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# Improving Students' Metacognitive Skills through Science Learning by Integrating PQ4R and TPS Strategies at A Senior High School in Parepare, Indonesia

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Metacognitive skills can be developed through the implementation of appropriate learning strategy. This research of pretest-posttest nonequivalent control group design was designed to compare the effects of PQ4R, TPS, PQ4R-TPS, and conventional learning on the metacognitive skills of senior high school students class X in the first semester of 2013 in Parepare, Indonesia. The research samples consisted of 240 students, selected using random sampling technique. The metacognitive skills were measured by an essay test developed by the researchers, validated by experts, and empirically validated before the instrument was used, by trying out the instruments at 40 students of class XI. The research findings show that PQ4R-TPS learning strategy is significantly more potential in empowering students' metacognitive skills compared to the other learning. PQ4R-TPS learning strategy needs to be implemented, accustomed to, and continuously trained to the students in order to improve their metacognitive skills.

**Keywords:** metacognitive skills, PQ4R learning, sains learning, TPS learning.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Metacognitive skill is one of the high-level thinking skills that students require to face the challenges ahead. Corebima (2009) stated that the empowerment of thinking and metacognitive skills is needed in order that the students became independent learners. Independent learners organize themselves to be more actively trying to develop themselves and to determine the learning objectives, to motivate themselves and to find purpose with the strategy that has been planned (Jahiddin, 2009). In addition, Thamraksa (2005) stated that students having good metacognition could monitor and directed their own learning process, had the ability to control the information, and implemented learning strategies to solve various problems.

Metacognition generally gives an emphasis on the awareness of one's thinking about his own thinking process (Fisher, 1998). According to Flavell (1976), metacognition refers to

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metacognitive knowledge and metacognitive experiences. Metacognitive knowledge refers to the knowledge or belief about the factors controlling one's cognitive processes. Flavell (1976) classified metacognitive knowledge into 3 variables i.e., individual variable, task variable, and strategy variable. The individual variable refers to the knowledge of oneself as a thinker, meaning that all our behavior is the results of the way we think. The task variable refers to the knowledge or all information about the nature of the tasks proposed, guiding the individual in managing tasks. The strategy variable refers to the knowledge of how to do something or to overcome the existing difficulties.

According to Garner (1987), Schraw and Dennison (1994), and Peirce (2003), metacognitive knowledge plays a role in learning and problem solving. Furthermore, metacognitive knowledge consists of 3 components, i.e., declarative knowledge, procedural knowledge, and conditional knowledge.

Declarative knowledge is the knowledge about oneself, and about the strategies, skills, and learning resources needed to learn (Garner 1987), and it is a factual information known by someone (Peirce, 2003). Declarative knowledge refers to the student's ability to accurately evaluate their saved knowledge in the form of facts, rules, or other knowledge that can efficiently be used to communicate their ideas (Stuever, 2007). To understand a learning material, students need to associate their knowledge related to "about," "what," and "that" related to something.

Procedural knowledge refers to the use of anything known in declarative knowledge and its application in learning activities. Procedural knowledge is the knowledge of how to do something and how to do the stages of a particular process. In other words, procedural knowledge refers to "how" to do something.

Conditional knowledge is the knowledge related to when to use a procedure, a skill or a strategy and when those things should not be used, why a procedure takes place and under what conditions the procedure takes place, as well as why the procedure is better than the other procedures. Conditional knowledge refers to the "why" and "when" the cognitive aspects used (Garner, 1987; Peirce, 2003; Stuever, 2007).

In addition to cognitive knowledge, metacognition also refers to metacognitive experience. Metacognitive experience is the monitoring that guides the achievement of cognitive objectives. This process helps to organize and to manage the learning which consists of planning, monitoring, and evaluating cognitive activities (Livingston, 1997). Similarly, Stuever (2007) stated that metacognitive experience helped students relating new information with their prior knowledge to determine their level of understanding, then the students effectively selected and organized strategies facilitating the task. Metacognitive experience helps to organize and monitor the learning which consists of planning and monitoring cognitive activities, and evaluating the results of these activities.

Similarly, Flavell, Hammond, et al. (2000) also stated that there were two aspects of metacognition: 1) reflection of thinking about what we knew, and 2) self-control in managing how we learned. The ability to develop metacognition can make us become reflective learners, as well as the learners who acquire specific learning strategies.

In addition to metacognitive knowledge, one of the metacognition components is metacognitive skills (Desoete, 2001). These skills are required for active learning, critical thinking, reflective assessment, problem solving, and decision making (Dawson, 2008). According to Lee and Baylor (2006), metacognitive skills consist of four keys, namely planning, monitoring, evaluation, and revising.

Planning is an activity that is carefully carried out in order to organize the whole learning process. The planning activities include determining the learning objectives, learning steps, learning strategies, and learning expectations. Monitoring is an activity that regulates and monitors learning activities and learning progress. Evaluation is the activity to evaluate

self-learning process that includes assessing the progress of learning activities. Revision is the activity to revise the self-learning process that includes modifying the plan of previous objectives, strategies, and other learning approaches.

Students' metacognitive skills refer to the prediction skills, planning skills, monitoring skills, and evaluation skills (Veenman, 2006). Similarly, Hammond et al. (2000), stated that metacognitive skills had an important role in many types of cognitive activities including comprehension, communication, attention, retention, and problem solving. Thus, the metacognitive skills possessed by students can help to direct their own learning. Metacognitive skill plays an important role in determining the success of learning, so teachers need to teach metacognitive strategies to students (Djuanda, 2016). The research findings by Bahri and Corebima (2015) showed that metacognitive skills had a contribution on students' cognitive learning results.

# The Role of Metacognitive skill in Learning

Empowering metacognition in the classroom encourages students to develop their metacognitive awareness, for example, starting with making their learning objectives and clear performance objectives. According to Chikmiyah (2012), metacognition was an ability that significantly increased the effect of learning, which could be considered to be empowered in learning.

The empowerment of metacognition is very important for students. AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) in 2011 expressed that metacognition in biology learning in the 21st century required learning how to integrate the concepts at all levels of organization and complexity, as well as synthesized information related to conceptual domain. The empowerment of students' metacognitive skills aims at enabling the students to understand how they think about biology, like how biologists think (Tanner 2012). Metacognitive skills are required when customary responses are not successful. Guidance in recognizing and practice in applying the metacognitive strategies will help students successfully solve problems throughout their lives.

Metacognition helps students to become independent learners who can manage and plan their learning process. Livingston (1997) stated that metacognition had a very important role for successful learning. Similarly, Schraw & Dennison (1994), stated that students who skillfully made an assessment of themselves were aware of their ability, performed more strategically, and were better than those who were not skillful.

According to Hammond, et al. (2000), as an educator, it is important for us to help encourage the development of students' metacognitive skills that will help them learn how to learn. The facts show that the students are not skilled, or they fail at using metacognitive skills. If one of the school purposes is to prepare students to become lifelong learners, it is important to help them use their metacognitive skills.

According to Anderson and Krathwohl (2001), metacognition is advantageous for students to: (1) be more aware of and responsible for their own knowledge and ideas; (2) be able to think and solve problems; (3) identify the various types of metacognitive in planning, monitoring and regulating their cognition; (4) determine learning strategies that can be used to search for the meaning of texts and understand the subject matter in the classroom or from books; and (5) prepare themselves for tests. Similarly, according to Keiichi (2000), metacognition plays an important role in solving problems and makes students more skillful at problem solving through their cognitive knowledge.

Teachers can empower students' metacognitive skills in the learning process. According to Lin et al. (2005), future teachers should empower students' metacognitive skills in learning at all costs. Similarly, Corebima (2010) stated that the empowerment of students'

metacognitive skills could be done during the learning process, either through the habituation of metacognitive learning strategies or through the implementation of appropriate learning strategies. Metacognitive skill training can increase the students' awareness to learn, make a learning plan, control the learning process, evaluate their effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses as a student. Djuanda (2016) stated that teachers were obliged to activate the learning engaging students to reflect on their learning activities. Students should be encouraged to plan and determine the learning objectives clearly, choose the appropriate learning strategies with their learning styles, monitor and evaluate his performance accomplished.

In this regard, some of the previous research results showed that metacognitive skills could be improved by using the appropriate learning strategies. Corebima and Idrus (2006) reported that Thinking Empowerment by Questioning (TEQ) and Think Pair Share (TPS) learning strategies could improve students' thinking skills at the junior high school level. Danial (2010) also stated that there was a correlation between metacognitive skills and the concept mastery. Sepe (2010) found that Team Assisted Individualization (TAI) cooperative learning strategy improved metacognitive skills. Chikmiah (2012) stated that learning strategy significantly improved metacognitive skill and might be considered for its' empowerment in the learning activities. In addition, the research by Suratno (2009) and Muhiddin (2012) stated that Jigsaw learning strategy had an effect on students' metacognitive skills. The research results by Paidi (2008), Bahri (2010), Corebima (2010), and Tumbel (2011) also found that learning strategies had an effect on metacognitive skills.

The learning strategies that can be used to improve students' metacognitive skills include PQ4R (preview, questions, read, reflect, recite, review) and TPS strategies. These learning strategies can be integrated by considering the appropriateness of the learning syntax.

PQ4R learning strategy is considered as one of the learning strategies that has an effect on the empowerment of students' metacognitive skills. The results of the related research, like those reported by Wahyuningsih (2012), Ramdiah and Corebima (2014), Bibi and Manzoor (2011), stated that PQ4R strategy improved students' metacognitive skills.

PQ4R Learning strategy centers on the students, so that students can build their own knowledge. The research by Maesah et al. (2012) reported that the implementation of the PQ4R learning process improved students' learning results, indicated by various indicators of achievement such as achievement test. Related to the use of PQ4R the similar findings were also reported by Wahyuningsih (2012) stating that the good and correct activity of reading makes the students able to take the main points of what they read. The more main points they can understand from the reading material read, the more knowledge they gain, and it will greatly help students to establish a comprehensive understanding. Ramdiah and Corebima (2014) also reported that PQ4R strategy integrated with concept maps appeared to have higher potential in improving students' metacognitive skills.

TPS learning strategy is also potential in improving the students' metacognitive skills. The results of the previous research related to this strategy reported that TPS learning strategy helped in empowering metacognitive skill (Stuever, 2006; Miranda, 2010), and provided an opportunity for students to train their thinking skill and finally gave meaningful knowledge that could improve students' learning results Widodo (2011). Similarly, Ngozi ibe (2009) stated that TPS strategy involved the students to think independently through the procedures taking place in it.

PQ4R strategy is easy to be applied at all levels of education, and it is able to assist students improve their questioning skills and communicate their knowledge. Similarly, the TPS strategy, one of the cooperative learning strategy, can optimize students' participation and empower students' metacognitive skills. Huda (2012) stated that TPS strategy was simple, but very useful. TPS learning strategy follows the steps of thinking, discussing in

pairs, and sharing the results of the discussion to all students in the classroom. The results of the discussion are a concept constructed by students.

Based on the potential of PQ4R and TPS strategy mentioned above, the integration between PQ4R and TPS, referred to PQ4RTPS, can be implemented in learning activities. Both of these strategies are potential to improve students' metacognitive skills as they both play a role in empowering effective problem solving skills. In addition, students gain an understanding of the learning material presented, ask questions, read, connect information, create a new understanding by themselves, carry out evaluation, and make conclusions.

The empowerment of metacognitive skills in senior high schools in Parepare has not been generally carried out yet. It can be seen from the results of the survey conducted by researchers showing that the empowerment of students' metacognitive skills is still lacking. even the teacher's knowledge related to the empowerment of thinking skills in biology learning is still limited. Djuanda (2016) reported similar findings that there were a lot of teachers who did not understand the metacognitive strategies, so that they had not taught and conducted any activities promoting the activation of students' metacognitive strategies consciously and deliberately.

Based on the elaboration above, this research aims at determining the potential of PQ4RTPS strategy in empowering students' metacognitive skills. This information is very valuable for teachers to select appropriate learning strategies that focus not only on the cognitive learning but also on the empowerment of students' thinking skills...

#### **METHODS**

This is a quasi-experimental study designed to compare the effect of metacognitive skill of students in the first semester of Class X of senior high school in Parepare, Indonesia in 2013. The research design was pretest-posttest control group design (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2009). Four classes used in this research were treated with different learning, namely the PQ4R, TPS, PQ4RTPS, and the conventional learning. The class samples were selected by random sampling. The samples of this research consisted of 240 students of class X Senior High School in Parepare, Indonesia, having homogeneous academic ability based on the grouping test. The students' metacognitive skills were measured by essay tests developed by researchers and validated by experts and empirically validated before the tests were used. The empirical validation was done by trying out the instruments at 40 students of class XI. The try out was carried out to determine the validity and reliability of the instruments. The rubric of metacognitive skills used referred to Metacognitive Achievement Description rubric consisting of 7 scales (0-7) (Corebima, 2009). The four classes were taught by using different learning strategies for one semester, and then they were given a final test. Furthermore, the data were analyzed by Ancova with a significance level of 5%, supported by the program of SPSS 20 for Windows. If the results of ancova were significant, it would be analyzed further with the post hoc LSD test. The treatment procedures based on the research design is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Design of quasi-experimental Research

Pretest	Group	Posttest	
T <sub>1</sub>	$X_1$	T <sub>2</sub>	
T 3	X 2	T 4	
T 5	X 3	T 6	
T 7	X 4	T 8	

T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>, and T<sub>7</sub>: Pretest

T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, and T<sub>8</sub>: Posttest

X<sub>1</sub>: PQ4R strategy, X<sub>2</sub>: TPS strategy, X<sub>3</sub>: PQ4R-TPS strategy, X<sub>4</sub>: Conventional learning

#### **FINDINGS**

The results of Ancova test related to students' metacognitive skills are shown in Table 2, and the results of post hoc test are shown in Table 3.

<b>Table 2.</b> The Results of	of Ancova Test or	the Students	' metacognitive Skills
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Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F	Sig.
corrected Model	50642.678 a	4	12660.669	1.188E3	0.000
intercept	373.681	1	373.681	35.059	0.000
XMetacog	16087.206	1	16087.206	1.509E3	0.000
Strategy	851 925	3	283.975	26.643	0.000
Error	1609.454	151	10.659		
Total	601237.377	156			
corrected Total	52252.132	155			

**Table 3.** The Results of post hoc Test of the Effect of Learning on Students' metacognitive Skills

Learning	Posttest Mean Sc	cores Posttest Mean Scores	Gain	Corrected Mean Score	LSD Notation
PQ4RTPS	62.356	75.914	13.558	66.293 <sup>a</sup>	a
PQ4R	52.129	63.785	11.657	61.760 <sup>a</sup>	b
TPS	51.904	63.167	11.263	61.308a	b
CONV	32	35.476	3.476	48.400a	c

The results of Ancova related to the students' metacognitive skills show that learning strategies have an effect on students' metacognitive skills (p < 0.05). The results of LSD test show that the corrected mean score of the metacognitive skills of the students taught by using the integration of PQ4R-TPS is significantly higher than those taught by using PQ4R, TPS, and conventional learning; the corrected mean score of the PQ4R is not significantly different from the that of TPS learning.

#### **DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION**

The findings of this research reveal that the integration of PQ4R-TPS had the potential to improve students' metacognitive skills than if it is separately implemented. The implementation of the integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategy can improve students' metacognitive skills because of, for instance, the combination of learning syntax of PQ4R-TPS. The syntax of PQ4R learning consists of six steps, namely Preview, Question, Read, Reflect, Recite, Review which gradually guide each student to use their metacognitive skills. According to Logsdon (2007) and Rodli (2015), each step of PQ4R learning strategy encourages students to use their metacognitive skills. Similarly, the TPS learning, as a type of cooperative learning, can empower students' metacognitive skills. TPS learning consisting of the stages of thinking, paired discussion, and sharing to all students is the factor which increases the potential of PQ4R strategy so as to minimize time, to coordinate through groups, and to activate all students in the classroom.

Furthermore, the implementation of the integration of PQ4R-TPS learning contributes to the improvement of metacognitive skills, which can be seen from the learning syntax. Stage "P" (preview), as the beginning of this activity, is the stage where the students read learning material quickly by identifying titles, subtitles, or parts that are considered important. Through the preview, the students already have an idea of the things they are learning (Bibi

and Manzoor, 2011). At this stage, the students already use their metacognitive skills through planning and prediction skills.

In relation to "Q" (question) stage students formulate questions developed from a simple question to the complex question. The questions include what, who, where, when, why, and how questions. The questions were developed toward the formation of declarative, structural, and procedural knowledge (Bibi and Manzoor, 2011). Moreover, formulating the questions was also done by using the previously owned knowledge (Logsdon, 2007) encouraging students to think at a higher level (Rogers, 2006).

The reading activity on the "R" (read) stage is the act of reading in more detail and comprehensive ways with the purpose of finding the answers to the questions that have been formulated (Logsdon, 2007). At this stage, the students record the important parts that become their prediction of answers to the questions formulated. This reading is the process of thinking (Khattack & Khan, 2002) because in reading we do not only read the text, but also try to understand what we read (Leipzig, 2001).

While reading, students should make a reflection or "R" (reflect). This activity encourages the development of students' horizons because the students try to understand what they are reading by connecting the reading materials with their prior knowledge, connecting sub topics with concepts, and connecting the reading materials with the existing information (Logsdon, 2007).

The next activity is "R" recite or question and answer themselves. This stage involves the students' thinking skills to recap the information that has been understood. They then formulate concepts, explain the relationship between these concepts, and write back with their own editorial (Huber, 2004).

The final stage of PQ4R strategy is a review. Logsdon (2007) stated that at this stage students wrote a summary of the information they understood. This activity encourages students to think by reviewing the learning material.

The integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategies is believed to be more potential in empowering students' metacognitive skills, because the TPS learning continues the series of thinking activities that have been repeatedly done in the previous PQ4R strategy. The procedures of TPS learning provides the opportunity for the students to think, discuss, and share with other students (Miranda, 2010). According to Kennedy (2007), TPS strategy encourages all students to be active in the classroom through writing, thinking, listening, and speaking skills. Thus, the TPS learning strategy is very helpful in empowering the students' metacognitive skills. Stuever (2006), assumed that the students would get a lot more opportunities in the empowerment of metacognitive skills during the implementation of TPS learning strategy. The students explore their thoughts, write about what they think, and compare their ideas with the other students' ideas. When the students share their conclusions to the class, they will defend their findings and may also review their ideas.

Group activities and collaborative work are parts of the steps in TPS learning strategy. These activities have great potential to empower students' metacognitive skills. The students discuss and answer the questions together in groups, which allows students to learn and help one another address their weaknesses. Similarly, the sharing activities, both in groups and in the classroom, can improve students' metacognitive skills. Each student listens to the other students' opinions and answers, and they will have a discussion in order to find out the answers of questions, and can ultimately make a summary of their study result. According to Ofudu (2012), one of the reasons that TPS strategy can improve the learning results is that all group members have the opportunity to interact in pairs and help each other understand the reading material.

The integration of PO4R-TPS strategy is a strategy that both trains group learning (cooperative) and reduces the individuality of the students. Students can learn more fun and can obtain good learning results. The process of thinking and cooperation activities that occur in the implementation of the integration of PQ4R-TPS strategy can improve students' metacognitive skills.

According to Hammond, et al. (2000), the ability to develop metacognition can make us become reflective learners, as well as the learners who acquire specific learning strategies. Similarly, Dawson (2008) stated that these skills are required for active learning, critical thinking, reflective assessment, problem solving, and decision making. Metacognition makes students become independent learners who can manage and plan their learning process. Livingston (1997) stated that metacognition had a very important role for successful learning.

Based on the discussion above, the integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategy has an effect on students 'metacognitive skills. The integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategy holds significantly more potential to improve students' metacognitive skills than the other learning strategies.

# **Suggestions**

The integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategy has the potential to increase the students' metacognitive skills. The empowerment of the integration of PQ4R-TPS learning strategy needs to be implemented, habituated, and continued to be trained to students in order to improve their metacognitive skills. Therefore, it is recommended that teachers implement this learning strategy to assist students in becoming independent learners.

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