

Blog As The Media in Teaching Learning Process

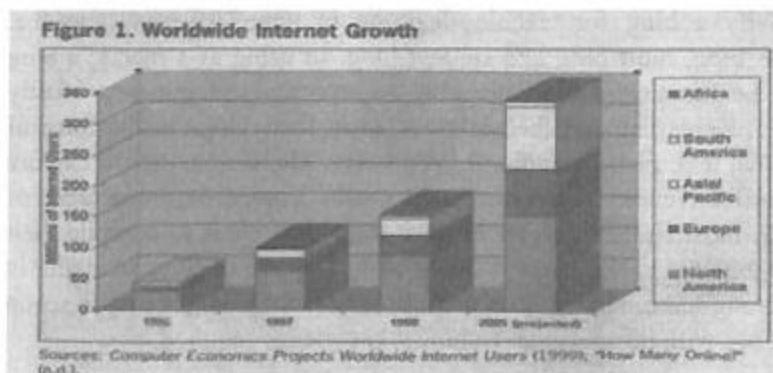
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Abstract

A blog is essentially a web page with regular diary or journal entries. (Dudeney and Hockly, 2007) Furthermore Dudeney and Hockly classify a blog for teaching-learning in three different types i.e. class blog, tutor blog and student blog. In using as a media, a blog can be functioned for collecting the students' assignments. Mostly the students can put the assignments in their blogs in the form of written text, picture, audio or even video. This article tries to explore the effectiveness of the blog as a media. Comparing three types of blog, most students prefer to have their own blogs to compile their assignments to the class or tutor blog. The use of blog as media in teaching-learning process is preferable because a blog is easy to set up and use with no specialist technical knowledge required.

Introduction

In 21st century, Internet is not the new information technology for Indonesian people anymore. Internet is an interconnection network. According to Rendy Reddick and Elliot King (1996), Internet is a term to describe the connection between computer networks to make them communicate each other. Children, teenagers and adults can access Internet as their media to find the information. Social, culture, politic, defense and safety even education can be accessed easily through Internet. For example, some teaching learning sources from elementary, junior and high school and university level can be accessed quickly through Internet. Based on Internet for English Teaching, internet users grow rapidly year by year. (See the graphic below).



Underlining the information from the graphic the Indonesian Minister of Information and Communication states that up to 2012 the government sets the standard to make Indonesian people are aware of the technology of information. Based on the expectation of the Indonesian Minister of Information and Communication, that is the reason of using blog as a media to collect students' assignment. The purpose of using a blog is to introduce students to the facilities the technology of information for education. Besides, the blog will encourage them to collect their materials or their tasks that they have done. They can be used as the sources for them in the future.

Nevertheless, it must be realized that a new method in teaching learning process is possible to have advantages and disadvantages or barriers. It has been realized that the activity and applying of the newest method will force students to adapt the teaching learning process in using their personal blog as soon as they can. For students who are able to use the internet facilities, especially the blog, they will not find difficulties but for those who are not able to operate the internet facility will face some difficulties.

The history of the internet starts in 1969 when the Defense Advance Research Project Agency (DARPA) decided to make a research about how to connect computers to build organic network. This is known as ARPANET. In 1970 more than 10 computers could be connected each other, so that they communicated and built a network. IN 1972 Roy Tomlinson completed the e-mail program that he was created in 1971 for ARPANET. The program was very easy and became popular at that time. At the same year icon @ was introduced as an important symbol to show "at". In 1973 ARPANET the computer network was developed in USA. University computers were the first one out of America which was the member of ARPANET network. Then two computer experts, Cerf and Bob Khan, presented a bigger idea which was the pioneer of the internet. This idea was presented for the first time in Sussex University. On March 26, 1976 Queen of England could sent her e-mail from the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment in Malvern. A year later more than 100 computers joined in ARPANET to build a network. In 1979 Tom Truscott, Jim Ellis and Steve Bellovin, created the first news group USENET. In 1981 France Telecom brought about an innovation by presenting the first television phone that made people *be connected with video link*.

The computer which was built the network grew rapidly, so it was needed a legal protocol which was admitted by all networks. In 1982 Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) or Internet Protocol (IP) was formed. In Europe there was a rival computer network that was known as EUNET, it provided the computer network service in Netherland,

England, Denmark and Swedish. EUNET provided e-mail service and news group Usenet. To make the standardize addresses in the computer network. In 1984 Domain Name System (DNS) was introduced.

The network was built by more than 1000 computers. In 1987 it grew rapidly about 100% to be 10,000. In 1988 Jarkko Oikarinen from Finland found and introduced Internet Relay Chat (IRC) to the public. In two years, the computers that are connected each other jumped into ten times. More than 100,000 computers connected in a network. In 1999 Tim Berners Lee found the editor program and browser which could surf between one computer and others. This program was called World Wide Web (WWW). In 1992 more than a million computers that were connected each other linked in a network. Then it appeared the term 'surfing in the internet'. In 1994 there was 3000 page addresses in the internet and for the first time virtual shopping or retail appeared on the internet. Then Yahoo and Netscape Navigator 1.0 were created.

The first blog 'What's News' in browser Mosaic which was made by Mark Andersen in 1993 was formed. Mosaic was the first browser before Internet Explorer even before Netscape. On January 1994, Justin Hall began his personal website 'Justin's Homepage' and then he changed it into 'Links from the Underground' which could be called as the first blog that it was used now.

The Definition of Blog

Blog or WeBlog is the first internet facility which was used by John Barger on December 1997. John Barger used weblog term to call personal website group which can be updated continuously and there are some links to the other websites which are regarded interesting and equipped by comments from the visitors. Gavin Dudeney and Nicky Hockly on *How to Teach English with Technology* (2007: 86) state that a blog is essentially a web page with a regular diary or journal entries. A blog is one of internet facilities which enable the users to send their data and regular diaries that can be accessed by other people.

From that facility the users can use a blog as their regular diaries and journal entries. Generally, a blog is used to present opinion, thought, analyzing, and experience including photo, video and music.

Nowadays, a blog has produced a way in the education field. For example students can use the facility to share any information including material for learning. On the teacher side, it can be used as a simple and effective media to collect students' assignments.

Blog for Education

The article 35 (1) of the Decree of the Indonesian National Education System says the student's competencies show the qualifications of the graduated student's skills that include attitude, knowledge, and skill based on the national standard which has been compromised. The national is the main point of the lecturer to facilitate the students developing their skills on using the information technology, especially the blog as the media for collecting their assignments. The vision of the national education is the realization of the educational system as a strong and authorized social regulation in informing Indonesian citizen becomes a qualified human-being so that they can face and proactive on dealing with the challenge in the world that always changes. Mc. Issac (1999) on Sumardi (2002:11) says that the role of the teacher of tomorrow will change. He or she will not be an actor of transmission of information, but a facilitator of learning and research as a whole process. Therefore teachers need to be trained in order to have new conception about education, strategies for learning innovative curriculum skills, technical skills, methodology skill, a global or international perspective and people skill to be human service educators. This show that teacher in the future must have knowledge which is greater than just the teaching ability. Teachers in the future are expected to apply the information technology in the teaching activity innovatively. French (1999) on Sumardi (2002: 11) adds that teachers must prepare and consider this development of the technology and then try to improve their teaching ability. Moreover, he continues to explain that the internet threatens to make some types of campus dependent learning absolute. Educators need to consider

how technology will affect the entire process of teaching learning.

Learning process can be effective if it is successful on reaching the aims that are decided in every specific field of education. Lot of argumentations says that internet is effective to be applied on the learning process and it provides some opportunities to teachers to be gained (available on <http://e-pendidikan.net/inter.html>): Professional development and the source of teaching materials

Using blog facilities on collecting students' assignment is one of the ways for the teacher and students to get an effective learning process. The blog is one of the internet facilities which enable the users to keep their data and diaries that can be accessed by others. Dudeney and Hockly (2007) classify the blog into three kinds. First is the class blog which can be accessed by students all over the world. Second is the tutor blog which can be used as a media for the teachers or lecturers. One of the functions of the blog is as a media to publish the learning materials' to the students. Third is the student blog as a media for students to collect their assignments and everything they want to publish on their blog. Some benefits of weblog (available on <http://Blog.bukukita.com/>) are developing relationship so that a large community can be made and weblog is more than electronic mail (e-mail) because one posting can be read by whole unlimited blog visitors. It is different with e-mail that can be read only by the person who owns the mail box. Besides, the blog visitors can give responses to the posting blog with the comment blog.

Analyzing Data

The data are based on the following instruments:

1. The interview with the teachers who use the blog as a media in collecting the assignments:

- Introducing internet facilities, especially blog as the right media

- to share information with other students and internet users.
- *Collecting their assignments in blogs so that it makes the teacher easier to check the students' discipline on collecting the assignments*
 - Motivating the students to adapt to development of technology.
 - *Knowing the culture of other countries easier and faster by internet.*
 - Training the students in having a better writing skill.
 - Motivating the students to publish their writing.

2. The interview with the students

Since the students take the Cross Cultural Understanding (CCU) they have their own blog. When they answer the question about the internet, 100% of them say that internet is very important for easily and quickly getting data. The popular facility is browsing the data. 70% of them use e-mail, 50% use chatting, 45% use blog, 15% use Friendster facility. Based on the information which is given by students about the time they spent for surfing in the internet, 30% of students spend one hour, 35% of students spend two hours, and 35% of students spend more than three hours. Perceiving the facility in collecting students' assignments, 90% of them say that blog is the exact facility for collecting their assignments. On the other hand, there are 65% of respondents say that e-mail is a good facility for submitting their assignments. The data about blog function, there are 35% of respondents agree that blog is for saving their data. 30% of respondents say that blog can be used for writing what they want. 25% of respondents say that blog can be used for publishing their written. 10% of them say that blog can be used for browsing the data. 10% say that blog is used for sharing idea to each other. And there are also 10% say that blog can be used for the creative things. The students say that there are some weaknesses when they use blog as a media for collecting their assignments. 50% of them say that the weakness is in loading. 25% of them find difficulty when they use blog at the first time. 25% say that it will be an obstacle

when they do not have the budget to go to the internet's rental. 20% say that internet's rental is limited. 5% of the students say that it will be fraud if collecting assignment through blog because of the copying and pasting programs on the computer. Finally, the result of interview about effectiveness of collecting students' assignments using blog, 70% of students say that blog is effective for collecting students' assignments. On the other hand, there are 30% of the respondents say that it is not effective collecting respondents' assignments using blog. From the whole answers that are given by students, it is clear that the using of blog as a media for collecting students' assignments is effective.

3. The document analysis

In the students' blogs it is found that most of the writing about Cross Cultural Understanding; the teacher lets them to show their abilities to understand other cultures. It is also found all students filling their blog with articles talking about the culture such as the New Year Eve. They also write their profiles, put their photographs and share their experiences in their blogs.

Conclusion and Suggestion

The effectiveness of using blog for collecting students' assignments can improve students' knowledge. That can be reflected from the respondents' answers. The result of interview about the effectiveness of collecting students' assignments using blog, 70% of respondents say that blog is effective for collecting students' assignments. On the other hand, there are 30% say that it is not effective to collect students' assignment through blog.

Based on the data, blog has many advantages. So it was suggested to the other teachers to use internet facility (in this case using blog) in their teaching process. On the other hand, it is recommended to the students for using internet on their learning process.

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