

## LEARNING STYLES AND TEACHING METHODS IN ENGLISH TEACHING

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**Abstract:** *This article aimed to figure out: (1) The students' learning styles of Class X Nurul Falah Airmolek, INHU, (2) Teacher's teaching methods at Class X Nurul Falah Airmolek, INHU, (3) The appropriateness between the teacher's teaching methods and the students' learning styles. The research design used in this paper was quantitative descriptive method. The variables were the students' learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), the teacher's teaching method (visual, auditory, kinesthetic). The subjects of the paper were all the students of Class X Nurul Falah Airmolek, INHU which consists of 70 students. The questionnaires were used to gather the data. The data were then analyzed by using Likert Scale to find out the appropriateness of the teaching method applied with the students' learning styles that gave effect to the students' learning outcomes.*

**Keywords:** *learning style, visual, auditory, kinesthetic, teaching method.*

### INTRODUCTION

Everyone is demanded to learn from time to time in order that he can adapt with the current situation. Imam Nawawi (2018:51) claims that it is a must for a students to be fond of and diligent in pursuing knowledge and feel unsatisfied with less knowledge whereas he can learn much. Furthermore, Taufik Tea (2014:91) as cited in Morgan and Borndy (1976) described that the association principle of learning is a process of which one

connects his previous knowledge and experience with a new learning materials in order to make him easy to accept something new.

Basically learning is a process of trasfering the knowledge. In addition, Taufik Tea (2014:77) explains that learning is a mental process which involves brain functions. Human beings are unique creatures that are really different to each other. Take for example, the differences can be seen from their

culture, social life, and language. The difference also occurs in their learning ability because of biology, physic, and psychology factors. Moreover, the learning ability covers talent, interest, mental maturity, understanding, and intelligence.

Another learning ability difference involves each student's unique learning styles because everyone has his own strength, energy, brain hemisphere, modality and spectrum. The learning styles also vary the natural human talent based on someone's intelligence that is labelled "Multiple Intelligences. Teachers need to consider the kind of their students' intelligence strength to have successful teaching. Richards and Rodgers (2010:120) mention that teachers are expected to understand, master, and commit to the multiple intelligences of their students. It is needed to make the teachers able to improve their students' learning ability.

Through the teacher's knowledge of learning styles of his students, the students can be well-rounded individuals and successful learners. The teachers can lead the students to see their goals in broader

terms. The teachers will also be able to create more interactive class, make the students more active in class, and make the students understand the lesson material well.

The students have awareness of their own learning styles and how they work. In addition, they know how to access information and knowledge from the lesson materials. In short, they will get benefits by perfecting their own knowledge. Of course it will give effect to the learning quality.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Definition of Learning**

Learning is the behaviour change through experience and surrounding. In other words, in the process of learning, an individual gets knowledge behaviour change as the experience result through the interaction with the surrounding. There are 2 (two) factors that will influence an individual in learning; internal and external. The internal factor comes from the individual himself. It covers his physique and psychology. Meanwhile, the external factor comes from outside an individual. It involves family, school, and society.

Sugihartono (2007:16) explains that the physical factors are about health and handicap. Psychological factors are about intelligence, intention, interest, talent, motive, maturity and exhaustion. Rizqi (2013:12) gives short explanation about the external learning factors. The first relates to family (how the parents bring up their children, family member relationship, home atmosphere, economy, and cultural background). The second is school (teaching method, curriculum, school rules, etc). The last is society (activity in the society, friends, customs, and mass media).

### **Learning Styles**

Gufhron (2010: 42) defines that learning styles are an approach about how an individual learns or how he learns in the process of mastering new and hard information through different perception. The learning styles show the fastest and the best learning method for each individual to acquire knowledge. Not everyone has the same learning style. That is why, everyone has different ability to understand the knowledge.

Gunawan (2003:42) states that there are 3 approaches to identify the students' learning styles:

1. Censoric preferences (learning styles): visual, auditory, kinesthetic.
2. Multiple intelligence profile (developed by Howard Gardner)
3. Cognitive preferences

This article will focus more on the censoric preferences (learning modality which is also known as learning styles). Learning styles are about how brain pervades information through senses optimally. The kinds of the learning styles are visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. These kinds of learning modality can help human beings to understand their surroundings and process the stimuli from outside themselves.

### ***Visual***

This type of learners think through what they see. They are good at reading books which contain pictures, diagrams, maps or charts. They have deep sense on colours and love using body language. Their problems occur when they have to give speech or discuss in groups.

***Auditory***

These students remember things through sounds and words. Telling stories or discussing is their favourite learning method. While learning, they will not be disturbed by music or sound. They rather get trouble when they've got to do physical activities or explain the process of tool uses. They also get problem in memorizing what have been read, and find problems in writing and reading.

***Kinesthetic***

These students pervade information well through movement and emotion. Not many people belong to this kind of modality. They love learning outside class where they can move freely. They understand facts easily by using real objects to understand information. They also learn actively through games.

**The Advantages of Understanding The Students' Learning Styles**

Pranata (2002:23) finds that when the teacher applies the teaching method which is appropriate with the students' learning styles, there will be advantages for the students and the teacher. Rizqi (2013:33) declares the

advantages of understanding the students' learning styles:

1. Create interactive teaching learning process
2. Facilitate learning tools/media based on the individual's learning styles
3. Figures out the kinds of students' interest, talent, learning style
4. Create interesting teaching and learning process to enhance the students' activeness in class.
5. Apply the appropriate methods of teaching based on the students' learning styles

**Teaching Method**

The teacher plays important roles to the students' learning outcomes. The teacher must be able to maximize the student-centered learning by taking into account their learning styles. He must also be able to apply various methods of teaching in class. Slameto (2010:92) suggests that teaching is leading students to experience the process of learning. The application of teaching method has to be able to create the interaction between teacher and students maximumly. The teacher behaves as an initiator or a facilitator. The

students behave as receivers or guides ones. In shorts, teaching method is a way of teaching applied by teacher to transfer knowledge to the students during the process of teaching and learning is taking place.

### **Kinds of Teaching Method**

The common teaching methods are:

#### ***a. Lecturing method***

Sudjana (1989:76) says that lecturing method requires teacher to explain the lesson material orally. In this method, teacher is active. Meanwhile, the students are passive.

#### ***b. Asking answering method***

In this method, two way traffic occurs between the teacher and the students. They communicate interactively. The teacher ask questions and the students answer, or vice versa.

#### ***c. Discussion method***

Sudjana (1989:78) explains that in this method the teacher and students share information, opinion, and experience.

#### ***d. Demonstration method***

This method helps students to find answers by himself based on the real facts. The method is applied by

exhibiting tools, events, rules, or orders based on the lesson material.

#### ***e. Simulation method***

Rizqi (2013:40) mentions that in this method, the students are asked to act or imitate an action or role play.

### **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

The article belongs to quantative research design which focuses on the phenomenon occur in the field. It was conducted at the classX of MA Nurul Falah Airmolek INHU. The participants of the study were 70 students of the class X of MA Nurul Falah Airmolek INHU. The data was gathered by using questionares in which the respondents choose the available answers (always, often, sometimes, seldom, or never). The questions are measured by using Likert theory to measure attitude, opinion, concept about social phenomenon. There are two kinds of instrument in this study; the instrument about the students' learning style and the instrument about the teacher's teaching method.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The data was gathered through questionares from the respondents'

responses presented descriptively which discuss the class X MA Nurul Falah Airmolek students' learning styles.

a. The students' learning style percentage score

|                   | <b>Visual</b> | <b>Auditory</b> | <b>Kinesthetic</b> |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Percentage</b> | 66.5<br>4%    | 67.28<br>%      | 78.82<br>%         |

From the table above, it showed that the students used Kinesthetic learning style with the percentage 78.82% of the students.

b. The teacher's teaching method percentage score

|                   | <b>Visual</b> | <b>Auditory</b> | <b>Kinesthetic</b> |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Percentage</b> | 74.1<br>7%    | 65.70<br>%      | 62.80<br>%         |

From the table above, it showed that the teacher used visual teaching method with the percentage 74.17% of the students.

c. The students' learning style and the teacher's teaching method percentage score

|  | <b>Visual</b> | <b>Auditory</b> | <b>Kinesthetic</b> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|  |               |                 |                    |

|                        |            |            |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Learning Style</b>  | 66.5<br>4% | 67.28<br>% | 78.82<br>% |
| <b>Teaching Method</b> | 74.1<br>7% | 65.70<br>% | 62.80<br>% |

From the table above, it can be seen that there was appropriate of the application of the teaching method (74.17%) with the students' learning styles (78.82%).

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

The result of the study showed that there was appropriateness of the application of the teaching method with the students' learning styles. Most students tend to have kinesthetic learning style while the teacher chose to teach most in visual style.

This caused ineffectiveness of the teaching learning process in class because the student-centered learning did not run well. It can be seen that the teacher was more active than the students that made the class atmosphere became ineffective and boring.

### Suggestion

1. For the students

The students are expected to recognise, understand, and develop their learning styles to maximize the learning understanding. Knowing their own learning style will ease them to create comfortable and interesting class atmosphere during teaching and learning process is taking place.

2. For the teacher

The teacher must recognize and understand his students' learning styles in order that he can apply appropriate teaching method. It will give great effect to the students' learning quality.

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