. The result of the research shown that Edmodo can be engage effectively to create inovative blended-learning. First, Edmodo is a useful and helpful tool to teach and to learn English ability particularly in reading ability. Second, Edmodo helps teachers to control and maintain their students' learning process. Third, Edmodo provides the overview and transparancy of students' progress and achievement. Fourth, Edmodo provides a feature for the students to build good communication with their teacher.

Keywords: Edmodo, reading ability, teaching-learning process, innovative

Introduction

Background Of Study

To meet the standard of 21st century learning, educators can apply technology to encourage students in English Foreign Language (EFL). English becomes the most important language in the world. Communicating in English becomes a main order for the globalization era. Thus, English has been used in both orally and written.

Nowadays, literacy becomes an important activity. It becomes a part of our life. Almost every detail of life deals with literacy such as reading a book, getting information from internet, and so on. Therefore, the reading ability has to be mastered. According to (Ambarawati:2016), in learning language, there are four skills that should be taught to the students. There are listening and reading as receptive skill and writing also speaking as productive skills. In teaching productive skills, the teacher needs to pay attention more because the teacher needs additional time to teach productive skills. The teacher has to manage the time and also arranged the classroom activity efficiently to maximize the students' interaction in the classroom. Interaction is an important part in learning process because students can communicate their problems or difficulties in learning productive skills. Considering the importance of having interaction in learning productive skills, the use of appropriate

media was needed. The media which was used by the teacher should be meaningful and support the students to learn productive skill.

Unfortunately, the students' English reading ability is still poor. Based on the observation, it proved that the students have kept in their mind that English is extremely difficult and bored. They have low motivation in English ability. They also rarely do not have prior knowledge of the previous experience. It is in line with William (2009:35) that students read the text without their background knowledge. Thus, it makes students do not have interaction with the text.

Therefore, teachers should enhance their knowledge, skills and creativity of teaching reading. Teachers have to enhance the variation of the teaching technique. To foster motivation of students, teacher can provide the tools of learning English with the help of the technology. Edmodo can be helpful in teaching English ability especially in reading.

Thus, it can be said that the function of Edmodo as the one of instructional media is helpful. Edmodo can enhance the students' motivation in English reading ability. Edmodo also have many interested features that can make students interested. By having a good mood because of the features and other icons, the students are more motivate to learn English reading ability. So, In this research the writer wants to discuss whether Edmodo can help the students to enhance the ability in English.

Aim Of The Study

To describe the function of edmodo to enhance the students' ability in reading

Theoretical Review

Edmodo can be considered as one of ideal educational technologies for students to enhance their English reading ability. The appearance of Edmodo looks like Facebook so that users who has Facebook will be familiar with. It is easy to operate. It can be accessed through desktop computers, laptops and tablet computers, and even smartphones. It is possible to encourage students' motivation. In EFL, it can be used to enhance students' English reading ability.

There are several features in Edmodo such as wall, info, video, notes that can be explored due to the teacher-students need. Teachers allow to create a group that filled by their students and parents. It also provides teachers with a place to post assignment reminders, build an event calendar, and post messages to the group. In other words, teachers can have their micro blogging network for their classes.

Edmodo also can encourage students' autonomous learning. Every students have their own Edmodo account. They can arrange the contents they would like to learn. In addition, the situation of English teaching-learning process becomes fun. It can attract students' interest. It also expects to enhance students' English reading ability.

Reading plays an important role in language acquisition. Harmer (2005: 68) said that reading text provides opportunity for students to learn vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and even good models for English writing such as sentences, paragraph, or text are constructed. It also makes people able to share and express ideas, opinions, or arguments on what they see, feel, and think into such a good communication. It is in line with Rosenshine (1980:62) that reading comprehension entails five skills, namely, recognizing the sequence, recognizing the word in context, identifying main ideas,

decoding and contrasting. Therefore, students need to be able to read texts in English either for their study, careers, or simply for pleasure.

Methodology

This research is paper based research. The researcher carried out the information about Edmodo tools then discussed with the research before. The researcher focus on the benefit of using edmodo in teaching learning process. The writer carries out a qualitative research in this research. According to Dornyei (2007:38) Qualitative researchers enter the research process with a completely open mind and without setting out to test preconceived hypotheses. Qualitative research works with a range of data including recorded interviews, various types of texts and images. It describes social phenomena as they occur naturally, take place in natural setting without any attempts to manipulate the situation under the study. While, Sugiyono (2015:1) states that qualitative research is research methodology which is used in natural object, where the researcher is as the key instrument, technique of collection data is done with triangulation (combination). The kind of this study is a case study. Referring Borg (2002:436) A case study is done to shed light on a phenomenon, which is the processes, events, persons, or things of interest to the researcher. Examples of phenomena are programs, curricula, roles, and events. Once the phenomenon of interest is clarified, the researcher can select a case for intensive study. A case is a particular instance of phenomena. The writer uses case study because the writer needs to know more detail about the particular case regarding to the learning strategies used by the students in their own learning. It focuses more on the impact of using Edmodo in learning English as foreign language. Technique of analysis data is inductive, and the result of qualitative research tends to be “meaning” than “generalization”

In collecting data, the researcher used observation. The researcher observes the researchs about edmodo before, then it is discussed in this paper based research. The data were analyzed by using qualitative descriptive method. It is relevant with the theory of Sugiyono (2015:63), there are kinds of method of collecting data used in the qualitative research, they are observation, interview, documentation, and the combination of all (triangulation). In the analyzing data, the writer uses interactive model made by Miles and Hubberman. The qualitative data were analyzed by using interactive model of qualitative data analysis. Miles and Huberman (1948:21) in Hopkins (1993:159-161) describe the interactive model of data analysis, they are: (a) Data Reduction, it refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that appear in written up field notes. Data reduction process continues after field work, until a final report is complete. (b) Data Display, it is an organized assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action taking. Looking at displays helps us to understand what happening is and to do further analysis or action based on that understanding. (c) Conclusion Drawing and Verification, From the beginning of data collection the writer draws conclusion and then verify the data.

Results And Discussion

Based on the result of collecting data and analyzing data, there were potentials of using Edmodo to enhance students' reading ability. First, Edmodo is a useful and

helpful tool to teach and to learn English ability particularly in reading ability. It can be seen from the students' English score. Their score are being good. Second, Edmodo helps teachers to control and maintain their students' learning process. In Edmodo features, there is a feature that can be known which students who do not submitted or finished yet their assignments. So, the teacher can remind the students or they will do not have score for the assignments. Third, Edmodo provides the overview and transparency of students' progress and achievement. It is because Edmodo is one of educational technology that have system so teacher and students can not lie each other. Fourth, Edmodo provides a feature for the students to build good communication with their teacher. In Edmodo feature, the teacher can give feedback to his students one by one. It is used by both the teacher and the students effectively so the students know what their weakness. Fifth, Edmodo can be accessed anytime and anywhere by connecting internet on the technology-environment. It can be accessed through desktop, laptop, tablet computer, and even smartphone as long as connected to internet. In other hands, there was the weakness of using Edmodo. First, Edmodo requires internet connection. It requires technology-learning environment such as laptop or smartphone that to be connected to such internet sources. Almost students have computers or smartphone. But, some of them lacks of source internet so sometimes they should go somewhere which has internet wireless. Second, Edmodo can cause bad effect on health. Facing computer for long periods can caused eyestrain. Also, it tends to lead to hunching over and other bad posture habits.

Edmodo has some benefit when it is implemented in the teaching learning process in the classroom;

Edmodo is a useful and helpful tool to teach and learn English as a Foreign Language

Edmodo is a new tool to help and learn English as a foreign language. Edmodo can be called as facebook in education Since Edmodo is a computer tool, The writer believed that students do not have to hassle writing works assigned by teachers, but it can actually reduce and ease the task of the teachers in evaluating their students' works. Meanwhile, three students believed that Edmodo serves as a good platform to learn English. the idea of reducing the use of paper was what made Edmodo a good platform to learn English. Teacher, here can also be able to join online educational communities through Edmodo where they can exchange topic ideas, post comments, ask questions, and read the comments of other teachers. (Dobler, 2012). The exchange of recourses is not only possible among teachers but among students too. Teachers can share a range of resources such as websites, files, blogs, presentations, documents and images or embedded YouTube clips with students. This fact is really motivating for the teachers and students. We do not have to forget that one of the keys for the success when teaching is to maintain our students motivated and interested on what we are teaching them. For that, Edmodo is a great system because learners can participate in online discussions, they have a real audience for their work and can create connections with other students from different schools, states, or cultures. This last advantage is always exciting and a very good way to make our students practice their English if we are English teachers. We also have to take advantage of the fact that kids love working with computers, so using them they can also learn in a funny way.



Gambar 1. Admodo Interface

In addition, students also agreed that the similarity between Edmodo and Facebook makes it a good learning platform. S23 pointed out, *"I think that Edmodo is a good learning tool because it is like Facebook. Can discuss any topics ... what we [do] not understand"*. Although S19 believed that Edmodo is akin to Facebook, he/she would rather use the latter instead, for learning. He/ she said: *"It may be a good platform to share works but it is not the only choice for me. I would rather choose Facebook to share works in a group"*. Likewise, S20 would prefer using Facebook than Edmodo since the former has private messenger. He/she asserted: *"It's good if Edmodo have private messenger like Facebook so that we can freely discuss among the group member"*. Edmodo can build the confidence of the students. By using edmodo the teacher can make the learner centered athmosphere. Here, teacher is not as the center of potention again. Edmodo has provided facilitates the development of language skills : reading, writing, spelling, grammar, sharing, vocabulary, land listening. Furthermore, according to (Dobler, 2012) Edmodo is used to activate prior knowledge before beginning a new unit of study. It can Link to videos, images, articles, or website are provided to students on Edmodo, and students are able to choose the resources that interest them. This can also be used to encourage students to make predictions regarding the new unit. (Dobler, 2012). There are many variation which can make the

students easy to improve their ability in English. Edmodo is one new innovation in this 21st century learning which must be used by the students and teacher in this era.

The students can build good communication with their teacher

First, Edmodo posting made the students interested and wanted to pay attention because it was a new teaching aid for them. Edmodo is an interesting tool for students so it makes students are happy to learn English anytime. Furthermore, edmodo can be used anytime so the students can build communication with the teacher anytime. It is in line with what have been stated by Schroeder, J., & Greenbowe, T. J. (2009) On – line social networks are also an excellent communication tool for networks construction based on social relationship conversation, collaboration and shared work. Edmodo makes the teacher focus on teaching not giving task. By using intuitive feature and unlimited in saving the data edmodo is very effective for teacher and students in the teaching learning process. It is relevant with the opinion from (Al-Kathiri:2014), edmodo allows students to increase the frequency and quality of communication, which leads to opportunities to increase their confidence and motivation. The teacher can makes group to learn english fastlty. So the teacher can control the students in the process of learning english. Because edmodo is connected on line so the teacher can give hommework from anywhere the teacher is. The teacher can also scheduled the quiz for students. Edmodo is also designed for teacher to control the class on line. In addition, Edmodo can help the students who struggle with face-to-face communication with teachers and clasmates (Balasubramanian, 2014:418). (Dobler,2012) also adds by using edmodo, One classroom uses Edmodo for conversations between students extending beyond the classroom, such as a local football game or travel plans for the upcoming long weekend. This facilitates personal connections while instilling the importance of Internet etiquette (“netiquette”). (Dobler, 2012). Edmodo Mobile Aplication can convince the parents for everything about the material which is taught to the students for along day. Teacher can shares the assignments, class announcement, events and arrange the schedule. Second, Edmodo posting helped the students in reading English text easier. Third, the students were easier in grasping the reading indicators of English text. Finally, the use of Edmodo posting in teaching reading texts could make a lot of progress. It could be seen from the result of collecting the data and analyzing the data. The students made progress during the research. Edmodo is a secured a simple Web2.0 secured tool which mimics facebook to some extent. It makes students are interested to learn about english. It is easy and institutive for all end-users. It also allows for customization of classroom based on the learne’s needs. So Edmodo offers flexibility for teachers, students and parents. It Can be used, posted and controlled by them easily. Edmodo also provides a platform for timely and immediate access to teachers. Immediate follow-up to teachers and parental concerns. Edmodo allows for easy editing of profiles. So Edomodo would be excellent for visual learners

Edmodo provides the overview and transparency of students progress and achievement

Edmodo is very useful for our student to keep everything under control and organized because there is a calendar where they have their corresponding tasks for each day and they also have text alerts to remind them of big assignments

(Delgado, 2017). As you see there is no excuse not to do the tasks! As I have mentioned at the beginning of this article, parents can feel involved in their son's / daughter's education as they have the opportunity to create their own account and read all the tasks their kids undertake. They can also communicate with the teacher and be updated with the latest news. Many of you might think that this platform is very motivating and useful but you will wonder how we evaluate the tasks our students carry out. Here comes the answer, Edmodo corrects the quizzes immediately and gives an immediate feedback to students. Edmodo is a new kind of web-based learning management system that supports learning and networking between learners and teachers. Therefore the network can be used as an extension of a physical classroom to help students stay in touch with their teachers, while the teachers and educational institutions to update their knowledge and learning methodologies as well as developing collaborative working (Arroyo, 2011). Its interface resembles social networks with added features like assignments, quizzes, calendars and additional resources. It is a secured and social way to learn. They know their marks and any comment that the teacher writes. Moreover, Teachers can give students positive reinforcement privately. All in all, I can say that Edmodo is a very good tool to be used in the school because it helps our students being competent. They develop their technological competence as they learn how to use not only the software but the net in a safe and respectful way. They develop their technological skills for their working future and get used to use the computers not only to play and have fun but to study too.

It is very easy to create a group, quiz post student assignments and grades. I easily create a group and student quiz. Due to time constraint, I was only able to test on one person who likes the ease experience in using this tool. Edmodo has the capability to create a grade book for managing accumulating grades. Edmodo is user friendly and intuitive tool. It provides a user guide with step by step instructions with good tips for the end-users and more specifically, takes it a step further by customizing it to meet the need of the specific group such a school district. Edmodo also offers video and webinar access. Both Teachers and students can easily edit their profiles at any given time. Another cool feature is the capability of adding Mobile Apps for iPhones, iPads, iPod and androids. Additional and useful features such as; search and filter posts digital library, calendar-for organizing and keeping up with important assignments dates, easy access to send and reply buttons, editing options in addition to direct access for linking the library. And lastly, accounts can be easily deleted as it was in creating.

Edmodo helps EFL teachers to control and maintain their students' learning

Edmodo helps the students so much in teaching English as a foreign language. The teacher can share a range of resources with my students on Edmodo. These include websites, embedded youtube clips, flipped task links (EduCreations, etc), files, documents and images. This is fantastic as it means we are saving paper and I am showing students a solid range of resources without them needing to 'google' something. In regards to the YouTube clips, the clip itself plays and none of the advertisements or 'recommended videos' come up, as they would on the YouTube website. This makes me feel comfortable that my students are only going to see items which are appropriate to them and not be distracted by other clips.

Having an Edmodo page allows teachers to give immediate feedback to their students. The teachers do this in a range of ways. For example: replying to their posts asking them to edit certain parts or expand on others. The teacher can even create a video rubric and send them the link so they can listen to teachers' marking orally and make changes. This immediate feedback keeps students remain on task and it is quick and easy for teacher to do. It is in line with the opinion from (Ambarawati:2016), the teacher could post the material, worksheet, gave announcement, answer the students' questions, and even ask the students voice by posting a polling in Edmodo site. The students score also could be graded and shown in Edmodo so both the teachers and students could see their improvement progress in Edmodo site. Futhermore, When students join Edmodo, they are given a parent code. This can be found on the bottom left hand side of the students page. The teachers can ask the parent to go to www.edmodo.com and click on the 'I'm a Parent' tab. This allows them to see what their child sees, as well as the grade book. It is very helpful for teacher and parent to maintain the students progress. Teachers, here also can give the students on line. Assignments can also be posted to students. In this you can give them an outline of what needs to be completed, attach resources / rubrics and set a due date. When completed, students can submit online in the time which has been panned in the calender before. It is on line with (Ambarawati:2016) the teacher also could interact with the students widely because they could communicate with online learning. The interaction between teachers and students can be raised properly. So, In today's day and age we are encouraging the idea of 21st century learning. Edmodo is a safe environment where both students and teachers can learn. There is so much information available on how to use it, so I think it is a great place for educators to start using Edmodo.

Conclusion

There are many variation which can make the students easy to improve their ability in English. Edmodo is one new innovation in this 21st century learning which must be used by the students and teacher in this era. It is necessary to implement an appropriate technique and media in teaching learning process especially in improving reading ability. The use of Edmodo in teaching-learning process can be engage effectively to create innovative learning especially in improving reading ability. The result of the research shown that Edmodo can be engage effectively to create inovative blended-learning. First, Edmodo is a useful and helpful tool to teach and to learn English ability particularly in reading ability. Second, Edmodo helps teachers to control and maintain their students' learning process. Third, Edmodo provides the overview and transparancy of students' progress and achievement. Fourth, Edmodo provides a feature for the students to build good communication with their teacher.

So, In today's day and age we are encouraging the idea of 21st century learning. Edmodo is a safe environment where both students and teachers can learn. There is so much information available on how to use it, so I think it is a great place for educators to start using Edmodo in the teaching learning process in English as a Foreign Language.

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