

Students' Learning Style and Their Perception in Speaking Subjects at English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to obtain the learning style that commonly applied in Speaking Subjects by students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. This research also conducted to obtain the importance of knowing learning styles that applied in Speaking Subjects of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare based on students' perception. This research used Qualitative Descriptive by design conducted with students. The population of this research is English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. The respondents of this research consist of six respondents. In addition, the researcher conducted interview and questionnaire to obtained the data. The result of this research showed that the kind of learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students are kinesthetic and auditory based on the result of interview and questionnaire. Learning style kinesthetic was the highest score based on the result of questionnaire, the second was auditory, the third was read/write, and the lowest score was visual. Besides, the result of this research also showed that students' perception toward the importance of knowing learning style especially in speaking subjects stated that learning style is one of the important things to know and understand by students because it plays an important role in learning process for students themselves.

Keywords: Students' Learning Style, Perception, Speaking Subjects

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk memperoleh gaya belajar yang umumnya diterapkan dalam Mata Kuliah Speaking oleh mahasiswa Program Studi Bahasa Inggris di Universitas

Muhammadiyah Parepare. Penelitian ini juga dilakukan untuk memperoleh pentingnya mengetahui gaya belajar yang diterapkan dalam Mata Kuliah Speaking di Program Studi Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare berdasarkan persepsi mahasiswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain Kualitatif Deskriptif yang dilakukan bersama mahasiswa. Populasi dari penelitian ini yaitu Program Studi Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. Responden dari penelitian ini terdiri dari enam responden. Sebagai tambahan, peneliti melakukan wawancara dan angket untuk memperoleh data. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa jenis gaya belajar yang umumnya diterapkan dalam mata kuliah speaking oleh mahasiswa adalah kinesthetic dan auditory berdasarkan hasil dari wawancara dan angket. Gaya belajar kinesthetic memiliki skor paling tinggi berdasarkan hasil dari angket, yang kedua yaitu auditory, yang ketiga yaitu read/write, dan skor yang paling rendah yaitu visual. Disamping itu, hasil dari penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa persepsi mahasiswa terhadap pentingnya mengetahui gaya belajar khususnya dalam mata kuliah speaking menyatakan bahwa gaya belajar adalah salah satu hal yang penting untuk diketahui dan dipahami oleh mahasiswa karena ia berperan penting dalam proses belajar untuk mahasiswa itu sendiri.

Kata Kunci: Gaya Belajar Mahasiswa, Persepsi, Mata Kuliah Speaking

INTRODUCTION

Learning is a relatively permanent change in a behavioral tendency and is the result of reinforced practice. It means that the behavior that occurred after certain learning probably settled. Someone's capabilities will not be disappearing, but will keep continue to keep developing even more when someone continues keep practicing. There are two factors that influence students' learning, namely internal and external factors. Internal factor is the factor which come from students them selves. Meanwhile, external factor is the factor which is outside of students. The examples of internal factors are the physical condition, skill, interest, intelligent and learning style. Meanwhile, the examples of external factors are family, friends, school, environment and learning strategy.

The dominant factor that influences students' learning is learning style. Learning style is the factor that determines the success of learning is to know and understand that every individual has unique style of learning, they are visual, auditory, read/write or kinesthetic are different each other. Those learning style are most common. Visual learner prefers to learn

by seeing, auditory learner prefers to learn by listening, read/write learner prefers to learn by reading/writing, and kinesthetic learner prefers learn by doing. It means that students should know that learning style is the important factor that helps them to success in learning certain subjects. It also develops students' performance in work, school, and personal situation. Learning style is one of dominant factor because learning style is influenced by our brain (Winardi 2010; Yuliyani 2012). It is the combination between brain domination of how people manage and deal with information and modality of the easiest way how people deal with information. Based on the explanation above learning style is influenced by people brain, because it is a complex organ and has great capacity to learn. It is the way how to deal with information more enjoyable and comfort during learning certain subjects.

Difficulties that arise in this study is most of students do not recognize their own learning styles. As a result, they get poor achievement. Therefore it is important for students to recognize their learning style, because when the students have applied the appropriate learning style they will learn best and they have a great deal to control over how well they learn through their learning style. That is a reason why the researcher interested in doing research on this study. Based on the phenomenon, the researcher conduct a research entitled *"Students' Learning Style and Their Perception in Speaking Subjects at English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare"*.

THE CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH LEARNING

Definition of Learning

According to Akram, et al (2013: 27) Learning is a lifelong process and each individual have distinctive characteristics as personality theorists claim that each individual is unique, similarly, they learns in different way as Reiff (1992) argues that every learner's attributes are relate to his/her learning process, that might due to biological, psychological or sociological differences, therefore, some scholars scrutinize learning style as cognitive process as Riding and Cheema (1991) conducted a survey research and classified individuals on cognitive basis.

Actually people were born in different characteristic, students learn in many different ways. Every individual has a unique style. We should realize that every learner has own way of learning. English teacher or all other educators, have to bear in mind that people differ consistently from each other in their preference for certain ways of processing information.

The education cannot generalize their students learning style because it differences of each other. These individual differences in learning styles are measurable. Unfortunately, most of the teachers are ignoring the students learning styles. The consideration firstly got by the students through their sense included their hearing, sight and their hand. The Element of Learning Process:

Learner's motivation, learning materials, learning equipments or aid, learning environment, learning condition.

THE CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH LEARNING STYLE

Definition of Learning Style

According to Fleming (2006) and Fleming and Baume (2007) and Drago and Wagner (2004) visual learners prefer to use materials such as charts, graphs, and other symbols to take in and give out information. For these learners, sight is very important especially when taking information in and when organizing ideas. They tend to use colors and highlighters when processing information and the use of diagrams, drawing, and/or recall through pictures to reinforce information and idea intake is recommended.

The read and write learners prefer to learn from printed textual learning materials. They tend to use lists, headings, dictionaries, glossaries, definitions, handouts, textbooks, and lecture notes during taking in and giving out information or ideas. Aural learners on the other hand, prefer to learn through spoken words lessons, talking, debate, and discussions. They tend to understand more when information is explained to them. They learn best through lectures, tutorials, debates, and discussions.

Kinesthetic learners prefer to learn through direct practice, hands-on activities, and learning by doing. These learners are commonly referred to as "hands on learners". They learn best through activities such as field trips, tours, field immersion experiences, apprenticeship and activities where they can engage all senses when taking in and giving out ideas or information. Finally, multimodal learners are students whose learning is based on more than one style. These learners take longer to gather and process information but tend to have a deeper and broader understanding of the information presented. Multimodal learners can be further classified into bi model (VR, VK, AR, AK, AV, KR), tri model (VAK, VAR, VRK, and ARK) and quad model (VARK).

Types of Learning Style

There are several types of learning styles from different version:

Kolb (1993) divided learning styles into four types based on how individual organize and perceive information: Divergers, Assimilators, Convergers, Accomodators. Fleming (1987) developed learning styles model and complimentary identification instrument. He classified the learners by their preferred mode of social interaction with others. This model will provide some suggestions for learners who have more than one preference based on VARK Learning Styles Self-Assessment. There are four types of learning styles : Visual learners, Aural or auditory learners, Read/write, Kinesthetic learners.

Learning Styles based on Gardner's Theory (1983) classified the learners based on how they received information and several tools that help them for achieving the knowledge. The types of learning styles based on Howard Gardner are follows: Verbal-Linguistic, Musical, Logic-Mathematical, Visual-Spatial, Kinesthetic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal.

Learning styles dimension from Index of Learning Styles (ILS) are written by Richard M. Felder and Linda K. Silverman in 1987. Felder and Silverman have synthesized findings from a number of studies to formulate a learning style model with dimensions that should be particularly relevant to science education(Felder, 1993): Active versus Reflective Learners, Sensing and Intuitive Learners, Visual and Verbal Learners, Sequential and Global Learners.

For this research, the writer focused on four types of learning styles from VARK which were first developed by Neil Fleming, that started in the 1987. They were visual, auditory, read/write and kinesthetic.

THE CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH PERCEPTION

Definition of Perception

Perception plays an important role in learning process. According to the definition of Haryanto (2015) perception is the process of how people experienced on what they viewed through sensory receptors. The definition was supported by Pramestiya (2013) as he defined perception as process of thinking or feeling something. The information that have processed by people may be eliminated or accepted by sensory receptors. Perception related to experience on how people do activities or to certain objects around. Thus, the object considered by senses or body into some reflections.

Based on the theory above it can be summarized that perception is the process where people interpreted something based on their own experience as the result of stimuli in producing information. Reference Sobur (2003) defined the perception can be affected by two factors which included internal and external factors. The internal factor involves belief, experience, self acceptance, background, personality, and attitudes, while external factors involves repetition, measurement, movement, familiarity, and something new. Both internal and external factors can affect how people express their thoughts. In this study, perception relates to good learning styles based on students' perception.

THE CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH SPEAKING SUBJECTS

Definition of Speaking

Speaking is such fundamental human behavior which consists of producing systematic verbal utterances to convey meaning. It is an essential means of communication learned in early childhood and developed during adolescence by many kinds of social factors. It is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving and processing. Speaking as interaction and social based activity. All these perspective see speaking as an integral part of people's daily activity.

Characteristic of Successful Speaking Activities

Most of students try to speak in English fluently, but the don not know what should they do. In here there are a lot of characteristic successful speaking activities such as: Learner talk a lot, Participation is even, Motivation is high, Language is of an acceptable level.

METHOD

A case study was used in this research by deep investigation of the case as a kind of qualitative research. It was used to understand the phenomenon by addressing the question based on the theory or ideas directly to the source of information. The participants in this research were consist of six students from English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare in 2018/2019 academic year that have learned speaking subjects. The steps of this research were to find out the learning style that appllied by the students in learning speaking subjects by using interview and questionnaire. When the researcher had found the result of the questionnaire that had been answered by each participants of this research, the researcher interviewed the participants of this research to find out students'

perception toward the importance of knowing learning styles that applied in speaking subjects of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. The participants would be chosen by several reason for example their learn english duration, they have learning experience in speaking subjects, they have own strategies when learned speaking subjects.

FINDINGS

This section presents the learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare, and students' perception toward learning style that applied by others in speaking subjects of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. The process of collecting data applied observation, interview and documentation. In observation section, there were fifteen students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare observed by gave some questions related to the research in order to determine the students who have more experience in speaking subjects, and they have own strategies when learned speaking subjects. Based on the students' answers, the researcher chose six students to be interviewed in the next section.

After that, to answer the research questions, then the researcher conducted semi-structure interview with the selected students. In this section, the researcher has determined several questions related to the research. The process of the interview shown an interesting answer from the participant. The researcher collected the data by recording the interview process. The researcher also used questionnaire to supporting the result of interview that will answer the first research question. Each of those findings was described in the following:

1. Learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students

In this session, researcher conducted interviews aimed to know the learning style that applied by the respondents and also to know learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. In other hand, the researcher also gave a questionnaire to the respondents to support respondents' statements based on the results of the interview. The result data from questionnaire that had been given by researcher to the respondents used to support the data that obtained from interview, to find out learning style that commonly applied in speaking

subjects by students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare. The researcher gave a link to respondents, and they were asked to answer online questionnaire. The data obtained as follows:

N O	RESPONDENTS	LEARNING STYLE			
		V	A	R	K
1	Astriyani Syahrir	0	9	6	11
2	Suriyati Bt Mamat	5	7	1	3
3	Muhammad Iqbal S	1	5	1	9
4	Tania Astri Agustiari	1	5	6	4
5	Wahyuni	1	4	5	8
6	Supardi Bin Alimuddin	3	5	2	6
Total		11	35	21	41

Table 2. Result data questionnaire of learning style Based on the results of interview and questionnaire, the researchers concluded that learning style that comonly appllied in speaking subjects were kinesthetic and auditory. However, participants had different answers about their perception toward learning style that commonly appllied in speaking subjects. There were four respondents who concluded that learning style auditory was the most learning style that appllied in speaking subjects. There were some respondents argued that they also appllied learning style kinesthetic. There were also respondent who argued that, some of them appllied visual, read/write, and kinesthetic. Moreover, one of respondent apparently has a different learning style, she stated that her learning style was analitycal, where this learning style was out of Fleming's theory that used by the researcher as reference of learning style. In other hand, there were some of them have not realized their learning style but after answered the questionnaire and knew the result of their answers, they said that the results were in accordance with they experienced. Each student had their own learning style. Moreover, not only one learning style but some of them appllied more than one learning style in learning process especially in speaking subjects.

2. Students' perception toward the importance of knowing learning styles that applied in speaking subjects

After knowing learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare, then the researcher conducted interview aimed to find out students' perception toward the importance of knowing learning style that applied in speaking subjects of English Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Parepare.

In this section, the respondents gave very good responses. They have a shared perception about the importance of knowing learning style. All of the respondents argued that very important for the students to know and understand about their own learning style. They said that by knowing learning style, it's so helpful for the students in learning process. There were two respondents stated that by knowing learning style, it can help the students easier to learn and understand something. There were two respondents stated that it's important for students to know their learning style because by knowing about their learning style, they can know the appropriate way to study and the right learning method. They also claimed that when the students knowing their appropriate way to study, they can understand the weaknesses and strengths in learning. There were four respondents argued that the impacts when the students don't know their learning style are lack of understanding of the lesson so that they can not learn optimally, and also it's difficult for them to learn so it will increase the level of their laziness, and they can not improve their skill.

According to the result of the interview, the researcher concluded that knowing learning style is crucially important for students because it can help the students to find the right way or method to learn something especially in speaking subjects. In addition, when students have understood their learning style they can easier to learn and enjoy the learning process, in order that can increase their achievement.

DISCUSSION

In this session, the researcher showed some research results that have been done before and then comparing with this research. There were three researches related to this research, focus on learning style. the first research was coming from Nafis (2017). She has conducted a research to find out the kinds of language learning styles preferred by students

and the differences of language learning style between male and female's students. the result of this research found that 46% of population is visual learners. Even visual learners were majority, the writer also discovered that students were able to receive the information when the teacher delivered the information in auditory or kinesthetic way. The writer also found that language learning style between male and female's students were different. Most of male students are visual learners; for female students, visual learners are minority. Most of female students are auditory learners; for male students, auditory learners are minority.

The second was by Rhouma (2016), he has conducted a research about perceptual learning styles preferences and academic achievement. The purposes of this research are to identify perceptual learning style preferences of the respondent, and also to compare the perceptual learning styles of high achievers and low achievers. The findings of this research verify the results reveal that the participants have the highest preference for the kinesthetic mode. The results also show that low achievers were significantly more factual in their preference than high ones.

Another researcher, Yaqin (2015) also has conducted a research about the correlation between students' visual learning style preference and reading comprehension. He found that there is significant correlation between visual learning style and students reading comprehension, it can be seen from the result of calculation $r = 0.260$ lower than table $r = 0.433$, H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. This means that high or low visual learning style preference, relates to high or low students comprehend in reading.

Among those researches, there was no any research that specifically focuses on learning style based on students' perception in speaking subjects. Those partially focus on students' preference, perceptual preference and academic achievement, and correlation between visual preference and reading comprehension with different methods, respondents, subjects and also the setting time and place. After all, the findings of those researches helped the researcher in conducting this research.

3. Learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students

The researcher was asking about learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students. According to the findings, the results of this finding obtained one of respondents has not known his learning style well although he realized his interest when

learning process. He need to understand about his own learning style in depth. In other hand, most of the respondents already know and understand about their learning style but some of them got new information about their learning style after answered the questionnaire that given by researcher. Some of them have more than one learning style. For those respondents who has more than one learning style, they called multimodal learners. These learners take longer to gather and process information but tend to have a deeper and broader understanding of the information presented (Fleming, 2006). Multimodal learners can be further classified into bi model (VR, VK, AR, AK, AV, KR), tri model (VAK, VAR, VRK, and ARK) and quad model (VARK).

The researcher also found that learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects by students are auditory and kinesthetic. The result of interview which done by researcher found that four respondents are auditory and kinesthetic learners, and most of them stated that learning style that commonly applied in speaking subjects are auditory and kinesthetic. It was supported by the result of questionnaire that showed learning style auditory and kinesthetic have high scores. The highest score is kinesthetic, in the second place there is auditory, the third place there is read/write, and for the lowest score there is visual. The researcher found the similarity with the research of Rhouma (2016), the findings of this research verify the results reveal that the participants have the highest preference for the kinesthetic mode. This research also found that the respondents have the highest preference for kinesthetic mode by answered the questionnaire, but the difference is this research focus in speaking subjects.

When the research process, researcher also found that there was one respondent who has different learning style called analitical. That respondent stated that analytical learner is someone who tends to be more detailed, specific, and organized, but the weekness for analytical learner is less able to understand the problem as a whole. She also stated that someone who is using that learning style is someone who does something optimally and consistently because the analytical learner prefers to do something one by one, and also the analytical learner will prefer to study alone than join with study group. So it can be conclude that analytical learner is an independent learner. Actually the kind of that learning style is out of Fleming's theory that used by the researcher as reference. There was no learning style analytical that listed by researcher in some pertinent ideas, but there was one kind of learning style that almost same with analytical. In some pertinent ideas there was learning

style intrapersonal, it's one of learning style based on Gardener's Theory (1983). Intrapersonal is ability to understand one's own emotions, goals, and intentions; understanding one's own interests, goals. These learners tend to shy away from others. They're in tune with their inner feelings; they have wisdom, intuition and motivation, as well as a strong will, confidence and opinions. They can be taught through independent study and introspection. Tools include books, creative materials, diaries, privacy and time. They are the most independent learners (Gardner, 2010).

4. Students' perception toward the importance of knowing learning styles that applied in speaking subjects

In this study, the researcher found that the respondents have a shared perception about the importance of knowing learning style. According to the findings, the results of this finding obtained all of the respondents were agree that knowing learning style is very important for the students. The respondents stated that by knowing learning style, it can help them easier to learn and understand something. They also stated that it's important for students to know the appropriate way to study and the right learning method so that they can understand the weakness and strengths in learning.

Based on the result of interview with respondents, the researcher also found some impacts when the students don't know their learning style are lack of understanding about the lesson so that they can not learn optimally, and also it's difficult for them to learn so it will increase the level of their laziness, and they can not improve their skill. It can be conclude that it is very important for students to know and understand their learning style because it will so helpful for them in learning process especially in speaking subjects. That statement are supporting by one of related research findings that listed by the researcher. Nafis (2017) concluded that learning style did not affect students' achievement in English class, but learning style affects their skill in English speaking.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher has come to the following conclusions:

1. The kind of learning style that commonly applied in speaking subject by students are kinesthetic and auditory. Kinesthetic and auditory are the most learning style that applied by students in speaking subjects based on the result of research findings.
2. Students' perception toward the importance of knowing learning style stated that learning style is one of the important things to know and understand by students because it plays an important role in learning process for students themselves.

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