EDMODO VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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Abtract

In recent years, the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), especially the internet, in teaching and learning process becomes an essential part of the teachers' duties. As a teacher, we should be able to integrate the internet in teaching and learning process and purpose of this new medium as potential source to our students to improve their English competence. One of the internet facilities is Edmodo. It refers to as with any social network, can be used as a place to post and critique work, facilitate collaboration, and post creative material for an audience. The activities are not only focused on the students and teacher, but also the parents too. Parents can also view this Edmodo, either under their child's username or they may create their own account. Drawing from author's experience in integrating Edmodo into his class for first and third year's students of English Study Program, University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri, this paper attempts to demonstrate some potential uses of Edmodo in teaching learning process. Some pedagogical implications are further discussed. Using these Edmodo,it is expected that students will develop their English skills as well as have a lot of fun.

Keyword: Edmodo, E-Learning, A web-based teaching model

Introduction

The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) creates amore convenient lifein many countries. The ICT growth leads toa drastic improvement in terms of technology and quantity. One success factor ofICT implementation is based on the characteristic of its users. In relation to this, Indonesian curriculum (as seen in KTSP, 2013 Curriculum) administered that the purpose of learning English is to develop students' competence to communicate in English and also to apply it in daily life actively.

Smith and Ragan (2005:10) suggest three indicators that can be used to determine the success of the learning process, that is effective, efficient, and attractive. Here in after mentioned, effective learning is learning that is able to

bring students achieve learning objectives or competencies expected. While the significance of an efficient learning is an ongoing learning activities using time and resources which are relatively small. Lessons need to be created to be an interesting event to be able to increase the interest and motivation to study.

While learning English, student must enjoy what they learn,teacher should avoid students' fear with English. Especially when they find a problems and difficulties to understand the material, the other problems when they find a teacher that totally control the teaching and learning process. It makes them more passive and they will not improve their English skill. According to Nunan (2004:64), a percentage of language educators link to the transmission model, which emphasizes the teachers' responsibility of conveying the knowledge and correcting the errors. In this model, students are just to receive and store information taught by teacher in the class.

To improve the quality of learning English so that the process of learning English in the classroom is successful, a model of learning English is an important issue. In contrast, the big number of students in each class and teachers with low mastery of English are two obvious factors that contribute to the ongoing problems in ELT (AsabereNY.,&Brew E, 2012).Other reasons supporting that statement are: (1) limited time for teaching and learning English, (2) students have limited time to speak English in the class because the teacher is more concerned with grammar and syntax, (3) there are lack of good and authentic materials to support teaching and learning process, and (4) no English social community outside the classroom.Students need media to improve their English skill out of class. Learning Media System (LMS) Edmodo: is a simple M-learning tool using to present the lesson contents, it is common to all operation systems of smartphones; it provides useful tools for students and teachers tointeract online outside class anywhere, anytime (Hourdequin, 2014).

These days, mobile devices integrated into students' lives since the majority of them use mobile devices such as smartphones, phaplets, tablets pc, iPads, e-book readers. However, there are some things that can be done by Edmodo 2.3 are: 1) Allows students to enter the "virtual classroom" for digital activity there such as reading or watching the material, doing asessment or quiz, submitted the assignment or task. 2) Allow the parents to register in the virtual classroom and

look at the progress of their children. 3) Easily accessible to anywhere, anytime, using laptop,personaldekstop which connected with internet. Even Edmodo 2.3 can be operated on our own mobile phone, tab or Ipad. 4) Students can develop what is gained in the classroom with Edmodo 2.3. They can interact with fellow students and interaction between students and teachers. 5) Develop the ability of listening, reading, speaking, and writing them with Edmodo 2.3 anytime and anywhere. Students have the authority to choose the courses they want by asking the group code to the teacher, and enhance it with quizzes, assessments, or games that exist in Edmodo 2.3. 6) Edmodo 2.3 is a LMS (Learning Management System) which is rich in content, in which there are learning materials that are different from the material in class, there are quizzes, we can make learning materials, quizzes, electronic journals, and we can get the other resources from the world wide web.

With the development of technology, multimedia and e-learning teaching is increasingly accepted as a means of English language instruction. This model uses Learning Management System (LMS) platform called Edmodo 2.3 which has appropriate feature to use Information Communication Technology in teaching learning process. The LMS not only provided the text material, it also provided multimedia platform material like mp3, video, animation, or external links to the other website and resources, it will be a good learning media to support teaching and learning process.

Theoretical Framework

Constructivism

Social constructivism attempts to address the problem of how students naturally learn best. Today's technology can support these attempts. Wertsch(1997) stated that social constructivism not only acknowledges the uniqueness and complexity of the learner, but actually encourages, utilizes and rewards it as an integral part of the learning process. When used appropriatelyby an instructor,socialsoftware applications andWeb 2.0 tools can effectivelyassist in creating a social constructivist learning environment. An environment ofmultidirectional interactionamong instructors, learners andothers in cyberspace allows the learners to enter into a cycle of constructing theirown truths, testing them against

the truths of others and their environment to see ifthey hold up, and reconstructing where necessary.Individualsexchange constructed knowledge with others in their context. Over time,both the learner and the cultural context aretransformed. Asa result, collaborationthrough a culture's language and subsequentcommunicationis key tounderstanding a social constructivist model ofLearning. Social constructivism stresses the fact thatlearning is a socialactivity,occurring when people work collaboratively. Von Glasersfeld (1989) emphasized that learners construct their own understanding and that they do not simply mirror and reflect what they read.Learners gather knowledge tobe internalized from a variety of sources in their environment. Sources caninclude electronic and print sources, first hand experiences and even ateacher in the traditional role of knowledge provider.According to the social constructivist approach, instructors have to adapt to the role of facilitators (Bauersfeld, 1995). However, a teacher'srole should not be limited to that of knowledge provider, but should alsoinclude facets of coaching, guiding andfacilitating.

Connectivism

AlDahdouh (2015) stated that connectivism is often associated with and proposes a perspective similar to Vygotsky's 'zone of proximal development' (ZPD), an idea later transposed into Engeström's (2001). Learning is the creation and removal of connections betweenthe entities, or the adjustment of the strengths of those connections. Alearning theory is, literally, a theory describing how these connections arecreated or adjusted.The constructions of meaning and the creation of connections amongspecialized communities are important activities.Taking decisions   isalearningprocess.Choosingwhattolearn, andthemeaningoftheinformationreceived,isbasicinthischangingreality.Futureleade rswillbetheonesabletobenodesintheseknowledge webs.

Strength of E-learning English Teaching.

Johnstone&Milne (1995:315) suggested that the use of video has been found to effectively develop listening skills and grammar. Mayer (1998:25) stated that the use of a teacher-controlled multimedia tool increased the amount of communicative discourse in the classroom by both teachers and students. This

multimedia encourage students to be more active and autonomous. The attractive pictures, animation or sound will be engaged in the language learning effectively for them. They will collaborate with their classmates to solve a problem or complete a project in a relaxing environment. Students can learn on their own according to their plans or purposes and teachers can act more as a guide rather than a knowledge-giver. This environment increases the effectiveness of language learning and teaching.

In traditional English classrooms, instructors have to spend time on writing the vital language points and important information on the chalkboard. In the multimedia classrooms, the teacher can use the button and keyboard to show significant content in a few seconds as long as he or she is familiar with the operation of the multimedia.

Multimedia can provide a large amount of instructional information to the students for the purpose of English learning and accelerate the process of information searching. When we need some related information, we can easily find it from the large amount of information stored on the internet. With a wealth of updated information from the internet, multimedia is popular with the teacher who need to update the teaching materials.

How to use Edmodo

First, user type www.edmodo.com in a browser or search Edmodo in Google to sign up for free account. Second, click "create your free account" and fill in the form provide for teacher and for students. The teacher and the students have to provide their password to be registered as users. In teacher account, users select "I am a Teacher" button to create free account. Then, fill out the registration form and select the "sign up" button to complete the sign up process. After that, checking personal e mail for a confirmation is needed to view the next steps for setting up your Edmodo account. In students account, do the same process. Here, teacher give group code to students in order they can join her class. Parent can also access Edmodo by following the same step that the students go through. Group code for students is available from the teacher's account while the parents' account is provided on the right side of the students' class account.

Edmodo can be accessed anytime and anywhere as long as they connected to internet. Students and teachers have to accessed the urlhttp://edmodo/ to get the latest material, that url is the default link to get the front page of Edmodo (see picture 1).

Front page is only the introduction of Edmodo site, front page is the first page of a website, this is a homepage for the website, in other word, front page is the place where the important content of website is placed.

Picture 1 : The front page of Virtual

Teacher and students have to login to get the fully accesses into the material, forum discussion, assignment, quiz and the other content of e-learning model for teaching and learning English. Students is free to choose which material or class they want to enter, because the essential of LMS (Learning Management System) is bring the class into digital media and internet, but the students must have the group code if they wants to join to the virtual class.

User ID, password, and short name for teachers is registered by administrator, and it is different with students. Students have to register by them self and put the user ID, and password into login and get the full access into this site. For the user who does not registered yet can registered in the form of register to get into Edmodo course (see picture 2).

Picture2: The Login page and registration form of Edmodo

User interface for teacher and students is different; the different is on the administration box in the left side of the model it is also indicate that students and teacher has a different privilege to manage the site. Setting box for the teacher is use to manage the whole course handling by each of the teacher (See picture 3). Adding the course and manage the resources teacher just push the button in the administration site box. For adding a resources teacher need to put a drop down menu in the right side of the site.
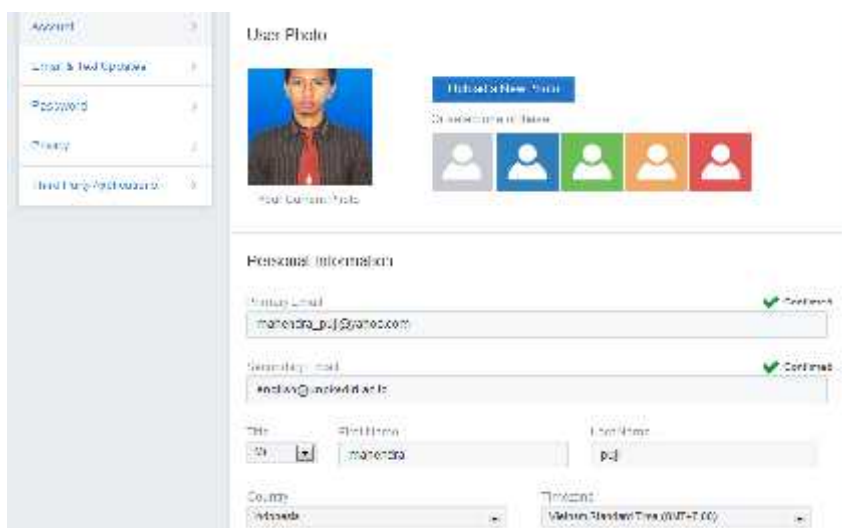
Picture 3: Administration site for teacher

Teacher has a fully control to this site, they can add course, add resources, add an activity, add material, add quiz, video, or everything that related with the teaching and learning process in the class. Teacher can join the chat and moderated it, made a forum discussion or giving permission to the other students from different class to join their classes. The fully function of handling the site

available if teacher turn the editing on button in administration site (See picture 4).
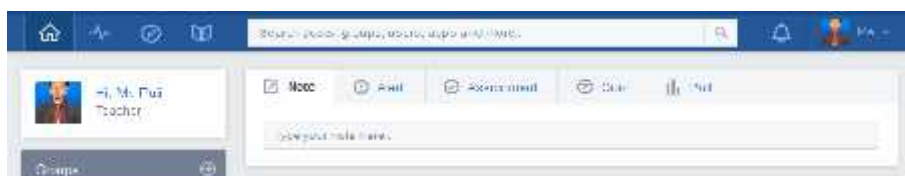
Picture 4: The user interface for teacher user have full accessed to manage the course.

There are several option for teacher to add resources and material in the course. Teacher may add label, compose a text page, compose a web page, giving an external links to the other website for resources, and display a directory for students to download a filethat related with the course.

Students only can access the course and the material based on their needed. They can join forum discussion or quiz not only in their course class, they can join in chat and forum discussion in the other class if the teachers who manage the course allowed the student to join the class. The students only allow to modified their profile, join discussion, uploading material in forum discussion, and choose the suitable material (See picture 5). The different is on administration site, only two things allowed for students to do.

Picture 4.5: Forum discussion or quiz, students account

Resources is a place where the teaching and learning material is laid down. From the picture 4.6 above the resources contain more than one format, it gives a

various way for students to learning by their favorite media, if they like watch video they shall choose a course resources. As multimedia platform Edmodo is available for any kind of digital format such as video, audio, picture, and external links to get the authentic teaching and learning material. The video for resources is embedded in you tube, so students can explore the other video that related with the course material (see picture 6).

Picture 6 : Edmodo provided a links to video resources

The e-learning model using Edmodo has similarity with the other website resources or social media especially Facebook. The features, menu, function and procedure is same with other e-learning. Everyone who has experience with the internet will enjoy it and does not found difficulties to handle it, so when browse and explore this learning media they can enjoy and get the different experience in the teaching and learning process. Most of the students familiar with user interface on the social networks site e.gfacebook, twitter, yahoo messenger, msn, or my space.

The user interface and the operational procedure of Edmodo post same with the other social network post. Students has a free choice to choose where the post they want to comment and share their opinion. Every students has an opportunity to share their ideas without feeling sad or fear. From the progress user panel in the right side teacher can monitor, which students is, join the chat room and who is the most active students in the course. It can be a good presentation assessment for the teacher.

Picture 7 : A user friendly progress gradebook students

Teacher needs to know the progress and the development of their students in each courses, they need an assessment and test to do it Edmodo v2.3 change the conventional test by using paper with digital test machine. In quiz box, teacher can add a quiz activity. There are several types of quiz to provide multiple choice, true false, short answer questions, or filling the blank quiz. Teacher can set the time and give opportunities for student to finish their test, a counting down time is available and give students remaining how long they can finish the test (see picture 4.8). In this quiz, teacher is easy to giving score and possibility of viewing the right answer in real time, giving feedback and grades. It will be easier way for teacher to give a test, they do not need to correct the students answer manually because Edmodo has done it Students allow to know whether their answer is wrong or right (see picture 8)

Picture 8: Quiz Activities in Edmodo

Picture 9: Edmodo Quiz automatically corrected and show the answer.

Even Edmodo quiz deliver the attractive and powerful quiz section, but it has a weakness in some of parts. Teachers cannot supervise student test in the same time, they just have privilege to minimize cheating practice during the test such as giving a timed quizzes, creating larger a question banks and giving test with arandom subsets to counter cheating during the test Edmodo provide a complex facilities to support teaching and learning process. Edmodo is a powerful media to bring a classroom into digital class. Teacher provide material resources, quiz, chat room, video or audio to deliver the different experience in teaching and learning process.

Conclusion

Edmodo is LMS (Learning Management System) platform that can be used to manage and creating a virtual class based on the syllabus and teaching and learning goal. The advantages of this product is conducted from teachers, students and website admin. The advantages of this program based on the teacher. (1) this website provide a lot of material and resources for teaching and learning process (2) Easy to upload and giving new material to the students (3) Can be accessed anywhere and anytime (4) This website does not need a class, so students will get the best opportunity to improve their skill which can not get in the large numbers of classroom (5) Teacher can handle post, quiz, assessment and forum discussion and share with students in real time.The advantages of web-based model in the students opinion is: (1) Easy to share an idea, because there are chat room and forum discussion. Students can chat with friends, or teacher at the same time. (2) There are lot of material and resources such as, video, power point slide show, or

audio files. (3) Easy to acsess and students can learn anywhere and anytime they want without class or note book.The web-based model using Edmodo is support teaching and learning process. This media offers an authentic material that can be accessedany time and anywhere. This model also gives the external links to get the other resources in the world wide web. The external links given is related with a discussion topic or material, and it is to gain the students knowledge and skill in teaching and learning. Because this media is a web-based model, the students feel enjoy when they are browse and take a look into the material provided. Edmodo offers a lot of lot of features and contents and this LMS (Learning Management System) is the suitable web-based media for teaching and learning. In short, Edmodo provides learning material resources not only from the teacher, but also from the other world wide web.

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