

Learner Independence and Online Education

Yakhshiboyev Akhrorbek To'ychiboy o'g'li

The teacher of Andijan state institute of foreign languages

Yaxshiboyeva Mohira Ilhomjon qizi

The student of Andijan state institute of foreign languages

ANOTATION: *This article explores the connection between learner independence and online education. It likely discusses how the unique features of online learning environments can foster or challenge students' ability to learn autonomously. The article might explore specific strategies educators can use to promote independent learning skills in online settings. It could also address potential challenges students face when taking charge of their online education*

Key words: *learner independence, online education, self-directed learning, online learning environments, time management, distance education.*

Online lectures or e-learning is learning that is supported by the internet and is a tool that can be a learning solution during the covid-19 pandemic hits Indonesia and the world. This online lecture can be implemented because not constrained by distance, time and cost, but still prioritizing the interaction between students with subject matter, students with other students, and interaction with the teacher. This is because in online lectures, students don't listen to material descriptions from educators only, but also actively observing, doing, demonstrating, and actively asking or responding. Teaching materials can be virtualized in various format so that it is more interesting and more dynamic, besides that the material can also be searched for by students themselves, so as to motivate students to learn more about a material.

Learning using the e-learning model has the advantage that students can learn without the limits of time and space. E-learning refers to an alternative method of teaching and learning using all electronic media, including the internet,

network, audio / video tape, and CD-ROM. Learning with the e-learning model has the advantage that students can learn without the limits of time and space, E-learning also provides a one-stop service for teachers and learners in order to create and deliver educational content quickly, effectively, and economically. E-learning is an alternative method for learning that uses media electronic internet, intranet, satellite, Smart TV and Mobile that are electronic media used in learning often, both synchronously (at the same time) or asynchronously (at different times). Accordance with the 4th industrial revolution era, Indonesia is developing the system distance learning or through online learning further, so there is no learning space boundaries (borderless). The development of information technology, it is increasingly easy for humans to obtain information, in just seconds without time and space limits. The development of digital technology has given rise to various new applications including in the field of education, and used as a learning tool.

Online lectures emphasize on student-centered learning, and improve 21st century skills (critical thinking skills, communication, collaboration, creativity, IT literacy, cross culture understanding, problem solving, self-directed learning). Gagne argues that learning is a kind of change that is shown in changes in behavior, which are different from before the individual is in a learning situation and after taking similar actions. The learning situation in this case is not only soft, but also physical, such as roads, television, computers, and so on. The environment in this case is not only soft, but also physical, such as roads, television, computers, and so on. The existence of virtual learning media can help students easily understand the content of a course.

The success of learning that is built through online models in schools and colleges is required: 1) students are able to independently learn and manage learning time, manage the effectiveness of internet use and various motivating applications, and organize themselves in online learning; 2) educators are able to develop knowledge and skills, facilitate learning, understand learning and things needed in learning, and; 3) availability of adequate infrastructure facilities.

Students who have independent learning have characteristics, namely, 1) independent in learning, namely being able to take full responsibility in analyzing, planning, implementing, and evaluating their own learning activities independently, 2) self-management, namely being able to identify what they need during the learning process, set individual learning goals, control their own time and efforts to learn, and organize feedback for their work, 3) have a desire to learn for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, motivation of independent learners to learn is very strong, and 4) problem solving to achieve learning outcomes best, independent learners make use of existing learning resources and appropriate learning strategies to overcome difficulties that occur in the learning process. Appropriate with the definition in the large Indonesian dictionary (KBBI online), independence is defined as a state that can stand alone without depending on others.

Students who have high learning independence tends to can learn better, be able to monitor, evaluate, and set a schedule learn it effectively. Learning independence can be influenced by internal and external factors. External factors are the creation of relationships between teachers and students and the formation of a supportive environment, while internal factors are skills that students must possess such as focusing memory and attention and problem solving, understanding how learning occurs, and skills, feelings and emotions. The data collection instrument used was an independent questionnaire student learning with indicators includes 4 (four) aspects, that is: self-confidence, responsibility, initiative and discipline. Learning independence can be achieved by exercising self-control such as 1) intention control only focuses on tasks, 2) emotional control and motivation by aligning motivation with learning objectives and avoiding emotional states that can hinder task completion, 3) controlling actions, 4) controlling willpower in putting discretionary efforts into achieving goals. If the students themselves can develop his independent learning ability, then the learning outcomes achieved will be of higher quality, original, and durable.

Supporting factors learning independence in online lectures can be divided into internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that come from themselves. Internal factors that greatly influence are discipline, motivation and responsibility. Students who have a high level of discipline will have a big influence on their independent learning. This is because the attitude of the discipline that they have will help students in managing the time that must be determined to carry out independent learning activities according to their abilities and characteristics. Motivation affects the independent learning carried out by students in terms of the indentation they have to achieve the desired goal, and that is mastering the concept of a material with their own abilities.

The responsibilities that students must have play an important role as a manifestation of their awareness of their obligations. As a student, students must be aware of their obligation to master the concept and complete the assigned task properly. External factors are factors that come from outside such as the family and school environment. The family environment plays a very important role in student learning independence. This is because in online learning, students carry out independent learning activities at home. Thus students and family members must have good interaction and cooperation in order to create a learning environment that is conducive to independent learning. The school environment has a role in supporting students in carrying out independent learning activities. Because learning activities are carried out online, schools can support students in learning such as helping to provide internet access, that is by providing data packages to students.

The obstacles that student encounter to independent learning in doing online learning activities are in the indicators of students' ability to work alone and self-confidence. Most students in face-to-face learning activities require a lecturer or friend to understand the material or complete the assignment given. The level of difficulty in understanding the material increases when learning activities are carried out independently. This can be due to a lack of knowledge

due to lack of reading or the material being studied is indeed difficult material to master if studied independently.

Likewise with the completion of assignments, most students complete assignments given by the lecturer with the help of their peers. This is still related to the lack of mastery of the material being studied independently. In this connection, it is also influenced by the level of self-confidence. There are still many students who do not believe in their abilities which leads to completing assignments assisted by friends. To increase their self-confidence, students must be brave in expressing their opinions and be enthusiastic in participating in the discussions that are being held. Thus, the knowledge that is owned will increase and concepts that may not be mastered can be understood through the discussion that is carried out.

Online lectures require high internal motivation and learning independence to achieve satisfactory results. Student learning independence is meant to be independently able to learn, regulate the use of the internet and various motivating applications, and organize themselves in online learning. On the other hand, lecturers must also be able to develop knowledge and skills, to facilitate online learning, and the availability of adequate infrastructure facilities for conducting online lectures from home. Based on the results of the research conducted, it can be seen that students have good learning independence. This can be due to the habits that have been carried out by students during face-to-face learning activities, so that students are familiar with the independent learning that is carried out. For the obstacles that students have in carrying out independent learning activities online, that is the ability of students to do work independently and the confidence that students have. Furthermore, factors that can affect student learning independence consist of two internal factors such as discipline, motivation, responsibility and external factors such as the family environment and the school environment.

In the other hand, there are new problems when we apply online learning systems, such as learning material or lecture material that has not been delivered

to the fullest, to stack the various tasks given. Another problem with this online learning system is the access of information that is constrained by signals that cause slow access to information. Consequently they were not getting sufficient information, and then they were late in collecting a task given by the lecturer. Besides that, the limited storage space of the gadget is also a problem too. Therefore, the application of online learning also makes educators think back about the models and learning methods to be used.

The lecturer had already prepared the learning model to be used and then had to change the learning model. Zimmerman stated that there are three stages of learning independence namely forethought, performance control and self-reflection. Forethought involves analysing tasks and setting goals. Performance control refers to monitor and control actions cognitive, attitude, emotional and motivational. Self reflection related to making consideration of things that have been achieved and change behaviour and goal orientation. Thus learning independence is a constructive process and active which is indicated by the presence of task analysis and settings goals to be achieved, make strategies or plans to achieve the goals, implement the strategies, monitoring and controlling performance, and evaluating to improve the weaknesses in order to achieve goals effectively and efficiently .

Independent learning has implications for responsible decision making, as individuals are expected to analyse problems, reflect their work, make decisions and take purposeful actions. To take responsibility for their lives in times of rapid social change, students need to learn on a life-long basis. As most aspects of our daily lives are likely to undergo profound changes, independent learning will enable individuals to respond to the changing demands of work, family and society. Teachers should train students to take charge of every stage of their own learning, which includes: setting goals, identifying and developing strategies to achieve such goals, developing study plans, reflecting on learning (which includes identifying problem areas and the means of addressing these problems), identifying and selecting relevant resources and support, and assessing one's own

progress (which includes defining criteria for evaluating results of learning). Therefore, we can say that learning independence is one of the most important factors in the effort to achieve learning objectives. But every student must have a different level of learning independence from one another, this may be due to family factors, the environment, and so forth. Every student has individual differences in how to learn. The differences are seen in not only what students learn, but also how the students learn. Therefore, in this study, we will analyse how independent students are in participating in online learning activities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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