INTERACTIVE PPT: A STRATEGY TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' ACTIVENESS IN LEARNING ENGLISH ONLINE

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Abstract

Two years pandemic is quite enough for teachers and students to adapt with online learning system. The way of how teachers deliver the material and manage the online class is improving time by time. However, some issues still arise about students in term of their activeness and participation in the online activities especially in learning English. Then, media and how the teachers use it become crucial to engage students' activeness and participation in learning. Here, one provide solution is using interactive PowerPoint. This paper aims to give an overview of the important position of interactive media especially PowerPoint dealing with students activeness and participation. Further, this paper also gives some suggestions that contribute to the improvement of teaching media in online class environment more effective and efficient.

Keywords: interactive PowerPoint, strategy, students' activeness, online learning

A. INTRODUCTION

Online learning becomes very crucial during pandemic period. Starting in the middle of 2019 until 2022, online learning still be the main choice in several institutions in order to limit human activities due to the new variant of corona virus. Many researches have been raised the issue of online learning with various perspective both teachers, students and stakeholders (Wahab and Iskandar, 2020; Nashruddin, Alam, and Tanasy, 2020; Efriana, 2021; Dewantara and Dibia, 2021). Then, the term of hybrid teaching and learning then occurs in late 2021 to 2022 as an upgrade of learning system before. In this term, the teacher and students have a shift for learning, half time for face to face meeting and the rest is held through online.

One of the important thing in learning online both teacher and students is media. Media that will be used to deliver material online must be chosen wisely by teacher since there are some restrictiveness especially to capture students' activeness and participation in such class. The common media used in online teaching and learning is PowerPoint since it does not have big size and can be reached by all students with low internet quality. Some teachers try to use various kinds of media to engage learning environment; however, if the condition face the internet quality of certain area especially in rural area, the media cannot be used maximally.

According to Efriana (2021), at least there are three problems of online learning during the pandemic which are understanding on the subject materials, teacher's ability to use technology, and the limitation in the learning controlling. One solution provided to minimize the barriers or obstacles in online learning faced by teachers is by creating materials as interesting as possible. Here, providing interactive PowerPoint slides will be more alive by students. Interactive PowerPoint has fulfilled principles solution which is safe, realistic, simple, meaningful, and applicable (Efriana, 2021)

Based on the description, an interactive PowerPoint becomes a solution to engage students' attention, activeness, participation, and motivation especially when learning English since the process of learning a new language can be boring and painful for students, so they need much language support and the teachers who teach English know that any language support is helpful for language acquisition (Ybarra & Green, 2003). The condition is worsened by online learning. Therefore, this paper is carried out to give an overview of the important position of interactive media especially PowerPoint dealing with students activeness and participation through online class. Further, this paper also gives some suggestions that contribute to the improvement of teaching media in online class environment more effective and efficient.

B. METHOD

This study belongs to library research or literature study with qualitative research design. According to Zed (2014), library research includes activities of collecting library data, reading, noting, and analyzing materials. Here, the writes used several online and printed sources such as e-book, articles journal, and other relevant sources to be analyzed related to the issue of interactive PowerPoint and students' activeness and participation. Qualitative research means a research conducted to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total pictures with depth understanding (Ary, *et al,* 2010). Moreover, the writers also used open-ended questionnaire for students to support data about their activeness when the online class using interactive PowerPoint.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In presenting online class, English teachers usually use several digital platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and WhatsApp group, and they will use share screen feature in the platforms to deliver their material when teaching. Then, PowerPoint becomes the most common media used by teachers to share in online class.

1. Principles in online class

There are always special condition of each teaching and learning situation including in online learning. Teachers should consider several important principles in order to minimize obstacles when teaching English to students. Some of the principles include:

a. Setting clear objectives. In order to keep the effectiveness of online learning, an English teacher must set clear objectives in every meeting. It is same with what should teacher do in offline learning; however, in this case, an extra attention is needed to carefully make objectives. (Dewantara and Dibia, 2021)

b. Creating safe, realistic, simple, meaningful, and applicable materials. This principle allow teacher to create a material that should not overload students with burdensome task but still meaningful and can be applied in their real-life condition. However, the objectives of material still must be achieve. (Efriana, 2021)

c. Providing evaluation and feedback. Feedback is a feature of assessment as it provides students with a statement of learning and advice about how to improve. In the on-line environment, the provision of effective assignment feedback is particularly important because online students generally receive far less informal feedback from teachers than students in face-to-face classes it allows students to identify gaps and assess their learning progress. It is a powerful construct in the design of quality of online learning, and quantified learners' feedback that improve effectiveness and increase efficiency online learning (Matas and Allan, 2014; Erin Crisp, 2020)

2. Interactive PowerPoint for online learning environment

Online learning environment allows students to take control over the learning process, engage interaction and develop multiple modes of representation and become more self-aware. A study related to the use of digital technologies in online learning environments was conducted by Kumi-Yeboah, Sallar, Kiramba and Kim (2020). They found that PowerPoint presentations helped to convey the main ideas of the course to other students and instructors. The PowerPoint stimulates students' thinking process in knowledge acquisition in online classrooms maked it feel like in the face-to-face class. They indicated that PowerPoint presentations provided a source of knowledge acquisition. Then, Emralino and Nartea (2020) claimed that MS PowerPoint program is a Presentation software that can be used to effectively deliver lessons in classroom which controls 97% of the presentation market rating as the most dominant type of technology used in the classroom for learning and teaching. It also including in online class.

Moreover, there are several elements that should be involved in a PowerPoint presentation to make it interactive and can capture students' participation and engage their activeness during online class. Hashemi, Azizinezhad, and Farokhi (2011) recommend *Robert Gagne's Events of Instruction* as checklist for presentation, which are:

a. Gaining Attention
b. Informing Learner of the Objective
c. Stimulating Recall of Prior Learning
d. Presenting the Stimulus
e. Providing Learning Guidance

    f.   Eliciting Performance

    g. Providing Feedback

    h. Assessing Performance

    i.   Enhancing Retention and Transfer

All of the elements can be a checklist for teachers when designing their PowerPoint. Since the learning atmosphere in online class is really dependent on teachers' ability and creativity, the interactive PowerPoint can help teachers to control class and make it effective and efficient.

3. Using interactive PowerPoint to enhance students activeness and participation

Learner participation is one of the important issues in online learning. It is caused by poorly designed interaction opportunities for learners. Research has shown that online learning can be as effective as face-to-face courses, but only if learners are provided well-designed interaction activities (Joksimović, Gašević, Kovanović, Riecke, & Hatala, 2015).

English teachers can design their own PowerPoint template or use available free downloadable template from Internet. Nowadays, there are several sources that provide interactive PowerPoint complete with the content such us from www.off2class.com. The design of Powerpoint from the website includes all fulfilled principles solution which is safe, realistic, simple, meaningful, and applicable explained by Elfiana (2011). Also, it covering all checklists recommended by Hashemi, Azizinezhad, and Farokhi (2011). Here, the writer tried to use the free interactive Powerpoint about teaching grammar to apply in her online class through google meet in several meetings. Surprisingly, the class became so active and students really motivated to participate the class. They were actively asking questions, answering questions, and finishing simple exercises from the Powerpoint. In line with that according to Kusumawardani, Hamami Nata and Iis Widiyowati (2021) found that the use of interactive powerpoint media in the online TGT model on thermochemical material has an influence on student learning outcomes at MAN 1 Samarinda. This is because in interactive PowerPoint media students can interact directly with the media, get a non-monotonous display, additional visuals and audio that are more interesting, and get feedback in the form of discussing questions when incorrectly answered instantly.

Then, to make sure how the students think about the interactive PowerPoint related to their activeness in English online class, the writer distributed an open-ended questionnaire to them. There are six questions delivered to 15 students related to 4 aspects. The result of students' answers can be seen on the following description

    a. The effectiveness of using PowerPoint in online class

All of the students said that using PowerPoint in online class is effective for teaching and learning process. Some of them said that by using PowerPoint in class, their attention would be focus on the learning. It helped them to understand the material with effective example and good stimulus to create thinking process. Also, a student claimed that the learning using visual technique (PowerPoint) covering listening to the explanation make her easier to understand and remember the lesson.

b. Interactive PowerPoint in online class

In this aspect, the students were asked about the PowerPoint that used by writer taken free from www.off2class.com. Most of students answered that the PowerPoint used was good, creative, and interesting. The material provided by the PowerPoint was easy to understand and really help for students who were still lack in learning English. The students also said that the way of how teacher presented the material and practice the example from PowerPoint was good. Then, all of them agreed that the PowerPoint used by writer belonged to interactive PowerPoint. Based on their perception, the PowerPoint used had unique material and quiz that stimulus them to become active during class. Although there was a student said that the activeness of students were depend on the students itself, he was agree that the PowerPoint was really catch students' attention.

In addition, when students were asked whether the online class using PowerPoint or not, they chose using PowerPoint because they needed others resource when attended online class. Using PowerPoint made the class more alive and effective. It helped keeping students' focus and attention during class rather than only talking presenting the materials. Then, they chose an interactive PowerPoint to apply in online class because it could make students active in learning process. Interactive PowerPoint could make two ways communication between teacher and students. It also appropriate in the current situation.

c. Students' activeness and participation

The availability quiz in the PowerPoint made students active in teaching learning process. Most of students stated that because of the quiz, they felt challenged to answer it as soon as possible. The question and answer session with interesting images provided by the PowerPoint also stimulate students to participate. Only two students said that the PowerPoint had no impact with their activeness and participation during online class because they did not want to answer the question and quiz; however, if the teacher asked all students to answer together, they would participate in answering with other students.

The students' responses is in line with Halimah (2015 in Ratu & Komara, 2021) statement which mention one of the benefits using PowerPoint is activating student responses or learning activities, encouraging interactive learning, and providing modified learning resources. Also, all activities carried out in the process of interaction using Ms.

PowerPoint (teacher and student) can achieve learning goals and create active learning situation. The intended activity using Ms. PowerPoint here can emphasize the student's activeness in the learning process as it can create active learning situations (Hamalik, 2010 in Ratu & Komara, 2021)

Specifically, Ratu and Komara (2021) found that Ms. Powerpoint really motivated students to learn. It has a high impact on students in giving the motivation to learn in class or outside the classroom, for example, students can improve creatively and can learn more independently using Ms. PowerPoint that can be used on each student's smartphone.

D. CONCLUSION

In the current era of the Covid-19 pandemic, teachers are required to utilize online-based technology media to be used in the teaching and learning process. Teachers are also required to use technology for learning that is able to make teaching and learning process meaningful. These changes have forced teachers to change the interactive learning process to be non-interactive. This is a new problem for teachers in presenting learning materials so that students achieve the expected competencies.

Using Interactive PowerPoint presentations as a tool that can be used in many ways in the Online English Learning classroom as well as in other classrooms, students can interact directly with the media, be more active and engage with online learning activities. Thus, PowerPoint presentations help teachers to make the learning effective.

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