

# **A Study on Students' Learning Interest in Blended Learning Method Through Edmodo to the Students of English Department at Nusantara PGRI Kediri University**

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## **Abstract**

*Over the past few years, technology has grown to influence nearly every aspect of the education system. The development of Information technology has generated new environments called blended learning which combine the advantages of e-learning and traditional learning. Edmodo is one of the blended learning mediums which has been used for teaching at English Department of Nusantara PGRI Kediri University. The purpose of the present study was to examine the students' learning styles and their views on blended learning. This study is a qualitative descriptive research which data collection was done by interviewing the lecturer, distributing questionnaires and interviewing the students. Additional data were gathered from achievement scores of students; and records demonstrate students' participation to learning environment. Results revealed that students have an interest in blended learning method through Edmodo both in the individual interest and situational interest also ease of using of the web environment, evaluation, face to face environment etc., differ according to their learning styles. Results also reveal on responds to face to face aspect of the Edmodo are available for iPhone and Android, the students can know the right answer of the assignment directly, it helps the extrovert students who are not active in class become more confident, the interface looks like facebook, the students can get the information and new materials more fast. Process when students' evaluation concerning the implementation is taken to consideration. The overall findings showed no significant differences between students' achievement level according to their learning styles.*

**Keywords: Learning Interest, Blended Learning, Edmodo**

## **INTRODUCTION**

New advances in the internet based technology have brought challenges and opportunities as well to education and training, in particular through online instruction. The growth of internet and online communication technology has changed the way people work, communicate, socialize and learn. Moeller and Reitzes (2011:5-6) indicate that technology can help teachers to assess an individual student's strengths and

needs, equip students with skills essential for work and life in a 21st century global society, provide an active experience for students, so they can independently organize their learning process (Listiawan, 2014). It means that the whole purpose of using technology in learning is to give better value to teachers and students. This better value also impacts the teachers and students performance.

In the other side, the change of educational paradigm, shifting from

teacher centered learning into student centered learning, brings significant changes to the learning methods that develop at this time. Learning process that formerly used lecture and one way method from the lecturer to the students changes into more dynamic. Lecturer as subject custodian already changes into facilitator in learning process. Lecturer directing students towards a high level knowledge by utilizing the facilities that support to explore. In this case, facilities mean internet facility in campus that requires a connection to the internet (Internet Connectivity), web-site development, Local Development Area Network (LAN) and internet development.

University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri has also facilitated their students with internet connectivity or we called it with hotspot area, that is area where we can use free internet connection from our devices by using wifi. The availability of internet connectivity is to facilitate the students take the advantages of technological development in education field, for the purpose of enabling students to easily browse for collage assignment. But, what is going on is not as expected. Most students used the internet facility for other things out of the context of education. They enjoy the social media, which is now probably everyone knows.

The students are able to spend a day in the hotspot area just to chatting and make new friends through social media, and it is not just happening in University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri but throughout the university, because all people are familiar with social media, even now too much elementary school students who already have an

account on social media such as facebook, twitter and tumblr.

English is one of departments in the faculty of teacher training and education in University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri that has many students. English department of the University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri gives their sixth semester students IT for Teaching subject, it is intended that the students who will be English teacher are able to apply and take the advantages of technological developments in learning, it is in line with the mission of English Department University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri.

In IT for teaching subject, the lecturer uses blended learning method. Singh and Reed (2001:1) described blended learning as “ a learning program where more than one delivery mode is being used with the objective of optimizing the learning outcome and cost of program delivery.” Finn and Bucci as cited by Akkoyunlu and Soylu (2008:183) mentioned that blended learning is the effective integration of various learning techniques, technologies, and delivery modalities to meet specific communication, knowledge sharing and information need. According to two definition above blended learning is a type of education which combines various models of traditional and distance education and makes use of all types of technology, in other words, blended learning is a combination of conventional classroom instruction and e-learning. In IT for teaching subject, lecturer blend face-to-face learning activity in class and online learning through Edmodo. Edmodo is one of the online learning media that has been

used by teachers in many countries. Edmodo is a free and safe educational website. Edmodo was created by Jeff O'Hara and Nick Borg in 2008 for teachers, students, parents and school. Edmodo is available in [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com). Edmodo website looks like facebook, but more private and safe because only allow teacher to created and manage account, and only students that has code can join the group that their teacher created.

Candelaria and Wernicke on [etec.clt.ubc.ca](http://etec.clt.ubc.ca) (2013) stated "some of the functions of Edmodo can be used to enhance an already established face-to-face classroom such as by providing online quizzes, notes, polls, questions, and interactivities." Witherspoon cited on Kongchan [www.pixel.com](http://www.pixel.com) (2012) concludes that Edmodo can describe as a Learning Management System (LMS) which can facilitate lecturer to create and manage their online class easily. This website provides the lecturer and students connected as virtual. For the example, lecturer can send quiz and assignment, give the feedback, received assignment from their students, give the score, make a polling, share and save the material in the form file or link, send a message or give and announcement to the group member. Students can also share the learning material, collect the assignment, get the feedback, and there are a lot of things that students can do in Edmodo.

According to Karen Wilkins on British council blog (2014) Edmodo can help teachers to building relationship with their students. That is one of the advantages of online class that basically uses virtual communication, this communication

covers communication weakness in real world, for the example many students who are not active in face-to-face class because they are embarassed to ask and respond to their teacher, they will be more active and confident to communicate with their teacher in online class, so the relationship between teacher and students will be good.

The uses of Edmodo in IT for teaching subject, at the first meeting the lecturer asked the students to create an account on Edmodo, after that the lecturer gave the students a code, the code is a code to entered the group, and each class has different group. The lecturer used the group to share tasks and materials to the students and it also used to collected the students assignments with deadlines that have been set. The students can share content with each other, such as e-book, document or image to all the group members. They can also communicate with their lecturer virtually to inquire material that is less clear. Some students said, sometimes Edmodo used to complete unfinished materials in class.

According to the explanation about blended learning method and important feature in Edmodo to support the learning procces, the writer would like to take a study about learning interest of the students in blended learning method through Edmodo to the English Department students University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri.

## SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The use of technology in learning has a purpose to give better value in students and lecturer

performance. Lecturer as a subject custodian already changes into facilitator, they direct students to utilize the facilities such as the use of internet facilities as a learning tools.

One of them is blended learning, that is a combination of conventional classroom instruction and online learning that requires internet facilities. Edmodo is one of the media that can be used in blended learning.

Edmodo is an online learning that provides the lecturer and students connected as virtual such as make a group, share task, give feedback, receive assignment, share and save material, and many other things. In addition Edmodo appearance looks like facebook, so it will help the student easily to access.

In this research the writer intends to study about the students learning interest in blended learning method through Edmodo to the English Department students University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri.

Based on the background of the study, the writer would like to formulate the problems as follows:

1. How is the students learning interest in blended learning method through Edmodo to the English Department students University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri?
2. What are the factors making the students interested in blended learning method through Edmodo to the English Department students University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri?
3. Why do these factors make the students' interested in blended learning method through Edmodo to

the English Department students University of Nusantara PGRI Kediri?

According to the formulation of the problem above, the research has some purposes they are: to find out the students learning interest and also factors that make the students interested in blended learning method through Edmodo.

The result of the research are expected to give contribution to the education and science world about the development of technology based on blended learning method especially the use of Edmodo as means of learning proper, effective and innovative.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Interest has an important part in the learning process because it increases learning (Listiawan, 2014). Research on interest has waned over the past century, as cited on Schraw, Flowerday and Lehman, Dewey was the first to emphasize the crucial role of interest in learning. There are many definition of interest, some researcher on their study explain their own definition of interest. Schraw, Flowerday and Lehman (2001:211) identified situational interest and individual interest as a types of learning interest, but another study by Schraw and Lehman as cited on Lee, Chao and Chen (2011:142) devided the types of learning interest into five basic core namely: latent interest, actualized interest, text-based interest, task-based interest and knowledge based interest.

In brief the main concept of latent interest is on the inclination that

guides an individual through cognitive activities, including interests in learning related to all senses and values. Meanwhile the main concept of actualized interest is on specific content that is more precise and clearly defined. For text-based interest, task-based interest and knowledge-based interest their main concept is on the situational stimuli. Text-based interest refers to the interest sparked by a text an individual plan to learn. Task-based interest may be affected by altering objectives or text of learning which, in turn, vary depending on the task of learning assigned. Knowledge-based interest influenced by experiences on an individual's current task of learning.

### **Blended Learning**

The development of Information technology has brought challenges and opportunities in education, especially in online instruction, where the learning materials are transferred electronically and the learning occurs through the internet, or it called e-learning. but the use of e-learning has some disadvantages such as hindrance of the socialization process of individuals and lack of sufficient recognition between teacher and learner, these disadvantages have evoke a search for new environments which combine the advantages of e-learning and traditional learning environments. This new environments is known as blended learning.

### **The Definitions of Blended Learning.**

There have been many definitions of blended learning given by some experts. According to Finn

and Bucci cited on Akkoyunlu and Soylu (2008:183) blended learning brings traditional physical classes with elements of virtual education together. Alebaikan and Troudi (2010:50-51) stated : “blended learning provides more guidance to online learning by integrating face-to-face learning with distance learning, while it provides flexibility and accessibility to traditional learning by incorporating online learning.” While according to Bailey and Martin (201:2): “blended learning is a formal education program in which a student learn at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of students control over time, place, path and/or pace at least in part at supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home”.

Based on the definition above, we can conclude that blended learning is the combination of online learning and traditional learning with various types of technology can be used.

Before start to use blended learning method there are many things that teachers should prepare. Because blended learning focusing on the learning objective rather than method of delivery. Many different personal learning style need to be supported to reach broad audiences. Each teacher brings different knowledge into the learning experience. In many case, the most effective learning strategy is “just-what-I-need, just-in-time.” That is appropriate with Singh and Reed (2001:2) stated: “blended learning focuses on optimizing achievement of learning objectives by applying the “right” learning technologies to match the “right” personal learning style to transfer the



“right” skills to the “right” person at the “right” time.”

From the statement above teacher who used blended learning method could find all the “right” things above, because it will optimize the learning outcomes. Before starting to blend their learning, teachers also should find the right tools for their blended learning. There are many tools that can be used in blended learning, here the mediums for blended learning.

Edmodo is an educational website that takes the ideas of a social network and refines them and makes it appropriate for a classroom. Using Edmodo, students and teachers can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems, and helpful tips.

Based on the description of the theories that have been explained, interest is needed in learning because interest is one of the primary goals in education. Interest in learning divided into five, the first is latent interest that guides an individual through cognitive activities, the second is actualised interest that the main concept is on specific content that is more precise and clearly defined, the third is text-based interest that refers to the interest sparked by a text an individual plan to learn. The fourth is task-based interest that can be affected by altering objectives or text of learning depending on the task of learning assigned. The last is Knowledge-based interest that influenced by experiences on an individual’s current task of learning.

Therefore, is important to build students' interest in learning, moreover with the development of

information technology in education that has given rise to a new environment called blended learning, in this case the role of teachers to foster their student interest is needed. Blended learning is a combination of online class and traditional class, with the used of various technology. The benefits of blended learning, it can improve learning effectiveness, students will gain more experience and knowledge, it also has the potential to balance out and optimize the learning program development and deployment cost and time.

There are many media that can be used for online class in blended learning, one of them is Edmodo, which is similar to facebook but more scure. Edmodo has many features for it users, teacher and students can communicate and share materials, it is in line with the goal of Edmodo to engage the students. The important things with Edmodo parents also can join the group to view their child’s grades and activity. To know the students' learning interest in blended learning through Edmodo is important for teacher, because if the students have an interest the learning process will run smoothly.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research is classified as a descriptive Qualitative method, it means that the data collected is not in the form of numbers, but it described in form words or pictures. According to Sugiyono (2008:8) Qualitative research is a research that is based on the philosophy positivism, is used to examine the condition of the natural object, where the researcher is a key instrument, data collection techniques

performed triangulation, data analysis is inductive or qualitative, and qualitative research results further emphasize the significance of the generalization. It means that qualitative research is a research that used to observe the natural setting as the direct source of data and writer is the key instrument. The data collected is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers and analyze the data inductively.

The researcher selects English Department of UNP Kediri as place of this research because there are some lecturer use Edmodo as a Blended learning. In other words, this place is suitable with the goal of this research.

Choosing the appropriate subject of the research is important to support the process of collecting data. The subject that will choose in this research is the seventh semester students. The reason chooses those subjects because for seventh semester students they already have gained IT for teaching subject that used Edmodo as a blended learning in previous semesters, so they already have experience.

To get the data, the researcher used two techniques of collecting the data. That is questionnaire and interview.

First the writer prepare a set of questionnaire based on the theoretical framework with closed-ended question. Then the writer gives the questionnaire to all of the students of seventh semester students, that is 205 students. The questionnaire is used to get the data about the students interest in blended learning method through Edmodo and its factors.

## **Interview**

In interview, the writer tries to collect an additional information from the lecturer and students. The data from the interview will support the questionnaire data. First the writer prepare list of questions for interview, then the writer ask the lecturer time to do interview and choose ten students randomly to do the interview. The list of interview questions for lecturer divided into three part first is about blended learning, then about Edmodo and how it is implemented, the last about the students interest and its factors. The list of interview for students is about the students interest and the factors that make them interest. All of the questions in interview has a related with the questions in questionnaire. In this step the writer read and re-read the data from questionnaire and interview. The writer also listen to the interview recording several times. After that, write down any impressions from the data and identify some of the key questions, from this step the writer can decided how to start the analysis.

## **RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The questionnaire was developed to identify student's learning interest in blended learning method through Edmodo and its factors. After a literature review, a 14 item questionnaire was designed by the researcher. Statements in the questionnaire were categorized in two main parts. The first 10 items were prepared to identify students' learning interest in blended learning method. Where as the remaining 4 items were developed to determine the factors that

make the students' interest and its reasons.

The questionnaire have four choices, such as : Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly disagree. The students were asked to give a symbol (√) to their choices. The researcher distributed the questionnaire to all the fourth grade or seventh semester students of English Department University of Nisantara PGRI Kediri. There are 205 questionnaire were distributed, but only 184 questionnaires is filled.

To know the students' latent interest, the researcher formulated 2 questionnaires based on the main concept of latent interest that guides an individual through cognitive activities, including interests in learning related to all senses and values. The first statement is "Learning use Edmodo associated with cognitive activity, Such as before posting something I have to think first, I can also observe the post of lecturers and friends then I can learn." The second statement is "I always curious about the subject that is given through Edmodo."

Table 1  
The student's latent interest in learning

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	48 (26,1%)	107 (58,2%)	21 (11,4%)	8 (4,3%)
2.	31 (16,8%)	87 (47,3%)	53 (28,8%)	13 (7,1%)

The table 1 above showed the result of the students answer, it mentioned that for the first statement the highest percentage is 58,2% or 107 students agree that Learning using Edmodo associated with cognitive

activity. The highest percentage for the second statement is 47,3% or 87 students agree that they always curious about the subject that given through Edmodo.

#### Actualised interest

Table 2  
The students actualised interest in learning

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	21 (11,4%)	65 (35,3%)	81 (44%)	17 (9,3%)
2.	32 (17,4%)	79 (43%)	61 (33%)	12 (6,6%)

The table 2 above showed the result of the student answer about their actualised Interest in learning. The first statement is "there is the specific content in Edmodo that attracted me." The percentage showed 44% or 81 students disagree with that statement. The main concept of actualised interest

is on specific content that is more precise and clearly defined, from the result maybe the students not attracted only by the specific contain, but with the precise, maybe many students who choose disagree not interest in specific contents only, so they disagree that they attracted by the specific content



of Edmodo. The second statement is “it is easy to understand the specific content in Edmodo.” The highest percentage is in Agree 23% or 79

students, it means the students agree that they are easily to understand the specific content in Edmodo.

### Text-based Interest

Table 3  
Students task-based interest in learning

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	45 (24,5%)	91 (49,5%)	37 (20,1%)	11 (5,9%)
2.	65 (35,3%)	95 (51,7%)	21 (11,4%)	3 (1,6%)

Text-based interest refers to the interest sparked by a text an individual plan to learn. The table above showed the result of the students answer about their text-based interest in learning. The researcher formulated 2 statements, the first statement is “with edmodo my planning in learning become more well organized.” The second is “I like learning using

Edmodo” it is got the highest percentage in “Agree” 49,5% or 91 students for the first statement and 51,7% or 95 students for the second statement, it means that the students agree, that they like learning using Edmodo, and with Edmodo their learning plan become more well organized.

### Task-based Interest

Table 4  
Students task-based Interest in learning

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	59 (32,1%)	94 (51%)	22 (12%)	9 (4,9%)
2.	86 (46,7%)	81 (44%)	17 (9,3%)	0 (0%)

The researcher formulated 2 statement to know the students’ task-based interest in learning, that in line with the main concept of task-based learning that may be affected by altering objectives or text of learning which, in turn, vary depending on the task of learning assigned. The first statement is “lecturer give us interesting and varied task in Edmodo.” The second statement is “it is easy to collect the task in Edmodo.” The table above showed the result that the first statements got the highest

percentage is 51% in Agree or 94 students agree, the second statement got the highest percentage in Strongly Agree 46,7% it only has a little limit with Agree 44% it means the students strongly agree that the task given by the lecturer are interesting and its easy to collect the task in Edmodo.

Knowledge-based interest influenced by the students previous experience and the students new experience during the learning process. The researcher formulated 2 statements that in line with the main

concept of knowledge-based interest. The first statement is “Edmodo looks like social networking, and I have experience with facebook” the second

statement is “ the used edmodo is new experience for me, and it gives me a lot of experience in learning.

Table 5  
Students knowledge-based interest in learning

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	112 (60,9%)	65 (35,3%)	7 (3,8%)	0 (0%)
2.	89 (48,4%)	73 (39,7%)	21 (11,4%)	1 (0,5%)

The table 5 above showed the result that the first statement highest percentage in strongly agree, 60,9% or 112 students, it means that the students strongly agree that they already have the previous experience with Facebook that looks like Edmodo. The second statement highest percentage in strongly agree 48,4% or 89 students, it means that the students agree, using Edmodo give them a lot of experience in learning.

**The factors and its reasons**

After a literature review, the researcher formulated 4 statements that

indicate the factors that make the students interest in blended learning method through Edmodo. The statement is the reasons why the factors make them interest. The first statement is “I like using Edmodo, because I can access from my mobile phone.” The second statement “it is easy to used because the interface looks like Facebook” the third statement is “Edmodo help me easily to communicate with my lecturer and my friends” the last statements is “Using Edmodo I can get the information and update materials from lecturer very fast.”

Table 6  
Learning Interest factors and its reasons

No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	101 (54,9%)	70 (38%)	9 (4,9%)	4 (2,2%)
2.	108 (58,7%)	63 (34,2%)	11 (6%)	2 (1,1%)
3.	128 (69,6%)	49 (26,6%)	7 (3,8%)	0 (0%)
4.	116 (63,1%)	65 (35,3%)	2 (1,1%)	1 (0,5%)

From the table 6 above its known that all the statement got the highest percentage in “Strongly Agree” the first statement got 54,9% the second statement 58,7% the third statement 69,6% and the last statement 63,1% it means the students strongly

agree that easy access, friendly interface, easy communicate and time efficiency as a factors that make them interest in learning used Edmodo.

**Interview**

The researcher did interview with some students and the lecturer to support the questionnaire data and make the data more valid, the result of the interview describes as follows :

### **Interview with Students**

The researcher interview with 10 students from the different class. The interview done in the 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. The researcher asked 12 questions to the students to know their learning interest, the factors that make them interested and its reasons. The first 10 questions prepared to know the students learning interest based on 5 kinds of learning interest that is latent interest, actualised interest, text-based interest, task-based interest and knowledge-based interest. The last 2 questions to know the factors that make them interest and its reasons.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the result of the study, it appears that students' results revealed that students have an interest in blended learning method through Edmodo both in the individual interest and situational interest also ease of using of the web environment, evaluation, face-to-face environment etc., differ according to their learning styles. Results also revealed that corresponds to face-to-face aspect of the Edmodo are available for iPhone and Android, the students can know the right answer of the assignment directly, it helps the extrovert students who are not active in class become more confident, the interface looks like facebook, the students can get the information and new materials more fast process when students' evaluation

concerning the implementation is taken to consideration. The overall findings showed no significant differences between students' achievement level according to their learning styles.

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