

Implementation Group Task Assignment's Method to Increase Social Interaction Students on Online Learning System

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ABSTRACT

The online lecture system, also known as e-Learning, is a lecture process using information and communication technology, in this case the internet. The online lecture system is an alternative for learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the order of human life, especially in activities. Many activities are now carried out online, one of which is lecture activities. This research was carried out based on phenomena that occurred in the world of education which showed that students in online lectures had low social interaction skills between students. Therefore, the problem in the research can be formulated as follows; "How to increase social interaction between students in online lectures?" The purpose of this research is to use the method of giving small group assignments to increase social interaction between students in online lectures. This study uses data collection techniques through the process of observation and interviews. Based on the discussion of the research results, it can be stated that the findings in this study, namely the application of the method of giving small group assignments effectively builds social interaction between students in online lectures. The method of giving small group assignments is carried out by independent work then the results of group assignments are presented in online lectures and give each other feedback on the topics that have been worked on, the discussions that occurred during lectures made a significant increase in social interaction between students during online lectures.

Keywords: *Assignment Method, Social Interaction, Online Lecture*

1. INTRODUCTION

The online lecture system, also known as e-Learning or Online Course, is a lecture process using information and communication technology, in this case the internet. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way people live, especially in their activities. Many activities are now carried out online, one of which is teaching and learning activities. Online or online lectures are an alternative choice for learning activities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online lecture activities are carried out with several applications that provide face-to-face audio and video services, such as Zoom, Skype, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, and WhatsApp Group. This activity is carried out with due regard to the effectiveness and achievement of the planned learning quality.

The term online is an acronym for "in the network". So online lectures are one of the online learning methods or are carried out through the internet network [1]. Through online learning, a higher education will be

created with a modern learning environment [2]. The continuity of this online lecture still reaps the pros and cons. Various positive and negative impacts come from lectures that are conducted without face to face. One of the negative impacts of online lectures is the lack of social interaction between students or the formation of student individualism. Social interaction according to reference [3] is the relationship between one individual and another, one individual can influence another individual or vice versa, so there is a reciprocal relationship. In line with the opinion above, reference [4] explains that social interaction is a relationship carried out between individuals or between one human and another human or individual, in that interaction there is a reciprocal relationship between the two parties.

The phenomenon that occurs in the world of education which shows that social interaction between students or students in online lectures is very rare, it is different from the case when face-to-face lectures or lectures outside the network, social interactions that

usually occur in online lectures are only interactions between students and lecturers while between students rarely or does not occur during online lectures, even though social interaction between students has a positive impact, one of which is when students who are embarrassed or reluctant to ask educators or lecturers can ask or find answers to other students.

Students in online lectures have low social interaction skills between students. Therefore, the application of appropriate learning methods during online lectures in addition to the main goal of learning is achieved, there is also a positive impact that is rarely noticed, namely social interaction between students can occur in the online lecture system. Such as the use of the method of giving small group assignments that require interaction between members, it is hoped that it can build social interaction between students in online lectures.

Based on the above facts, the researchers are interested in conducting research on: Application of the Small Group Assignment Method to Improve Social Interaction Between Students in the Online Lecture System.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study used qualitative research methods. According to reference [5], qualitative research aims to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects, for example, behaviour, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc. in a descriptive way in the form of words in a special natural context by utilizing various natural ways. The type of research used is descriptive research. Descriptive method is defined as a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing / describing the state of the subject / object of research (a person, institution, community and others) at the present time based on the facts that appear, or as they are [6]. Descriptive research requires the author to explore in detail the application of the method of giving group assignments to build social interaction between students in the online lecture system. Based on this definition, it can be concluded that the first step in data analysis is to collect existing data, compose it in its entirety, manage, and analyse. In this study data collection using observation, interviews and documentation techniques.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research is about the application of the method of giving small group assignments to build social interaction between students in the online-based lecture system at Manado State University, where the subjects in this study are students in the Social Sciences Education Study Program who contract Indonesian society studies courses, social studies education courses and the basics of sociology courses, the three courses are taught online.

Online lectures are lectures that are conducted online or lectures that are conducted outside of direct face-to-face classes as in general. The network used here is the internet network. So, in online lectures, between educators and students do not meet directly during the learning process. Meetings between educators and students can be held at the same time with different locations and can also be held at different times and locations.

Online lectures have many positive impacts such as lowering the cost of living because they can stay with their parents even though they are far from campus, so there is no boarding fee and no need for transportation costs, the cost of daily meals is also no longer necessary to spend personal money, saving more time such as no need to spend so much time on the road to and from campus. Location and time are more flexible, not stuck in one place and fixed at one time. Lectures can be anywhere, can foster independent learning, online learning requires students to be more active in learning independently with the help of learning media that has been provided by educators and master various technologies and information. Although online lectures have many positive impacts, there are also negative impacts, one of which is social interaction between students or students which is very lacking or even does not occur during online lectures.

3.1 Social Interaction Between Students

The process of student social interaction in online lectures is attempted by establishing social contacts with other students which will eventually create an interactive relationship between them. The relationship that arises from the process of social interaction produces two patterns, namely associative and dissociative [7]. The associative process is a pattern of interaction that leads to unity between individuals or groups in achieving certain goals, such as cooperation, accommodation, and assimilation. Meanwhile, the dissociative process produces social relations in the form of competition, contradiction, and conflict. Social interaction is needed by students because they need friends to communicate with if they have difficulty in the learning process. Reference [8] divides three types of interactions that are essential in distance education, namely interactions between students and teaching materials, students and lecturers, and students and students. The interaction between students and teaching materials is an interaction that occurs to obtain information from teaching materials. The interaction between students and lecturers can be in the form of providing motivation, feedback and dialogue between the two parties.

While the interaction between students is illustrated by the creation of forums for exchange of opinions, exchange of information or ideas and the occurrence of dialogue between them about the material being studied.

In fact, students can exchange information about independent learning strategies, especially the problems they face and the solutions they take. With friends to communicate with, students do not feel alone in learning, students feel a learning atmosphere that is no different from face-to-face lectures.

3.2. Methods of Giving Small Group Assignments in Online Lectures

The method of giving assignments is a way of presenting lesson materials [9]. In this assignment method, educators provide a set of tasks that must be done by students in groups of 2 or 3 students in each group. In order for the application of the method of giving small group assignments in online lectures to take place effectively, educators need to pay attention to the following steps:

- a. Students are divided into small groups (2 people).
- b. Lecturers provide direction on what students in each group should do.
- c. Students are faced with a situation that requires a solution or a decision that must be determined.
- d. Students explore the situation.
- e. Students formulate tasks that must be done in dealing with these situations, including formulating problems, determining the roles of group members, and formulating alternative methods to be used.
- f. Each group carries out independent work.
- g. Students check their progress in completing their assignments. Then the results of their group assignments are presented in online lectures so that other students are involved in their work and gain a broad perspective on the topic.
- h. Students give each other feedback on the topics they have worked on based on the assignments of each group, and students and lecturers collaborate in evaluating learning.

3.3 Application of Group Assignment Methods to Improve Social Interaction

Online lectures are limited face-to-face learning spaces, but virtual face-to-face learning spaces can be created so that social interaction between lecturers and students or between students can be carried out. Social interaction can be defined as dynamic social relations. The social relationship in question can be in the form of a relationship between one individual and another, between one group and another, or between groups and individuals. Social interaction is the main condition for the occurrence of social activities. Therefore, it is a must if lecturers can provide facilities for students to interact with other students in online lectures. Because through

this interaction there will be a reciprocal relationship between lecturers and students as well as between students.

The method of giving small group assignments is carried out in three courses, namely Indonesian society studies, social studies education and basics of sociology with a total of 54 students. With details of 28 students in the social studies education course, 17 students in the basics of sociology course and 9 students in the Indonesian society studies course. The three courses with different numbers of students. In each course, the method of giving small group assignments is carried out to see the social interactions that occur between students in online lectures.

The results of the data obtained are presented based on the form and components of social interaction consisting of social relations, cooperation, communication, and adjustment. The social interaction scale used in this study uses a score range from 1-3, while the categories are; 1) Low 2) Medium, and 3) High.

Social interaction between students in social studies education courses with a total of 28 students using the method of giving small group assignments in online lectures is as follows

Table 1. Categories of Social Interaction in Social Studies Education Courses

Score	Category	Student	Percentage
3	High	10	36%
2	Medium	13	46 %
1	Low	5	18%
	amount	28	100%

Based on the table above, it shows that students in social studies education courses have high social interaction with a total of 10 students or as much as 36% while the low with a total of 5 students or as much as 18%.

For social interaction between students in the basic sociology course with a total of 17 students using the method of giving small group assignments in online lectures are as follows:

Table 2. Categories of Social Interaction in Basic Sociology Courses

Score	Category	Student	Percentage
3	High	9	53%
2	Medium	7	41%
1	Low	1	6%
	amount	17	100%

Based on the table above, it shows that students in the basic sociology course have high social interaction with

a total of 9 students or 53% while the low with 1 student or as much as 6%.

For social interaction between students in the Indonesian society studies course with a total of 9 students using the method of giving small group assignments in online lectures are as follows:

Table 3. Categories of Social Interaction in Indonesian Society Studies Courses

Score	Category	Student	Percentage
3	High	6	67%
2	Medium	3	33 %
1	Low	-	0%
	amount	9	100%

Based on the table above, it shows that students in the Indonesian community studies course have high social interaction with a total of 6 students or as much as 67% while the lowest with a total of 0 students or as much as 0%.

Based on the research sample of 58 students in three courses with different numbers of students, the results of data analysis showed that the interaction between the majority of students increased in the application of the small group assignment method. Small groups of two make each student active in online lectures. This is in accordance with the reference [10] that social interaction is an interpersonal exchange in which each person shows his behaviour to each other in their presence, and each behaviour affects the other.

The application of the method of giving small group assignments is one solution for social interaction between students during online lectures. The method of giving small group assignments in the online lecture system can increase social interaction both between lecturers and students and between students. Where social interaction between students rarely occurs during online lectures. The results showed that students' social interactions could increase during online lectures by applying the learning method of giving small group assignments.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion of the research results that have been stated above, it can be concluded that; The method of giving assignments to small groups whose work is carried out independently, then the results of group assignments are presented in online lectures so that other students are mutually involved in the tasks that have been given and give each other feedback on the topics that have been done based on the tasks of each group, discussions occurred during online lectures made a significant increase in social interaction between students. So the application of the method of giving small

group assignments is effective in building social interaction between students in online lectures.

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