

## Most Common Learning Style Used By the Students of English Department of Tidar University

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### Abstract

To make a good classroom environment as students' stimulation, that will make the students active in the teaching and learning process. Understanding the students' learning styles helps the teacher to teach about the student's specific favorites. Understand the kind of learning styles can help the teacher developing and also delivering the educational programs. It also will motivate and stimulate students' in gaining the knowledge. This research pursues to answer two research questions; (1) To know the kind of learning styles used by the students of English Department of Tidar University. (2) To know about the most common learning style used by the students of English Department of Tidar University. Qualitative research is used in this research. This research aims to distinguish the most common used of learning style and used the questionnaire reproduced by O'Brien (1985). The population of this research was the English Department students of Tidar University. However, the researcher used 70 samples from all of the students of English Department of Tidar University.

**Keywords:** *learning, style, kinesthetic, auditory, visual*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a sign, symbol, or tool used to exchange the information through spoken or written. Language has a close connection to a daily conversation. Conversation can be easily recognized if they use a language that they understand. For some students will be easy to learn a language and the rest of them will feel difficult in learn the language. Students learn well by seeing and practicing the important information given in the classroom. Students will enjoy and do something that they like. However, they will not do or even enjoy something that they are not interest in.

It is also happening in learning process. When the teachers give the material that the students do not like, or the teaching process is not suitable with what they usually do, they will be difficult to follow or understand the material which is being taught. In order to make the teaching-learning process successfully, it is necessary to use a good combination of teaching methods and what the students want. To make a good classroom environment as students' stimulation, that will make the students active in the teaching and learning process. Identifying what students need and what students want is same as understanding their learning style.

Students' learning style plays the crucial part in educational consequences and these favorites of learning styles are conveyed into different learning styles (Leung & Weng, 2007). Learning is defined as the transformation process of knowledge. People use learning to adapt to and achieve everyday conditions, giving to increase to diverse styles of learning. A variety of students learning style theories and frameworks have been developed together with instruments that operationalize their learning style constructs (Dunn & Griggs, 2003; Loo, 2004). Understanding the students' learning styles helps the teacher to teach about the student's specific favorites. This kind of learning style understanding can be used to develop and deliver educational programs. It also will motivate and stimulate students' in gaining the knowledge. "Understanding the learning styles can improve the arrangement, making, and implementing of educational knowledge, thus they are more appropriate harmonious with the learners' wishes, for improving their learning, retention and retrieval" (Federico, 2000).

Learning styles which is used by students are different. There are three learning styles; Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic. Visual learners indicate as preferring reading and studying charts, drawings, and other graphic information. Talk about the Auditory learners, they prefer to listen the lectures or learn something through the audiotapes. While Kinesthetic learners will prefer for demonstration and physical activity and used their body movement.

Based on the three types of learning styles, the researcher conduct the research entitled *Most Common Learning Styles Used by The Students of English Department of Tidar University*. Also, there are two research aims on doing this

research, there are: (1) To know the kind of learning styles used by the students of English Department of Tidar University. (2) To know about the most common learning style used by the students of English Department of Tidar University.

## METHOD

Qualitative research is used in this research. This research aims to distinguish the most common used of learning style by the students of English Department of Tidar University. The population of this research was the English Department students of Tidar University. However, the researcher used 70 samples from all of the students of English Department of Tidar University.

To begin this research, the researchers take some steps to answer questions in this research.

1. Looking for the suitable questionnaire about the learning styles.
2. Making the online questionnaire reproduced by O'Brien (1985)
3. Share the questionnaire to the students from English Department of Tidar University.
4. Evaluating the responses from the respondents.
5. Find out the answer about the most preference learning style used by the students from the English Department of Tidar University.

After collecting the respondents' answer, the data were analyzed in order to answer the research questions.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Findings

This part discusses the result of this research is to conduct this research, the researchers shared the questionnaire through the online platform to the English Department students of Tidar University. The object of this research are the students from English Department of Tidar University starts from the first, third, and fifth semester. This questionnaire reproduced by O'Brien (1985) consists of 30 questions which the researchers thought that this questionnaire becomes the finding of this research. In total 70 respondents answered the questionnaire.

In the O'Brien (1985) it classified the learning styles in to three types. First is Visual, second is Auditory and the last is Kinesthetic. According to Brown's *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)* Visual learners indicate as preferring reading and studying charts, drawings, and other graphic information. Talk about the Auditory learners, they prefer to listen the lectures or learn something through the audiotapes. While Kinesthetic learners will prefer for demonstration and physical activity and used their body movement.

The result of respondents learning styles questionnaire:

NO.	LEARNING STYLES	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1.	Visual	35
2.	Auditory	12
3.	Kinesthetic	23
<b>TOTAL:</b>		70

### Discussion

By analyzing the data from the respondents, the researcher found out that there are students who use the three types of learning styles. In the respondents' answers, some respondents answer

the questionnaire. 20 respondents were from the first semester of the English Department of Tidar University. 16 of the respondents from the third semester of the English Department. While the rest of it, for about 34 respondents were from the fifth semester.

Talk about the visual learning style, it deals with learns by seeing or watching demonstrations. According to the result of the questionnaire which was responded by 70 students of the English Department, the visual learning style got the highest respondent chosen by the respondents. 9 from 20 students from the first semester have a visual learning style. 6 of 16 students from the third semester also have a visual learning style. Also, it counted for about 20 of 34 students from the fifth semester has the visual learning styles. There are so many characteristics of the visual learning style. For example, is recognizes words by sight; relies on configurations of words. It indicates that the students who have the visual learning style are easy to learn something just from the sight. Vivid imagination; thinks in pictures and visualizes in detail. The distractibility from the visual learning style is they are unaware of sounds; distracted by movement.

In the auditory learning style, it talks about learns through verbal instructions from self or others. The auditory learning style has the lowest respondents. From 70 respondents in total, the auditory learning style just got 12 respondents. 3 of the respondents were from the first semester, 2 of them from the third semester, and 7 of the respondents who have auditory learning styles were from the fifth semester. The students who have the auditory learning style are easily to learn through the audio. Because they tend to the audio, the students who have the auditory learning style are easy to remember names, but forget faces; remembers by auditory repetition.

The kinesthetic learning style got the second place. The total respondents of the kinesthetic learning style are 24 from the 70 respondents. 8 respondents from the first semester, 8 respondents from the third semester, and 7 respondents from the fifth semester. The kinesthetic learning style, the learners learn by doing and direct involvement. They used their body movement to support them in learning. The kinesthetic learning still also called hands-on because it uses the movements to be their style in learning. To make their learning process succeed, the students who have the kinesthetic learning style always try things out, like touch something or feel or manipulate something. They need to do something to remember what they have learned.

## CONCLUSION

This research's purpose is to know the learning styles used by the English Department students of Tidar University. There are three learning styles used by the students from English Department of Tidar University. In this research, according to the result of the questionnaire, the researcher understand that the visual learning style is the most common used by the students of the English Department of Tidar University. Even though the researcher just took 70 samples respondents of this research, the researcher finally found out the answer to the problem.

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