The Impact of Project Based Learning `Weebly Blog` on Students` Ability of Offering Opinion in Social Studies Learning

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Abstract. This study was motivated by the low skill of expressing opinions in class VIII SMP Negeri 5 Bandung because students tend to participate less actively in in expressing opinions. The methods used in this research was quasi-experimental using the Nonequivalent Control Group Design. The purpose of this study were to know the impact of the project based learning *Weebly Blog* on the offering opinion skill in experimental class and control class. This study sample was taken with purposive sampling technique. Data collection techniques used in this study were essay tests and questionnaires. The researcher employed Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of normality as an analysis technique and hypothesis testing with t-test. The results showed that there was no significant difference between the results of the study in the experimental class and the control class. It is known based on the acquisition of sig. (2-tailed), the average value of the experimental class pre-test of 57.6, while the control class is 64.7. After being given treatment, both of them get 68. Based on the statistical data processing, the average value of the experimental class was not able to achieve greater acquisition of the control class. That is, the implementation of Weebly Blog project-based learning is not effective in improving opinion skills compared to the application of portfolio-based project learning.

A. INTRODUCTION

Student success is not merely about academic competence, but also supported by social competence. One of the social competencies that students is important to have to be a part of the community is the skill in expressing opinions. This needs to be preserved and cultivated early on students in order to become an asset as members of the community who are able to actively participate. School is channel of formal institution with learning activities inside that not only transforms knowledge, but also as a useful coordinating institution to support the growth and development of skill in expressing opinions of a person. The skill of expressing opinions developed into students through learning activities in schools will be able to make students become citizens who are delicate to social problems and able to participate in

community life. This is in accordance with the objectives of social science stated by Alma (2010):

> *To develop the potential of students to be sensitive to social problems that occur in the community, have a positive mental attitude towards the improvement of all inequalities that occur and overcome any problems that occur on a daily basis that happen to be done alone or that befall the community. (p. 5).*

Expressing an opinion skill is an activity of expressing notion or ideas in someone's mind. Parera (1987, p. 185) states that expressing an opinion is the ability to express opinions by using good language, correct, proper, careful and capable to express it analytically, logically, and creatively. Expressing opinions not only can be presented verbally, but also can be writing or written. Expressing opinion skill in

writing is related to writing activities. Writing activity is an activity that cannot be separated from learning activities in school. Wulandari explains that, *"...Writing is a process that is carried out and used by the author to convey ideas, messages, information through media written words to other people..."* (Wulandari, 2014, p. 16). Related to writing activities, there are several things which are beneficial for students. Through that way, students can be helped to better understand what they have learned, and grow creative ideas. In addition, the indicators in the ability to express opinions based on Romdiyatun (2012, p. 15) consist of: *a) Clarity of disclosure of opinion, b) Able to communicate opinions, c) Contents of ideas presented, and d) Demand of ideas / ideas.* Rahayu (2007) states that in achieving valued or quality learning, social science teachers need to have professional abilities. She also states that:

> *To realize quality learning, the teachers of Social Sciences are required to have adequate professional skills in order to carry out communicative and integrated learning, considering that quality learning outcomes are largely determined by the learning process. This ability can be seen from the teacher's ability to package learning as well as possible. (p. 5)*

Well-packaged social science learning is a learning activity of social science that is held as interesting as possible by utilizing learning media, learning resources, and varied methods. One of learning models that is considered as suitable by researcher to be applied in social science learning in order to develop skill of expressing opinion in writing is called as Project Based Learning. Project Based Learning is an application of teaching from active learning. Sastrika,

dkk (2013, p. 2) states that project learning is process-centered learning, has a period of time, focuses on problems, has integration between knowledge and knowledge that is in the field or in the real world, is collaborative or done by working together in a heterogeneous group in which there is interaction between group members to give birth to new knowledge and use it, and involve the ability to think creatively related to solving problems faced. This article was made by involving an activity of critical thinking. That is one of social science objectives. Sapriya (dalam Kanirawati, 2017, p.2) states that the objectives of social science are:

a. *Know the concepts related to the life of the community and its environment.*

b. *Have basic skills for logical and critical thinking, curiosity, inquiry, problem solving, and skills in social life.*

c. *Have commitment and awareness of social values and humanity.*

d. *Having the ability to communicate, work together, and compete in a pluralistic, local, national and global society.*

Weblog or often referred to Blog is a social media site on the internet that can be utilized by human as a place to write what they want to write. There is also an explanation from Santosa (2007) regarding the use of information technology media (Blog) states that:

> *... by utilizing Blogs as an online journal without realizing it provides an opportunity for students to showcase their work that can be enjoyed by others outside of their friends and teachers. It is expected that this will also provide opportunities for students who are less actively involved in expressing opinions verbally when learning in class to be able to express ideas,*

feelings, experiences, thoughts, opinions, and information that they have creatively. (p. 30)

Based on the explanation above, researcher was interested in conducting research on the influence of project-based learning based on Weebly Blog on the skill of expressing student opinions. This study was conducted to determine the difference of expressing student opinions skill before and after applying project-based learning based on Weebly Blog in social science learning.

B. METHOD

The method used in this study was quasi-experimental. According to Creswell (2009, p. 19) experimental research is a study in which it tries to determine whether a treatment is able to influence the results of research. The impact of a treatment can be assessed by applying the treatment itself to one group called the experimental group and the absence of application to another group called as the control group. The research design used in this study was Nonequivalent Group Design Control (Two Group Posttest Pretest Design). Sugiyono (2013, p. 118) revealed that in this design the experimental and control groups were not randomly selected. In the form of this study there are two forms of groups that will be research samples which are the experimental group and the control group. The selection of the experimental class and the control class in this study was determined at the researcher's discretion and suggestion from subject teacher.

The variables in this study are:

Research Variables

Free Variable	Project Based Learning Weebly Blog
Bond Variable	Offering Opinion Skill

The population of this study was the student of 8th grade at SMP Negeri 5 Bandung in the academic year 2018/2019 which consisted of 323 students. Determination of the sample in this study used purposive sample technique. There was also a statement put forward by Arikunto (2013, p. 183) regarding the intended sample *"... the aim of the sample is to take the subject rather than be based on strata, random or regional, but based on the existence of certain objectives ..."*

These are the following samples of this study:

Sample	Amount		Total
	Male	Female	number of amount
Experimental Class (VIII H)	16	16	32
Control Class (VIII I)	16	17	33

The research instruments used in this study were tests and questionnaires. The test instruments used were pre-test and post-test in the form of a question sheet and an article sheet concerning the problem of natural resource damage. In addition, researcher also used questionnaires as research instrument.

The weighting of the scores in each statement on the questionnaire is as follows Fatmawat (in Saridianti, 2016, p. 47)

Questionnaire Assessment Table

| Alternative Answers	Weight Assessment	
	Positive	Negative
Always	5	1
Often	4	2
Sometimes	3	3
Rarely	2	4

The implementation phases of this research were first, implementing the pre-test in the experimental class and the control class. Second, giving treatment to the experimental class by using learning method based on the Weebly Blog project. Third, carrying out the post-test by giving the same questions as the post-test questions after applying project-based learning based on Weebly blog in the experimental class and portfolio-based learning in the control class. Questionnaires were given to students at that stage, after all the required data had been collected, then the data was processed. The stage consisted of processing qualitative data and processing quantitative data. Processing qualitative data was carried out to process the pre-test and pot-data from the experimental class and the control class. Processing Quantitative data was carried out using the SPSS application in which there were normality test data, homogeneity test data, and hypothesis test data.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on pre-test result, it is revealed that the average value of the experimental class pre-test is 57.6. The highest score is 86.3 and the lowest is 30.3. On the other hand, the control class has an average pre-test value of 64.7. The highest value acquisition is 78 and the lowest is 33.3. Furthermore, Based on

post-test result, it is revealed that the average value of the experimental class post-test is 68. The highest score is 87.3 and the lowest is 40.3. On the other hand, the control class also has a post-test average value of 68. The highest score is 85.7 and the lowest is 50.

The Average Graph of Questionnaire Results for Experimental Classes and Control Classes
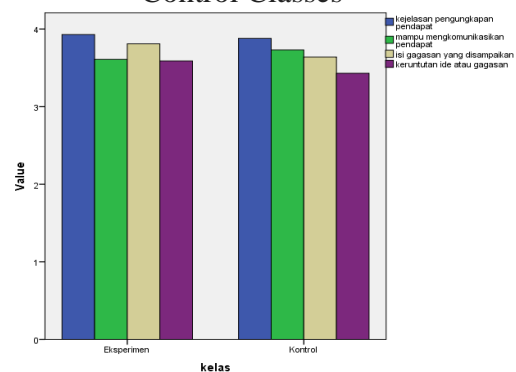
Based on the graph above, it can be seen that from the four indicators, in the experimental class there are three indicators with higher graphs than the control class. When sorted, in the experimental class the highest to lowest questionnaire scores are indicators of clarity of opinion disclosure (3.93), Contents of the ideas delivered (3.81), Able to communicate opinions (3,61), and Allegations of ideas or ideas (3,59) Whereas the highest to lowest questionnaire score control class is clarity of disclosure of opinion (3.88), be able to communicate opinions (3.73), Contents of ideas delivered (3.64), and Irregularities of notions or ideas (3.43).

1. **The steps to design project-based learning based on Weebly blog in learning material of the impact of change and spatial interaction on life in ASEAN Countries**

The success of the implementation of learning activities cannot be separated from the support in the form of lesson

plan that has been made previously by the teacher. Steps taken by researcher in designing project-based learning based on Weebly Blog on the impact of change and spatial interaction on life in ASEAN Countries, as follows (a) Understanding first the steps in project-based learning activities, (b) Analyzing the time allocation of learning activities appropriately, (c) Determining suitable learning methods, (d) Determining appropriate learning media to support learning activities, (e) Determining appropriate learning resources and in accordance with learning material, (f) Designing lesson plan to understand and study the scenario of the course of learning activities, and (g) Making an evaluation in the form of 10 essay questions regarding the problem of natural resource damage.

A lesson plan is one of important things needed in learning activities. Mulyana (in Setyawanto etc, 2012, p. 1-2) states that an important reason of making lesson plan is, can help the teacher to think about lessons before the lesson is being taught so that learning difficulties can be predicted and solutions can be sought. In this discussion, the answer collected which is the lesson plan of project-based learning based on Weebly Blog in the learning material. The impact of changes and spatial interactions on life in ASEAN Countries is effective on expressing opinions skill of social science in the experimental class. This can be seen from the existence of the average pre-test score in the experimental class, which is 57.6, it is increase in the average post-test score which is 68.

2. The effectiveness of applying project based learning based on Weebly blog skills to express opinions in the experimental class

The application of project-based learning based on Weebly Blog on expressing opinion skill in the experimental class is said has influenced the ability to express student opinions. This can be seen from the test results known to have obtained the sig score. (2-tailed) which is 0,000, smaller than the score of $\alpha = 0.05$, so it can be concluded that Ho is rejected which means the application of project-based learning based on Weebly Blogs is effective to the skills of expressing opinions in the experimental class. Moreover, it also can be seen from the results of the questionnaire which shows that from the four indicators that existed in expressing opinions, the experimental class has a higher graph than the control class on the 3 indicators. These things are supported by a statement from Huette (in Mahendra, 2012, p. 11) which states some advantages or benefits of using Blogs for classrooms that is, *"... also describes the benefits of using Blogs in the classroom, among others: 1) can promote critical and analytical thinking, 2) can encourage creative, intuitive and associational thinking, 3) can encourage analogical thinking, 4) potential for increased access and exposure to quality information, and 5) a combination of solitary and social interactions ... "*. From the statement proposed by Huette, there are some benefits related to the ability to express opinions which is the usage or utilization of blog in learning activities that will be able to encourage students to be creative in producing a problem-solving decision by using critical and analytical thinking. Based on that explanation, it is known that in expressing opinions, besides asked for critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking activities are also needed to be able to produce new ideas to deal with problem solving. This is in accordance with the notion of creative thinking proposed by Munandar (in Rubianti, 2017, p. 2) that, *"...creative thinking is the general ability to create*

something new, as the ability to provide new ideas that can be applied in problem solving, or as the ability to see new relationships between the two pre-existing elements... "

3. The influence of portfolio-based project learning on the control class and project-based learning based on Weebly Blog in the experimental class on expressing opinion skill

The pre-test result in the experimental class and in the control class found difference. After giving treatment to the experimental class by applying project-based learning based on Weebly blog and to the control class by applying Portfolio project-based learning, it can be seen that the results of the post-test in both classes show the sig score. (2-tailed) of 0.954, which means higher than α = 0.05, meaning that Ho is accepted so that it can be concluded that there is no significant difference on expressing opinion skill in social science study between the experimental class and the control class. This can be seen from the average score of the experimental class pre-test is 57.6, while the control class is 64.7. The acquisition of the pre-test average score indicates a difference. Then, after each treatment was given, the experimental class gets the same score as the control class value, which is equal to 68. The result of the questionnaire shows that from the four indicators in expressing opinions, the experimental group has a higher average value graph compared to the control class on the three indicators in it. Although the results of the questionnaire results in the experiment class has a higher score than the control class, but the statistical data on the average score of the experimental class post-test were not able to achieve higher score than the control class. Through this explanation, it can be seen that project-based learning based on Weebly blog in

the experimental class is merely able to make the skill of expressing opinions that were previously under the control class to be equivalent to the control class. That means, the implementation of project-based learning based on Weebly Blog activity cannot be more effective in improving opinion skills compared to the application of portfolio-based project learning. The things that have been explained are supported by the existence of several statements that become the theoretical basis in this study, including the weaknesses of using Blog as a learning media, those are:

There are difficulties for students who don't like cyberspace. Erfianto et al (2015, p. 57) explained that there are students who are not accustomed to exploring the virtual world so that they become dislike of internet-based learning media, which later will cause dislike of these subjects; 1) Blogs have threats to viruses, hackers, or spywere; 2) Blogs are sometimes easy to abuse and writing on Blogs is less accountable; 3) Blogs are also prone to plagiarism, which many just copy paste a piece of someone else's writing. (Bahtraedu, 2015)

There are some weaknesses or shortcomings related to findings in the field and the ability to express opinions, which is the existence of difficulties for students who do not like cyberspace. Erfianto et al (2015, p. 57) explains that, there are students who are not accustomed in exploring the virtual world, so that they do not like the internet-based learning media, later on that will cause dislike of that subject. In the implementation of project-based learning based on Weebly blog activitiy in the experimental class, it is found that not all students understand how to operate the Weebly Blog, although there are a few students who are able to operate it, however they are still confused. Meanwhile, creating opinion articles is an

activity of expressing opinions, in which the activity of expressing an opinion is required of analytical, logical, and creative thinking to produce opinions that are intact, clear, and resourceful. This is in accordance with the statement of Parera (1987, p. 185) regarding ways to express good opinions, as follows: 1) *How to express opinions well means expressing opinions in a reasonable context; 2) Expressing opinions analytically means being able to express opinions systematically and regularly; 3) Expressing opinions logically means making a reasonable opinion*

D. CONCLUSION

First, the fluent implementation of learning activities and the achievement of learning objectives cannot be separated from the support in the form of lesson plan for learning activities. In designing learning activities, it cannot be separated from the preparation of lesson plans. Preparation of lesson plans can facilitate teachers in designing the course of learning activities by organizing various things needed in it and helping teachers to be able to understand the possibilities of obstacles that will be faced, so that learning objectives are expected to be achieved as effectively as possible.

Second, project-based learning based on Weebly blog has proven to be influential in improving students' expressing opinion skill. This can be seen from the average pre-test score in the experimental class which increased by 10.4 in the post-test activity. Then, it also can be seen from the results is the application of project-based learning based on Weebly blog is effective on expressing opinions skill in the experimental class.

Third, the pre-test results in the experimental class before applying project-based learning based on Weebly blog and the control class before applying

portfolio project-based learning found differences that is the scores in the experimental class were smaller than the control class. Then, after being given treatment, the acquisition of post-test scores in both classes showed no difference, that is, both classes had the same value. That is, weebly blog based project learning is not very effective compared to portfolio project based learning in improving the ability to express opinions.

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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