

Digital-based instruction: Chances and challenges in English language teaching context

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ABSTRACT

The use of Digital Based Instruction (DBI) nowadays seems to have many obstacles and difficulties. It is due to lack of digital literacy both lecturers and students. Meanwhile, many advantages also emerge through the use of DBI. It becomes the reason for the lecturers to keep on trying to develop their digital literacy to occupy the need of DBI to their English Language Teaching (ELT) class. This study aimed at revealing the chances and challenges of the implementation of DBI. Descriptive qualitative was employed in this study which involved the use of observation and interview as the instruments. The participants of this study were five English lecturers and 200 students. The findings showed that the chances of applying DBI cover activating students, elevating digital literacy, provoking students' creativity, and creating new application. While some challenges are also emerged. It is due to limited devices and access, and limited digital literacy. The implementation of DBI could provoke the elevation of digital literacy and creativity if we could handle the challenges.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Digital era has come to our world today. People's way of doing many things such as communicating, getting information, or socializing now shifted into digital ways too. They almost have the digital devices such laptop, smartphone, and tablets [1]. Moreover, the existence of internet supports the change on people on learning, construct, process, and communicate the knowledge they gained [2]. Teaching and learning activities might also be influenced by the development of technology, in this case, digital devices and application. It is as an impact of the industry 4.0 which transform digitally of production or manufacturing based industries. It was driven by connected technologies, namely cyber-physical systems, internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing [3, 4].

Many digital devices and application are now available freely to be used by teachers to promote their teaching and learning quality. The inclusion of these digital devices and application on the learning process will encourage students on involving themselves in the activities. Students are usually motivated more if they see something interesting shown through the digital device and application, it is supported by [5] who say students are motivated in learning and they could learn effectively using digital application. There are many kinds of digital applications that can be implemented; one of platforms digital is Kahoot!. Kahoot! is a learning tool that was released in 2013 and it is appropriate for additional references in the learning and

teaching process [6, 7]. Kahoot! can also be an interactive learning to encourage students' motivation and create active learning [8, 9]. It can be seen from previous research that students will be triggered better when they have to answer some questions through Kahoot! if it is compared with when they work on their worksheet. Moreover, they work better on their group when the teacher turned the condition into such a competition than through a regular learning. Another example is ORAI application; it is one application that is easy to use and it is used to encourage students' confident to talk in front of people [10, 11]. Based on those explanations, some applications can be used in teaching to enhance the goal of teaching. Nevertheless, the important thing is not only about digital applications but also the teacher's roles in the classroom; it is because they can choose the appropriate application that can be used in teaching and learning process. In other word, the use of technology in teaching process relies on teachers utilize the technology in the classroom.

These possible positive effects give a better sight to the lecturers in teaching in industry 4.0. So, the positive effects can be implemented in one university in Bandung to involve some technologies on their teaching and learning process of English. Through their practices of conducting ELT using some digital devices and application, we could reveal some potentials and challenges faced by those lecturers on cultivating the digital devices and application in the institution. Lecturers could develop their digital literacy to encourage students on developing their digital literacy as well as their creativity towards the use of those devices and application on their learning process. Besides, it is a challenge for the students to seek the learning outcome with regard to the learning management by the lecturer [12].

Digital-based instruction is an instruction using some digital devices and application. On implementing the DBI, teachers need to cultivate their digital literacy in their teaching and learning process [13, 14]. DBI helps teachers to achieve the objective of learning and teachers should adapt the changing of technology that can be implemented in the classroom. Many studies had been conducted related to the utilization of digital devices in classroom setting [1, 15-18].

Digital devices used by teachers on cultivating their teaching and learning activities involved smartphones, tabs, laptop, and desktop computer [1, 19, 20]. While, [13] considered digital devices and application as a technology which covers LCD projector, laptop computer, digital dictionaries, and software for their presentation. The use of the digital devices and application need digital literacy. Many researchers use various term of digital literacy; one of them is digital competence. Digital competence is needed by both lecturers and students. As specifically defined by [21], digital competence is a skill to utilize technology to gain, manage, and evaluate information, create and share information by using digital tools.

Some studies related to the use of digital devices and application in the ELT classroom had been already conducted. One of them is by [1] which revealed that even though the possession of digital devices of some teachers was high, the use of these digital devices seemed to be far for satisfaction. They had lack of ability on cultivating the devices they had into their teaching and learning process. Another related studies was also conducted by [13] which revealed that teacher in the age of digital-native also had some obstacles on the use of digital devices and application on their teaching activities. In addition, they also found some challenges which come not only from the lecturers but also from the students themselves. The typical study was also done by [22] who finally concluded that most educators are not ready to have made effective use of technology in the stages of appropriation and even invention. There will be a major obstacle if the teachers had a lack competence on operating the technology for ELT [16]. In addition, educators need to know the achievement that can be achieved through technology and the studnets can develop better understandings with digital technology [23].

The previous studies show us that there are some challenges on the implementation of Digital-based instruction in the classroom setting, yet some chances were also widely opened to be developed on this implementation of DBI. Therefore, based on the background of study above the objective of this study was to reveal the chances and challenges which might emerge from the implementation of Digital-Based Instruction in Indonesian context.

In this digital era, teachers and lecturers are hoped to be equipped with sufficient digital devices and application. They need both of them on the implementation of Digital-based instruction. Digital devices meant here are laptops, smartphones, tabs, and desktop computer [1]. While digital applications used cover Edpuzzle, Padlet, Kahoot!, and many more. It is freely accessed and used to the classroom setting. The use of digital devices and application on the implementation of Digital-based instruction needs cultivation of digital literacy both teachers and students. Digital literacy based on [24] is: "The skill to be an effective citizen in the 21st century, including comprehending the characteristics and features of digital technology and the effect of digital identities, having the ability to manage, comprehend, assess, share and communicate information using digital technology as well as interact in the digital world safely."

Lecturers also are expected to have good digital literacy, efficient utilization of information and communication technology [25], so that they can implement better on using the digital devices and

application. Lecturers involved in this study were digital-native teachers who were born in 1982-1991 [26]. They have been familiar with the use of technology in their daily life. In that case, instant messaging, text messaging, and blogs characterize the way the digital native communicate [27]. They are used to receive information really fast, like to parallel process and multi-task, and function best when net-worked [28]. By this condition, fortunately, they have the same category as the students they are teaching. This is what makes they feel more comfortable on implementing such a digital application for their teaching activities. From several definition related to some terms above, it can be concluded that digital-based instruction is a way of cultivating digital literacy on the use of digital devices and application towards the teaching and learning process in classroom setting.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

A descriptive qualitative was employed in this study. It tried to describe the chances and challenges face by the lecturers in one university in Bandung on conducting teaching and learning activities using some digital devices and application in ELT classroom. It is related to [29] who say that the goal of qualitative descriptive is a comprehensive summarization based on experiences and it can be done individual or a group. The instruments used were observation and interview towards 5 lecturers of English study program who teach English using some digital devices and applications. It was a purposive sampling since the samples were taken purposively based on their way of teaching. The researchers chose five lecturers who teach using digital devices or application only.

The researchers observed five lecturers while they taught in five different subjects such as Innovation in English Language Teaching (ELT), Foundation of English Grammar, Instructional Media, Listening for General Communication, and Speaking for General Communication. The interview was done before and after they performed teaching to know their detail planning and result after teaching, so that they could compare before and after condition related to their opinion towards the use of digital devices and application. In detail, the steps of the research can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Steps of the study

After determining the sample study, the researchers prepared some instrument used on the study. The instruments covered observation and interview. The observation sheet and interview were developed based on two-side sight (both lecturers and students). They covered both lecturers' and students' digital literacy and the condition of the classroom related to the implementation of DBI.

The first interview was done before the teaching and learning process to know the preparation and planning of the lecturers. It deals with their readiness towards some digital devices and application being used. For observation, researchers prepare a sheet containing some points to be observed such as students' readiness, students' attitude towards the instruction done by the lecturers, lecturers' use of digital devices and application. The second interview was done to reveal what happened during the teaching process and to understand the lecturers' opinion towards the implementation of digital-based instruction.

The data gathered through observation and interview were then analyzed and categorized into two main points; chance and challenges on digital-based instruction. The data were finally displayed in the form of descriptive data gathered from those instruments prepared before.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study is presented in the form of pictures, tables and result description covering the chances and challenges of the use of Digital-Based Instruction in Classroom context in Indonesia.

3.1. Digital devices and application used

The finding of this study covers two main points; they are the chances of implementing Digital-based Instruction in classroom and challenges toward it. The lecturers being observed taught in five different classes with five different subjects. On their teaching and learning activities, they used digital devices or application in delivering the material. The digital devices and application used in their teaching can be seen in detail in Table 1.

Table 1. Digital devices and application used by lecturers

Lecturer	Subject	Digital devices	Digital application
1	Innovation in ELT	Laptop, in focus, PPT, smartphones	Lecturer's blog
2	Foundation of English Grammar	Laptop, in focus, PPT, smartphones	Lecturer's blog, Kahoot!
3	Instructional Media	Laptop, in focus, PPT, loud speaker, smartphones	Lecturer's blog, Padlet
4	Listening for General Communication	Laptop, in focus, PPT, smartphones	Lecturer's blog, YouTube, Edpuzzle
5	Speaking for General Communication	Smartphones	Orai, Edpuzzle,

3.2. Observation on teaching and learning process

The researchers came in the classroom to observe how the lecturers used their digital devices and application during the teaching and learning process. Here are some pictures taken from different classes during the observation, Classroom observation can be seen in Figure 2. Based on the observation done by the researchers toward those five lecturers, some result could be obtained as presented in Table 2.



Figure 2. Classroom observation

Table 2. The result of observation

No.	Aspects	Lecturer 1	Lecturer 2	Lecturer 3	Lecturer 4	Lecturer 5
1.	Students					
	a. Students' attitude	enthusiastic, active, creative, collaborative	confused, collaborative, critical	interested, active, collaborative	active, creative, communicative	enthusiastic, active, creative, communicative
	b. Students' readiness	need to be used to the application	tend to have more time on learning using digital devices	some showed advanced use of digital application	follow the instruction very well	follow the instruction very well
2.	Lecturers					
	a. The use of digital devices	well-prepared devices	well-prepared devices	well-prepared devices	well-prepared devices	well-prepared devices
	b. The use of digital application	maximize her use of blog	use blog for exercise, and kahoot! For the quiz	use blog to give example and padlet to do discussion	combine the video from YouTube in edpuzzle and use blog for display the material	use edpuzzle to give example, and orai for exercise
	c. Lecturers' attitude	use the application yet monitor the students' work	use the application yet monitor the students' work	use the application yet monitor the students' work	use the application yet monitor the students' work	use the application yet monitor the students' work

3.3. Interviews

The second instrument used in this study was interview which covered two parts. First interview was done before the lecturers did the teaching and learning process as you could see the result in Table 3. Besides doing the interview before teaching process, the second interview also conducted after the lecturers did the activities in classroom. The teaching process used DGI as well as delivering the material. The result of the second interview could be concluded as shown in Table 4.

Table 3. The result of the first interview

No	Questions	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
1.	Difficulties on preparing the course	Determine which application to suit the material given	Create quiz on kahoot!	Finding some examples to be shown in her blog	Create content on edpuzzle containing some materials taken from YouTube	Create content on edpuzzle related to the material given
2.	Their expectation on using digital-based instruction	students can learn better using her blog	students be more interesting on accomplishing the task through digital application	students are interested more on finding such good media on teaching	students can practice listening better	students encouraged to speak more

Table 4. The result of the second interview

No.	Questions	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
1.	Good things happened in class	Students work collaboratively well and enjoy learning from her blog	Kahoot! Brought joy to the class	Sufficient to give them as many examples of media as possible	make the learning be different in a positive way	motivate students even more to speak up without hesitation
2.	Challenges on conducting DBI	Poor connection, not all students know how to do the task	The material was considered difficult to the students, poor connection	takes much time on displaying the media, poor connection	poor connection, so that the track was hard to catch	poor connection, unsophisticated devices possessed by some students

3.4. Discussion

Digital era hits nowadays on our life. It leads us to shift our way of living from manually to be digitally. For instance, it affects our communication and way of sharing information to other. This condition also affects the way of lecturers deliver the material in the classroom in English learning and teaching. The study conducted is aimed at describing the possible chances and challenges may rise by the implementation of Digital-based Instruction.

The use of Digital-based Instruction in English learning and teaching nowadays becomes a worth applying method to cultivate. That is the main reason of some lecturers to utilize some digital devices and application on their teaching and learning process. The study focused more on revealing the chances and challenges raised from the implementation of Digital-based Instruction. Here is the discussion towards the issues on chances and challenges on DBI implementation based on the result of observation and interviews describe above as presented in Table 5.

DBI triggers the students to be active, creative and they can have more time to practice using DBI. Overall, it has good implications to learning process and there are many researches related to this finding [13, 30]. Whereas, the challenges of DBI have to be solved by the lecturers and students in order to support learning process in 4.0 era [12, 31].

Table 5. Chances and challenges in ELT context

	Chances		Challenges
Activate students	As found on the observation that the use of digital devices and application could lead and increase student's activeness. Moreover, all of the lecturers set them on groups	Limited devices	In the implementation of DBI, some students set on groups while doing the task. One of the reasons is that they didn't have laptop so they had to join with their friends
Elevate digital literacy	Both lecturers and students would have reason to learn and practice more on the use of digital devices and application.	Limited access	Most of the areas in IKIP are not coping with good signal due to its location. Even though there is Wi-Fi, but it has poor connection.
Provoke students' creativity	during the lesson somehow, we find that students feeling bored of doing something in learning process. However, using some application could motivate them more on doing something else. And it leads them to be more creative.	Students' digital literacy	Students in IKIP Siliwangi come from various backgrounds (social, economy, education, etc). Their ability and basic knowledge are also in the different level. This condition supported their skill on doing something digitally. Moreover, not all of the students were equipped with sufficient digital devices.
Create new application	The more lecturers use the applications, the more they know what they need the most. This case could lead them to create their own application to be used in their classroom which fit them more on the material they are going to deliver.	Lecturers' digital literacy	Lecturers somehow find difficulties on matching the material with the application being used. They also find it difficult to create some content using those applications. It may due to the time to prepare the material which cover all skill being developed

4. CONCLUSION

This study is aimed at describing the possible chances and challenges may be faced by lecturers on implementing Digital-based instructions. There are some possible chances and challenges which have been revealed through this study. The chances covered some items related to the improvement of both lecturers and students ability on using digital devices and application, and also develop activeness well as their creativity. While some challenges might also be appear during the study. Limited devices and access are the main challenges which have to be overcome. Moreover, lecturers and students' digital literacy also challenge them to be improved if they want to keep using the Digital-based Instruction. Finally, in this digital era, one has to cultivate and improve their ability on using some digital devices and application so that he or she could elevate the quality of English learning and teaching.

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