

IMPROVING STUDENTS' CHARACTER IN ENGLISH LEARNING LANGUAGE THROUGH RUMAH BELAJAR PORTAL

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Abstract: Portal rumah belajar is an online media developed by the Ministry of Culture and Education (PUSTEKOM) used by teachers in Indonesia which is really useful for developing their professional skill, utilizing as a communication media and providing a source of learning and teaching materials. This article aims to give a view of Portal rumah Belajar to suggest broad principles based on ICT relating to the benefits of Portal Rumah Belajar in the teaching and learning English to enhance students characters. The article consider some of the aspects of Portal Rumah belajar that can be used to support teachers and students in learning English and influence students characters. Understanding the use of Portal Rumah Belajar may provide the English teachers in supporting their teaching English and developing students characters including interest, motivation, independent learning and ect. The explanation of the features Rumah Belajar Portal can help the users (teachers, students, and society) in implementing it for teaching and learning targeted language (English). Findings in this area, as well as implication for language users, are comprised in the discussion.

Keywords: *Rumah Belajar Portal, ICT, Students Character*

The online technology especially in language education can be implemented in various way such as tele-conference, the students can be connected with the teachers although the teacher is not in the class so the teaching and learning process still happening. The information in the internet can be accessed by the teachers and the students for educational purposes (Dihvahan, 2010 and Dang, 2011). The process of communication is happen here although not in the real classroom and meet the teachers. The information is also gathered easily through online media as a source for teacher and students in teaching and learning process. Therefore, the use of ict especially on internet is considerable as one of potensial and powerfull media that will give a lot of benefits for education.

In teaching and learning process, the teachers are not only focus on enhancing the students knowledge or cognitive aspect but also need to be concern to moral character education. For example morality aspect, religius aspect and psychology aspect. In addition, these character education aspects can build students knowledge, skill, the ability to learn, using information properly and also developing students responsibility. Futhermore, these aspects emphasize the students in respecting others and developing self commitment (Maemonah, 2012).

The previous study using technology has proved that we can implement the teaching and learning process to build character education, especially on moral aspects. Students and teachers interaction can be complemented by using ICT in the classroom activity, particularly on sole attention, awareness, non-verbal and sensory communication (Cooper, 2011). So if we use technology media in teaching and learning process especially English learning process can be increase awareness and responsibility their students for doing exercise from the teacher through this technology media.

One of online technology that can be used for teaching English is Rumah belajar Portal. It is an official learning portal from the ministry of education with the address <http://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id> which provide features for teaching and learning. They are communication and interaction facilities for education community. It consist of materials for teachers and students, activity mode, exercises (bank soal), media learning catalogue. This portal is addressed to students, teachers and society community who concern about education. It has slogan everywhere, everytime and everyone. You can utilize this portal. It is developed by PUSTEKKOM (Pusat Teknologi dan Komunikasi).

Considering the Previous study, this portal not only support the teaching and learning process in the classroom activity but also make the users more independent because it can be accessed everywhere as long as has internet connection. Responsibility and awareness can increase unconsciously. For example in the teaching English, the teachers can give the materials and exercises to the students in everywhere, everytime and everyone throught exercises (bank soal), learning sources, electronic books and forum. However, the Rumah Belajar Portal is not clearly explained about the teaching and learning for the students characters, so it is a needed to investigate deeper about the use of Portal Rumah Belajar for the Teaching English and students characters based on the online technology since Rumah Belajar Portal is Internet based technology.

ICT (Information, communication and technology)

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the context referred to information and communication technologies (ICT) in a very short time has become one of the important building materials. Include of the development of modern society. Other uses of information and communication technology (ICT) cited in Rusman, et al (2011) the technology related to the retrieval, collection, processing, storage, dissemination, and presentation of information. Included with the defenisi all the hardware, software, content, and computing infrastructure as well as communication.

ICT is defined to include of all technology for the manipulation and communication of information. Sometimes used interchangeably with Information Technology, ICTs constitute an assorted set of technological gadgets and resources used to communicate, and to create, manage, store, and disseminate information, examples of which include computers, the Internet, broadcasting technologies, and telephony. ICT integration in education suggests the application these technologies to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in institutions (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO, 2005).

Information and communication technology has two aspects, namely information and communication technology. Information technology encompasses all matters relating to process, use as a tool, information processing and information manipulation. Information technology is all to do with the tools to usage process and transfer the data from one device to another. Meanwhile communication technology relate with knowledge to operate, maintain, and upgrade communications equipment. It refers to all equipment and programs that are used to process and communicate information.

So the information and communication technology has a broad understanding of all types of events with process, management, manipulation, as well as the transfer of information between the media (Basargekar, 2017)

Language Education on The Internet

The internet is powerful media to teach and learn foreign languages. According to higgins(2002), website that provide language education on the internet may be classified become three categories:

- a. Languages exchange website

exchange facilities language learning by placing user with complementary language skills in contact with each other. For instance, user A is a native Spanish speaker and

want to learn English; User B is a native English speaker and want to learn Spanish. Language exchange website essentially treat knowledge of a language as a commodity, and provide a market like environment for the commodity to be exchanged. Users typically contact each other via text chat or email. Language exchange have also been viewed as a helpful tool to aid language learning at language schools. Language exchanges tend to benefit oral proficiency, fluency, colloquial vocabulary acquisition and vernacular usage, rather than formal grammar or writing skills.

b. Portals that provide language content

There are a number of internet portals that offer language content, some in interactive form. Content typically includes phrases with translation in multiple languages, text to speech engines (TTS), learning activities such as quizzes or puzzles based on language concepts. While some of this content is free, a large fraction of the content on offer is available for a fee, especially where the content is tailored to the needs of language tests such as TOEFL, for the United States. In teaching and learning process in classroom can be interactive between teacher and students with use this portal, for example Edmodo and Rumah Belajar portal.

Virtual World-based language schools

These are schools operating online in MMOs and virtual worlds. Unlike other language education on the internet, virtual world schools are usually designed as an alternative to physical schools. The virtual worlds started to be used for foreign language tuition, sometimes with entire businesses being developed.

Rumah belajar portal

Rumah belajar portal is one of E-learning (Electronic learning) that new media use internet in education system. It is E-learning that used internet technology where the learning can be done online. Besides that E-Learning is a media that gives many benefits. According to Jethro, et al (2012), there are some benefits of E-learning: (1) it can improve the quality of the learning experience, extend to reach of teachers; (2) it helps to solve barriers by providing new and creative ways of motivating and inspiring students on their educational potential; (3) it can support learning by offering differentiated learning; (4) it offers innovative and creative tools in all learning activities; (5) creates online communities of practice; (6) provides learning experiences; (7) as a media to facilitate students participation; (8) provides personalized learning support through information, advice, and guidance services; (9) provides virtual learning where students can take part in active and creative learning.

One of include E-learning media in teaching and learning process is a Rumah belajar portal. It is a portal built by Ministry of Education and Culture (KEMENDIKBUD) to facilitate the availability of content learning materials that can be utilized by educators and learners, such as interactive learning materials furnished with supporting media images, animation, video, and simulations. With this portal expected teaching and learning will be more.

Rumah belajar portal is an E-learning media (online) that can be used for facilities teacher and students get material or material for the purpose of teaching students. According Nur (2014) state that Teachers and students will be able to capitalize on this portal with optimized user must register, for user registration is free of charge. The purpose of registration is to the user's statistics can be monitored on this portal. With the registration the user can upload content, download content, communication in synchronous as well as asynchronous form of the forum, as well as virtual tutoring classes that exist in the rumah belajar portal.

Feature of Rumah belajar Portal



There are some features in Rumah belajar portal that can support the usage of it. The classification of rumah belajar portal features is based on the users (teachers, students). They are:

- a. study of sources (sumber belajar)
- b. Electronic books school (buku elektronik)
- c. Exercises (bank soal)
- d. Maya laboratory
- e. Culture map
- f. Spacecraft rides
- g. Sustainable profesional development
- h. Maya classes

How to use Rumah belajar Portal

In this session, the authors explain the steps of using Rumah belajar Portal. In Rumah belajar Portal can be useful for them to make teaching and learning process more interactively. And the way to access Rumah belajar Portal for teacher and students are as follows:

- a. The steps in accessing Rumah belajar Portal for teacher
 1. Open site Rumah belajar Portal at (<http://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id>) and click register Rumah belajar portal
 2. Click picture Teacher
 3. Fill the form teacher sign up:
 - a. Fill identities of the teacher
 - b. Fill email coloum by your email
 - c. Fill your correct password
 4. Click register
- The steps in accessing Rumah belajar Portal for students
 5. Open site Rumah belajar Portal at (<http://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id>) and click register Rumah belajar portal
 6. Click picture students
 7. Fill the form teacher sign up:
 - a. Fill identities of the students
 - b. Fill email coloum by your email
 - c. Fill your correct password

5. Click register

Building students' character through Rumah belajar portal

Portal rumah belajar is a Ministry of education official learning and Once, with the url address (<http://belajar.kemdikbud.go.id>), this portal provides a variety of learning materials as well as communication and interactions between communication education, as well as facilities of communication and interaction between the educational community, it also contains learning materials for teachers, student learning materials, community activities/rides forum, question bank and learning media catalog. Utilization of this portal are expected to provide influence on the formation of teaching and learning process in the classroom consist of:

1. The construction of the teachers on going
2. The development of students ' creativity
3. Community development

Those conditions influence some processes that happen in the Rumah Belajar Portal which forming a few independent activities that has benefits to the formation of a positive impact against home users Learning good teachers, learners or Community that actively make use it in the rumah belajar in accordance with the capacity. However, beside those benefits, Rumah Belajar Portal can also improve students characters.

Students positive attitude can be promoted by using Rumah Belajar Portal. The students and teachers can interact each others where to develop more in social way by using Maya class figure. Rumah belajar Portals is an internet based Portal. Therefore, by learning English online through Rumah belajar Portal, the students are trying to represent their identity, and possibly their school which students can also do such a peer review activities which it help the students to demonstrate communication skills by giving feedback each others. This activity can help the students to keep students anonimity which make them more honest in giving their feedback. (Lin, S. S., LiuE.Z.F, & Yuan, S. M., in Jessica 2005).

Rumah Belajar Portal also gives the virtual figure for teaching and learning process which it can be used to teach moral value to the students in different way. Considering the previous study, the moral value is an important lesson which can be teach in the English subject. It will give a harmonious, balanced person in spiritual, intellectual, phsycally and emotional aspect. Virtual technology can be used to enhance the teaching and learning of Moral value for example in the teaching of folklore or Hikayat and it makes the process of teaching and learning more fun (Masmuzidin, 2011). However, the teacher can use virtual figure in the Rumah Belajar Portal in increasing students Moral value through a story.

The positive effect by using the Rumah Belajar Portal on English teaching and learning will be gained, the users (teacher, students, and others) will get a lot of benefit regarding to the learning English such as, access for learning sources with limetless and everywehere, Interaction and study the material independently. Students characters by using this Portal will be promote social interaction (social skill) between the users when learning English in the Kelas Maya, represent their identity, giving the moral values through the materials in different method. And give the motivation for student in learning the materials since there are a lot of interesting figures of Rumah Belajar Portal that can be used for study.

Suggestions

The author would like to pass on some advice for the users of Rumah Belajar Portal of for those who concern about online technologies:

1. The English teachers should design the material effectively in the Portal.
2. Rumah Belajar Portal is not a main tool for teaching and learning so the English teachers should combined with the other technology and classroom teaching and learning sources

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