

## ***The Effect of Learning Style on Students' Understanding during Online Learning***

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**Abstract**—As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the obligation to learn from home must be taken by the students. The online learning system is implemented so that all students can still pursue the education that is usually obtained in face-to-face classes. Students now rely on technology and internet networks to conduct virtual meetings with teachers and access subject matter. The process of learning from home is not easy. Being successful in online learning takes a lot of discipline and commitment. Students are encouraged to be able to condition themselves independently. Every student has their preferences. While some prefer to study alone, others may prefer to learn in a group. The question is: "How does the learning style during online learning affect student's understanding of their lessons?" This paper wants to answer the question based on our experience (as students who have been studying online for 9 months), Skinner's theory, and classification of learning style by De Porter (2000). Online learning is no longer a burdensome obligation. Instead, online learning becomes a fun activity if we know how to do it.

**Keyword**— *Covid-19, learning style, online learning, student*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

In this pandemic, online learning is chosen as the safest way over the traditional classroom system. The location is not a challenge when it comes to online learning. No matter where a student is, the

student can access their study materials through their personal handphone/laptop which makes it flexible. They can go online and finish their lessons regardless of location.

As online learning students, there is no doubt they will need to find the right place to get their work done. Finding the right study environment is important because they need to be able to focus and stay productive. Every person has his preferences. While some prefer a quiet place like a bedroom to study with limited distractions, others may like in the outside to catch some fresh air, and others may like to study in a group because they like to speak to the people around during learning. Every student has a different learning style.

The grand theory used in this research is Skinner's operant conditioning theory. Skinner argues that operant behavior operates in an environment without any unconditioned stimuli. Skinner's study focuses on the relationship between behavior and its consequences.

## II. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### A. LEARNING STYLE

The current situation is not getting easier, and everyone is experiencing it all over the world. With a worldwide outbreak of the disease, the whole world feels the need to take a policy as quickly as possible to address and reduce its spread, including education. The Indonesian Minister of Education decided to hold teaching-learning activities from home or with the online system during this time to minimize the spread of disease outbreaks from the learning process face-to-face.

However, in reality, not all students can quickly adapt to this learning system. Students have long thought that learning from home is the same as school holidays, which is certainly not the case. Many students are confused about arranging between time to study with other activities during home learning activities. Students are expected to be able to adapt to their learning systems during the online learning period. It is because, in reality, it is not always the system of teaching face-to-face in school that can run to the maximum and in does not suit the student's learning style.

Based on “Perbandingan Hasil Belajar antara Model Pembelajaran

Konvensional dengan Model Pembelajaran Kooperatif” research on [jurnal.uns.ac.id](http://jurnal.uns.ac.id), the conventional teaching method by way of lectures or one-way verbal delivery tends to be tedious for some students, so it cannot run to the maximum and cannot fit some students' learning styles. Students are expected to study independently at home according to the hours of learning during the face-to-face learning process at school. Students are also expected to determine their learning style to adjust to the current situation so that this online learning process can also produce and impact student achievement.

According to Skinner (in Dahar, 2011) when someone is followed by pleasant consequences, that person will be more often involved in the behavior. This pleasant condition is called operant conditioning. Another example is when students prefer to learn in a quiet place, then learning by lock themselves in their room without any disturbance will become operant conditioning.

The pleasant conditions that these students have been implied in the conditions of their learning style. According to De Porter (2010) said that learning style is someone's way of how he absorbs, remembers, manages the information, and how to think in solving problems or problems based on the

student's personality. This learning style cannot immediately give effect to learning outcomes, because in the process students still need to have high learning motivation to obtain the goals. Only to achieve this goal is used learning styles that are appropriate to student behavior.

Three types of learning styles (De Porter, 2000) can be used or applied during the self-learning process, namely by visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles.

The visual learning style is best to apply for learning spaces that use decorative works of their own by receiving explanations that are later made into mind mapping. Another way is learning using books or other teaching materials such as presentations using interesting visuals. During the online learning process, students can listen to the material and view the images visually on the internet or see the mind mapping that he has created. Because of this learning style visually, it is necessary to be as enjoyable as possible if viewed.

The kinetic learning style, which is a learning style that allows students to move freely during the learning process, such as students who can not sit lingering during class can learn by walking around the house and chewing gum or eating snacks during the learning process.

Finally, the students' learning styles are auditory learning styles, which is the traditional method of school/university teaching. Students with this learning style will work in a quiet room with no audible distraction, avoiding areas of family conversation and television. Auditory learners often talk to themselves while studying. They read their notes out loud.

Students can determine their learning style during this online learning process according to their wishes while setting the schedule of activities in accordance with the face-to-face learning process. Students can decide for themselves a place to study, such as a room, a living room, or a more relaxing place such as a café. Students can choose the most comfortable place possible to keep up with the learning process that suits their respective learning styles. Students are required to do learning activities in a closed room with many other students during this time, which cannot be optimal and does not match some students' learning styles. Students can choose their place of study, so it is expected to concentrate more during the study and get excellent results despite doing distance learning activities.

If a student has set a learning style that suits him, then the learning process rarely far away with online learning will

not be a problem. Because with this self-learning process, students can explore more knowledge about discussion materials that are obtained from teachers.

In addition to determining their place to do comfortable learning activities, students can also prepare food or snacks during the learning process during online learning activities. Students can prepare meals, snacks, or drinks that can increase the concentration of learning. For example, such as providing fruits for snacks, such as avocados containing folic acid and vitamin K that are good for memory, or also berries such as blueberries rich in vitamin C and Vitamin K. Or types of nuts as snacks, such as almonds to increase concentration. Can also prepare drinks such as tea or coffee during the learning process. Preparing food or snacks during the learning process is certainly not possible during the face-to-face learning process in the classroom or room as usual, but can be done in the online learning process.

#### B. STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING

Student understanding means that students have a clear and true idea or notion of the object, or full and exact knowledge of the object. It is when the student can answer the questions provided

clearly which related to the lesson taught by the lecturer. If the student can relate the lesson and his environment, it can also assure that the student has understood the lesson.

The research team of Margaret C. Wang, Geneva D. Haertel and Herbert J. Walberg (1993) had shown that learning environment/condition is one of the top four factors that impact student understanding. Based on the experience as a student who has at least undergone the online learning process for nine months of this pandemic period, we can understand the lesson well as long as we can find the best condition and best place that we think is suitable for us.

The atmosphere selected place to study, cleanliness, snack or drink supplies, and bright lights can enhance student understanding. Alternatively, the condition that does not suit students' learning style often results in lower students' motivation and understanding

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the student's learning style can affect the student's understanding of online learning. Moreover, as long as students can find a style and learning time that suits them. With online learning, students become more flexible in managing their study time,

even preparing snacks that are certainly also useful to increase the concentration of students. Small things like preparing snacks are what cannot be done in classroom learning activities face-to-face. Online learning during this pandemic opens up the possibility for students to better adapt to each student's learning style to improve their academic achievement. It is open to opportunities for students to know better what kind of learning style matches their personalities through online learning. Hence, it can influence students' academic results by adjusting the learning style according to each student's personality.

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