

The use of Social Media to enhance Self-directed Learning (SDL) in English

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Abstract: Social media is not only used as a medium to socialize but it also has been utilized in educational areas to transfer the knowledge which is commonly done in a class. English as one of the subject studied in polytechnic is potentially taught by using social media such as Instagram. One of the advantages of using Instagram is that the learners can study independently from posts, stories, reels or any menus on it. Moreover, some accounts are verified which means that they use proper English with correct grammar and high vocabularies which enrich students knowledge when learning. As one of skills in 21st, students should obtain the self-directed learning (SDL) which instagram can facilitate to enrich their English. In this present study forty students from Politeknik Teknik Negeri Media Kreatif are taken as respondents to answer some questions regarding the use of instagram in self-directed learning. Besides that, formerly, the participants have been taught by using Instagram posts from verified accounts such as VOA, BBC and The Heralds. Qualitative Method is applied to gain the data from the participants. It is found that there is a significant improvement in their academic score and the students are better in self-directed learning. In the making of self-directed learning to create independent learners, the use of social media is suggested especially with the occurrence of lots of trustable accounts and applications. By doing so, studying English would not just done when the instructors or teachers are in, but anywhere and anytime. Furthermore, the learners can also arrange, proceed and measure their own study process. Therefore, social media is prospective in directing students to study English and be an independent learner.

Keywords: English, self-directed learning, social media, 21st century.

Introduction

Social Media as a result of modern technology has been widely utilised in many aspect of human lives. One of the important used of this is to help educators such as teacher and lecturers to convey their teaching process. Students, at the same time are benefitted from this platform because the features are engrossed and they might use this outside of the classroom. There are several research related to the use of social media in teaching. Furthermore, the various types of social media were also applied such as facebook, whatsapp, instagram and youtube. Each of these has supported the process of learning in and outside of the classroom.

As one of the social media sites, instagram is witnessed as one of the most popular platform not only because its features but also because it has several accounts which provides users with the information. The facts that are shown in the instagram can be used as a resourceful knowledge to study English. One of the research done by Carpenter (2020) indicates that the users of instagram in education used this social media more than 70%. In that research the participants were educators that agreed the utility of Instagram brings advantages to the teaching and studying process. Another study which has been conducted by Nugroho (2020) reveals that the students' writing ability improved after thought using Instagram.

Self-directed learning (SDL) is one of the skills which is presumably improving the quality of learning. It is used to help students gain knowledge in the areas of study such as English. Moreover, the appearance of social media supports the implementation of this because the learners initiatively use the site to study. Self directed learning is not just beneficial for English learners but also for the teachers because it can enhance the confident, enjoyable and interactive. The existence of social media helps the students to build the perception rather than remembering or documenting it. On things consiered, digital era gets the advantages of both self-directed learning and social media, particularly instagram.

Instagram, in addition, assist the process of online learning and at the same time brings forth the authentic materials for studying English. The authentic materials are materials produced by the native speakers which use English as their first language. Juraeva (2020) highlighted the application of authentic listening materials added the interest of students to study English. Parallel to that, Instagram also provides sources which originally produced by the indigenious speakers and is put in the verified accounts where everyone can access. In due course, those accounts are instrumental to the process of self-directed learning.

Materials and Methods

The qualitative method is practiced in this research where the data is assembled from the opinion of the students using the likert scale. Other than that, interview is also conducted to know the students opinion towards the self-directed learning using instagram. The approach from Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) is registered as the research instrumen while Moleong (2013) states that the qualitative method is useful when the researcher needs to find out the personal motivation from the object of the research and to dig the detail of process and what everyone has experienced during the study.

There are two classes involved in this study with 40 students participated in this research. Both

class are taught by using the same methods and materials but in different month. It takes two months to conduct this research and the materials taught are reading and grammar. The first class is taught earlier than another. After both group have been trained, the researcher asked ten questions in form of likert scale related to the Self-directed learning.

The participants are 28 males and 12 females. The list of quetions are:

- a. Instagram is a social media which used mainly by college students
- b. Teaching and learning English can be done independently without any teachers/tutors or trainers.
- c. Self-directed learning is applicable to study English
- d. SDL is possible to be done trough social media
- e. Instagram can facilitate SDL effectively
- f. Features in instagram are highly potential to use in SDL
- g. Verified accounts in Instagram is reliable to use as media to study
- h. SDL is more enjoyable to be done by using Instagram
- i. Teaching and learning is more effective when uses the authentic materials from native speaker
- j. Other social media such as Tiktok, Facebook and twitter are also probable to use in SDL.

All the participants answered those ten questions by choosing three different options, agree, disagree and totally disagree.

Results and Discussion

Applying SDL and combine it with the materials from instagram comes in acceptable or enjoyable. choose agree in the questions made. The figures are listed below.

1. Instagram merupakan media sosial yang banyak dipakai oleh mahasiswa
40 jawaban

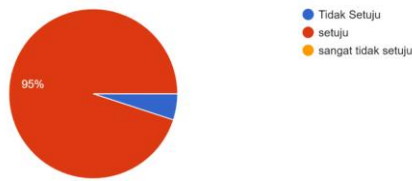


Figure 1. Question 1

6. Instagram memiliki fitur-fitur yang berpotensi untuk self-directed learning (SDL)
40 jawaban

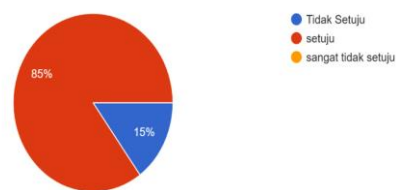


Figure 6. Question 6

2. Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris dapat dilakukan dengan mandiri (independent) tanpa guru/tutor/pengajar
40 jawaban

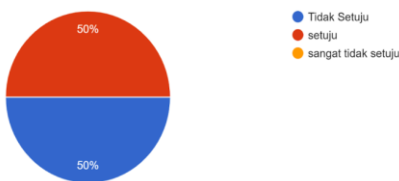


Figure 2. Question 2

7. Instagram juga memiliki akun-akun terpercaya dan terverifikasi untuk pembelajaran bahasa Inggris
40 jawaban



Figure 7. Question 7

3. Self-directed learning (pembelajaran sendiri) dapat diaplikasikan untuk mempelajari bahasa Inggris
40 jawaban

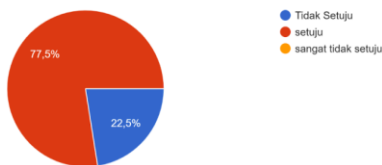


Figure 3. Question 3

8. Self-directed Learning (SDL) akan lebih menyenangkan bila difasilitasi oleh sosial media
40 jawaban

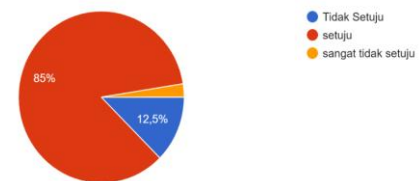


Figure 8. Figure 8

4. Self-directed learning (pembelajaran sendiri) bisa dilakukan melalui media sosial
40 jawaban

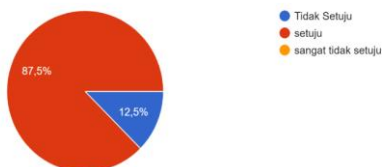


Figure 4. Question 4

9. pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris lebih efektif apabila menggunakan materi authentic yang dibuat oleh native/penutur asli
40 jawaban

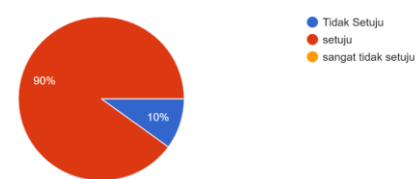


Figure 9. Figure 9

5. Instagram dapat memfasilitasi Self-directed learning/SDL (pembelajaran sendiri) dengan efektif
40 jawaban

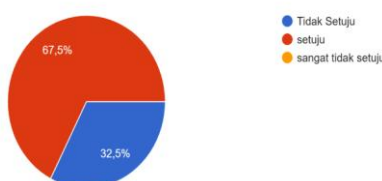


Figure 5. Question 5

10. sosial media lain seperti tiktok, facebook, twitter juga dapat digunakan untuk pembelajaran sendiri (self-directed learning).
40 jawaban

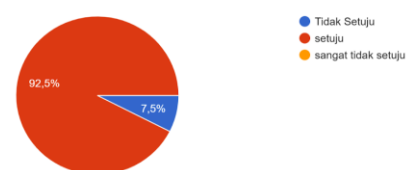


Figure 10. Figure 10

Discussion

Self-directed learning (SDL) is based on the concept that the learners own initiative to find out the conception that he or she needs. In this modern era, the concept has been shifted because the SDL learners might be helped by peers or teachers. Hawort (2016) also adds that SDL is suitable for the grown-up learners since those age group have the ability to be involved in intimidating process of learning. Another reason is because SDL permits the learners to design their materials resource. In this present study, the researcher helps the students out to find the accounts as the source learning substance.

The questions that the researcher asked relate to the topic being discussed since the needs is to find out the responds from the participants. Besides that, the authentic materials help the participants to minimize the gap between the knowledge they have and the proportion of materials. Because of that, Instagram demonstrates the presence of authentic materials in such an enjoyable way. From the participants point of view, the chance to study from the Instagram gives them new experience which moreover adds the stimulation and motivation to them.

Instagram, in addition, enriches the communication ability because the students actively finds out their own needs in learning. One study from Mansor (2017) shows that this site is worthwhile specifically for task-related activity. In her study, the students are told to create their own group to discuss the assignment intensively. The difference of her study result with this research outcome is that this study finds the instagram in supporting the self-directed learning. The result shows that the students improved their knowledge in English and they also understand the main points of SDL.

Conclusions

The result of technology can be seen in form of social media which is commonly used by teenagers and students in higher education. The social media like instagram is currently used not just as a medium of media to socialize virtually but also to learn and to gain information. In this research, the result shows that instagram is suitable to apply with the self-directed learning (SDL) method. The respondents also give positive feedback with the process that has been undergone to them. Furthermore, the SDL is beneficial for both students and teachers since their involvement has to be equal in this way. The teacher has to give the instruction very well in order to be understood while the students have to be very active in finding the sources for their own and evaluate what they have done after the SDL.

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