

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON FREEDOM OF LEARNING – INDEPENDENT CAMPUS IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study was aimed to determine students' perspective in freedom of learning – independent campus in learning English. The population of this study was students' perspective focused on student exchange program in Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. The research instrument uses a semi-structured interview method from students exchange who have experience on freedom of learning – independent campus program. The research design used in this study was qualitative. The technique of analyzing data researcher used four steps, there are 1) Data Collection, 2) Data Reduction, 3) Data Display, and then 4) Data Conclusions: drawing / verifying. The finding from the data analysis, students' perspective such as: Mostly from the perspective of exchange students are happy and satisfied with the program, exchanges can add insight and knowledge about the different cultures that exist in Indonesia, add friends from different regions and can enhance learning English from student exchange program.

Keywords: Perspective, freedom of learning – independent campus and learning english.

Introduction

Education is an important element of life and must keep up with the times. Education will help people deal with the difficulties of a changing world (Istiarsono, 2016). Since acquiring knowledge is a lifetime pursuit in Islamic beliefs. Furthermore, in addition to being commanded to seek knowledge, Muslims are also commanded to practise and impart knowledge. Looking at the current state of affairs, you will see that technology is improving as well as that times are changing due to globalization (Aspi & Syahrani, 2022).

On freedom of learning – independent campus (MBKM), which was made legal on January 24, 2020 was a major educational achievement introduced by Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. Every one of Indonesia's 4500 university campuses will adopt this system. A set of regulations known as "freedom to learn" give universities and learners the ability to critique education received of campus. on freedom of learning – independent campus (MBKM) which is based on PERMENDIKBUD No. 3 of 2020 concerning National Standards, is bringing the university curriculum into alignment with government efforts to create superior human resources, both hard and soft skills.

These days, science and technology are evolving quickly. In addition, a great deal of new occupations have been created, while jobs that are no longer viable in the modern world have been eliminated. Because of this, college graduates are expected to lead the next generation of successful generation. Additionally, in an effort to lower the unemployment rate, the government has been searching for a link between education and industrial work so that university graduates will be prepared for the workforce with the skills necessary to meet industry demands in their field of expertise (Arifin & Muslim, 2020). This occurs because there is now a less than ideal fit between graduates' accomplishments and the commercial and industrial sectors (Suryaman, 2020).

The development of the age and the problem of freedom of learning - independent campus (MBKM) development are frequently linked. In order to succeed in the industrial revolution 4.0, society 5.0, and public literacy, university graduates must be strong in the face of social, cultural, technological, and work changes. To this end, the education sector must respond with freedom of learning - independent campus (MBKM) (Arrozi, 2021; Suryaman, 2020). The ability to master a variety of skills will help graduate students succeed when they enter the workforce and business. According to Suryaman's study (2020), the usage of cyberspace and artificial intelligence are problems that on freedom of learning - independent campus (MBKM) should address. This is especially relevant in light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, as one of the countries affected by COVID- 19 the Indonesian governments suspend the classroom without stopping learning by performing online learning (Azhari & Fajri, 2021). even in the fundamentals of education itself about the problems with public literacy that the field of education needs to address with MBKM. During the discussion progressed, many student gave positive feedback on the educational curriculum that Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. The ability to learn outside of the classroom and the flexibility it provides allow students to use their English language skills in more relevant and practical contexts. Based on the perspective of the major, most have positive feedback regarding the learning program, which is that it can increase students' understanding of the importance of ethnic, religious, racial, and inter - group (SARA). Having the ability to unite people from different regions, increase knowledge of the unique characteristics of culture, traditions, and education, and improve learning motivation. According to study findings from the perspective of the student, participating in a student exchange program does not result in any disadvantage. And the strategies use in student exchange in english learning such as Project-Based Learning, use Discussion strategies (Lubis et al 2023), Inquiry strategies, and use Technology Based Learning strategies. Then for the student exchange view of the strategies in learning english can increase their knowledge and thinking skill.

Literature Review

The scope of this research focused on students' perspective and limitation of this research focused on comprehension of the opinions, experiences, and preferences of the advantage and disadvantage on freedom of learning - independent campus in learning english. And find out the implemented strategies to increase for students' english learning from program students exchange.

This perspective is a way of looking at things. Many of these opinions are based on what it's like to be human. Thus, a notion that has the potential to alter people's attitudes or viewpoints arises from that encounter. According to Martono (2010), perspective refers to the viewpoint that people adopt when observing a phenomenon or an issue. Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus programme, which involves student exchange, has been implemented by Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara as an educational institution. Every study programme, including the english education study programme, has implemented the student exchange programme. The Cooperative English Education programme, which can be followed by student at other universities, is one of the student exchange programmes that students can choose to actively participate in through the english education study programme. The curriculum for the study programme is created by modifying Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus (MBKM) regulations, which cover learning assessment, planning, and evaluation (Baharuddin, 2021).

Based on the existing background, the researcher is interested in conducting research on. As Freedom of Learning – Independent Campus (MBKM) learning is a relatively new

programme, there aren't many studies that describe its implementation outcomes to date. This phenomenon is often observed in the study of English language education. Students of English education have completed an students exchange program Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus (MBKM). This is being presented in an experience of attending an students exchange program outside the Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara has been attending exchange programs in various regions. Where the

author requires the perspective of students who have already attended the program. however, there are some student experience of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara based on the experience of the exchange program, many interested students and they say that the student exchange programme has many advantages that students gain for improving English learning but the obstacles that students encounter when taking an exchange course are adaptability when learning in the classroom and the systematics of learning in classroom (Amini, A 2023).

In the early stages of research, the author wants to analyzed students' perspective on the implementation strategies of Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus programs on campus. The aim of this research will examine strategies for improving English language students through student exchanges on the following programs, namely Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus.

Method

This study research was conducted using by descriptive qualitative method. As defined by Creswell (2018) is means for analyzing and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social and human problem. The use of descriptive qualitative method focused on students' perspective advantage and disadvantage freedom of learning - independent campus in learning english and to describe the implemented strategies to increase learning english from student exchange (PMM) on freedom of learning - independent campus.

The subject of this research are students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara who joined students exchange (PMM) program. The object of this research is students' perspective advantage and disadvantage of participating on Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus in learning English and how the implemented strategies to increase learning english for students' English learning from students exchange (PMM) on Freedom of Learning - Independent Campus program.

Results and Discussion

1. Students' Perspective of Advantages and Disadvantages of Student Exchange

Independent student exchange program between study programs at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, which was attended by various graduates of the program. The reference in this MBKM is Minister of Education and Culture Regulation number 3 of 2020 regarding National Higher Education Standards, which allows students to participate in a variety of off-campus study programs university. Of course, these instructions are adapted to the needs of teaching personnel who possess the abilities and skills required to apply the MBKM curriculum. (Tohir, 2020). One of the freedom of learning - independent campus (MBKM) programs is student exchange. By holding student exchange, each student can voluntarily give the right to gain knowledge according to the desired passion. The benchmark for the success of implementing the MBKM Policy is to make the learning process in higher education independent and flexible (Yusuf & Arfiansyah, 2021).

This student exchange program run flexibly and with no restraint so that it is hoped that later students will be able to improve their competencies and be ready to work. Based on data that can be seen from the perspective of students regarding the advantages and disadvantages

of participating in the program, the advantage is increasing understanding of diversity, ethnicity, religion, race and inter-group (SARA) as well as the spirit of unity, increasing insight or knowledge about the uniqueness of regional culture such as regional specialties, recreation areas, local regional traditions and learning, increasing experience and knowledge about creating learning media. and from the student perspective data which has been carefully examined by researchers, there isn't disadvantages were found in participating in the student exchange program. This is similar to previous research by Nur Aisah and Ipah Saripah et.al.,(2021) student exchange has an advantages provides students the chance to interact with one another in a multicultural and tolerant society while also learning about the cultures of the foreign countries that are hosting them. The purpose of this essay is to examine guidance and counseling students' degree of cultural identity upon their return from a study abroad program. And similar to Syahrudin and Beatus Tambaip et.al.,(2023) An program by the Indonesian government called the Freedom to Learn the Independent Campus Policy (MBKM) intends to promote creativity in higher education by granting students the flexibility to select courses, universities, and teaching approaches that best fit their needs, interests, and abilities. The purpose of this study is to assess how the university's MBKM policy is being implemented and investigate how instructors and students perceive the policy's application.

Independent campus learning (MBKM), a government project in Indonesia, is based on research policy and intends to increase creativity in higher education by granting students the autonomy to choose courses, universities, and teaching methods that best fit their needs, interests, and abilities. (Syahrudin, 2023). According to the students who participate in the program, they are persuaded that by using the student exchange program, they can learn many things and benefit insight into the local way of life, including food traditions, customs, locations, and languages spoken. This enhances the educational experience outside the campus, Many student exchange programmes have a positive impact on students who take the program.

Although simple and efficient from the perspective of the student, it has not disadvantages based on experienced in the students' exchange program, according to data that has been carefully studied from the perspective of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara the student who participate in the program. The students when attending the program feel happy and really enjoy for example the participants of an independent student exchange program engage in the activities of the nusantara module, such as visiting a recreational venue, film surgery, books or songs, culinary days, and cultural stages to promote relaxation activities.

2. Students' Perspective the Implementation Strategies to Increase English Learning.

Based on experience there are many learning strategies in the classroom to improve english learning while attending a student exchange program and the strategy that the researchers found based on the student exchange perspective.

Informant 1 : I use reflective strategies where I can reflect on my learning result so that I can understand needs and make plans to improve my learning result. Stated informant LPM (Thursday, 14.30 pm).

From the explanation above we can see that the strategies that use in learning is Reflective strategies in the classroom when participating student exchange program. Higher education usually uses reflective learning as strategy (Ryan & Ryan, 2015). According to Hornby (1995:960) Reflective is a need to think things through carefully, while learning is the development of knowledge from study. One way to characterize reflective learning is the ability to consider the knowledge collected through study.

Informant 2 : From the strategy used by the discussion earlier. The lecturers there mostly give one material in class and then we students give our own opinions. Stated informant

HHH (Thursday, 15.00 pm). From the explanation above we can see that the strategies that use in learning is Discussion earlier strategies. In the classroom, teachers often utilize discussion as a teaching strategy. In this activity, the teacher will select a subject for the class to discuss. There are two sessions: one for explaining the material and the other for discussing the ideas presented. Discussion is an activity that can create an enjoyable and safe environment for students to participate in the process of learning, according to Hadriana (2008). Through this activity, students can participate in direct communication and interaction with the interlocutor. It is clear that children have the ability to share their opinions through discussion. As a result, such activities can help learners to improve their speaking skill.

Informant 3 : The learning is more focused on Project Based Learning.

Stated informant QKD (Tuesday, 14.00 pm).

Informant 4 : I use Project Based Learning. Stated informant NF (Wednesday, 15.00 pm).

Informant 6 : The english learning strategies I use when learning in the class is Project Based Learning. Stated informant FS (Wednesday, 18.00 pm).

Question from researcher can you give example Project Based Learning when you use in the class when participating in student exchange?

Informant 6 : in UMJ we usually divided into several group and then the lectures gave us project task and we must finished the project. Project - Based Learning usually used when examinations, we seldom answers a questions but we have to make project such as learning media. Stated informant FS (Wednesday, 18.00 pm).

Informant 8 : The learning is Project - Based learning such as making learning videos and almost all lecturers like that as their course assignments. Stated informant AW (Friday, 14.00 pm).

From the explanation above we can conclude that The strategies that use Project Based Learning, Project-based learning is explained by a number of experts in the field. Blumenfeld et al. (1991) define project-based learning as a teaching strategy that motivates students to carry out research to solve particular problems and to produce work as well. In general, a project is a project that may be completed by individuals or groups that requires them to complete something within a particular of time in order to achieve the specified outcome. One of the teaching strategies called project-based learning allows for students to collaborate to solve issues, produce something over time, and then show their work to others. Stanley (2021), who described PBL as an inquiry-based learning and helpfulexperiences that are usually open-ended, need new tasks for each student group, and are student- centered gave a more detailed explanation. Usually, an academic project is an assignment that relates to the goal of the course and needs to be finished before the deadline for the course to be successfully completed. In addition its many benefits, project-based learning may be used more frequently. Previous research has indicated that project-based learning can improve students' creative thinking processes, motivation, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, learning attitudes, and making the students more active learning process. Shin (2018)

Informant 5 : Inquiry strategies, for example the teacher provides material and students search information about the material. Stated informant PS (Saturday, 15.00 pm).

Based on explanation above, Inquiry-based learning focuses on analysis, inference, self-regulation skills, explanation, interpretation, and evaluation, it is widely considered as one of the teaching and learning approaches that improves students' particular desire and critical thinking abilities (Wale & Bishaw, 2020). For example Inquiry-based writing instructions that emphasize observing, inquiring, examining sources, gathering, interpreting, and analyzing

knowledge can help students improve their writing skills. (Wale & Bogale, 2021) . Students can find, select, and apply a variety of information and idea sources through the inquiry-based learning process, which helps them understand issues or phenomena effectively (Kaltakci & Oktay, 2011). The importance of inquiry – based learning can help improve research, management, and problem-solving skills that are beneficial for both work and study. Students may become more creative and critical as a result. Additionally, it supports the teamwork that students do (Ajit et al., 2016).

Informant 6 : I use a technology called edlink, the application is useful for collecting assignment and absences so that it makes it easier for lecturer and students. Stated informant RA (Wednesday, 15.00 pm). From explain above we know that use technology in learning technology-based learning, which makes use of information and communication technologies to improve the learning process, is a progression of traditional learning, according to Adriani (2015). From the point of view of theory, technology-based learning refers to the basics of learning, including well-defined goals, structured planning and ongoing assessment. But the integration of technology offers a new level that makes learning more interactive, flexible and and effective.

Conclusion

Based on the findings from data analysis, students' perspectives are as follows: Most students from the exchange perspective feel happy and satisfied with the existing program, exchange can increase insight and knowledge about various cultures in Indonesia, make friends from various regions and can improve English learning from the student exchange program.

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Figure 2. Huberman and Miles' model of qualitative data management. (n.d.). ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Huberman-and-Miles-model-of-qualitative-data-management_fig1_2374368

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