

**A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS LEARNING STYLE IN  
ONLINE ENGLISH LEARNING AT THE FIFTH SEMESTER  
ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM IN  
MUHAMMADIYAH KOTABUMI UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022**

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**Abstract :** Online learning is a distance learning process without meeting face to face in a study room, so that the delivery of material uses electronic media and the internet as access in the learning process. In the learning process there are several factors that affect the effectiveness in the learning process, one of which is learning styles namely, visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Therefore, this study aims to determine what types of learning styles are used by students in online English learning and what the dominant types of students' learning style. This research uses quantitative descriptive research, and a population of 41 students at the fifth semester of English Education Study Program, Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022. The sample is taken from the entire population data using a total sampling technique. In collecting data, the researcher used a closed questionnaire with a Likert scale. Based on the results of data analysis using statistical data analysis methods consisting of the mean, median, mode and standard deviation, the results showed that in online English learning process students have visual learning styles were 10 students (24.4%), auditory learning styles were 6 students (14.6%), kinesthetic learning styles were 15 students (36.6%). Also found that there was a variation of learning styles between two learning styles, namely, visual-auditory (7.3%), visual-kinesthetic as many as 3 students (7.3%) and auditory learning styles as many as 4 students (9.8%). In addition, the dominant type of learning style used by students in online English learning at the fifth semester English Education study program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022, is the kinesthetic learning style with 15 students (36.6%).

**Keywords:** *Learning Style, Online Learning, Learning Process*

**Abstrak :** Pembelajaran online merupakan proses pembelajaran jarak jauh tanpa tatap muka di ruang belajar, sehingga penyampaian materi menggunakan media elektronik dan internet sebagai akses dalam proses pembelajarannya. Gaya belajar, seperti visual, auditori, dan kinestetik merupakan faktor yang mempengaruhi proses belajar. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis gaya belajar apa yang digunakan oleh siswa dan apa jenis gaya belajar siswa yang dominan. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian deskriptif kuantitatif. Dengan populasi berjumlah 41 mahasiswa. Sampel diambil dari seluruh data populasi dengan menggunakan teknik total sampling. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti

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menggunakan kuesioner tertutup dengan perhitungan skala Likert. Berdasarkan hasil analisis data yang menggunakan metode analisis data statistik yang terdiri dari mean, median, modus dan simpangan baku diperoleh hasil bahwa dalam proses pembelajaran online bahasa Inggris siswa memiliki gaya belajar visual sebanyak 10 siswa (24,4%), gaya belajar auditori adalah 6 siswa (14,6%), dan gaya belajar kinestetik sebanyak 15 siswa (36,6%). Ditemukan pula adanya variasi gaya belajar antara dua gaya belajar yaitu visual-auditori (7,3%), visual-kinestetik sebanyak 3 siswa (7,3%) dan gaya belajar auditori-kinestetik sebanyak 4 siswa (9,8%) . Selain itu, jenis gaya belajar yang dominan digunakan siswa dalam pembelajaran online bahasa Inggris di semester V Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Muhammadiyah Kotabumi tahun ajaran 2021/2022, adalah gaya belajar kinestetik dengan jumlah siswa 15 dengan persentasi sebesar (36,6%).

**Kata kunci:**Gaya Belajar, Pembelajaran Online, Proses Pembelajaran

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Learning is an activity or process carried out by students to gain new understanding, knowledge, and skills in detail from learned something. Learning process involves interaction between students and lecture in classroom. Learning does not only receive information, but can acquire and change knowledge, skills, strategies, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors to relatively permanent changes in behavior. **Kanninen (2009, p.1)** says learning is a complex process in which teachers, students' motivation and several other aspects interact with each other in classroom learning by explaining learning materials. However, **Brown (2007, p.8)**

pointed out that learning has several definitions: a) Learning is acquiring or “getting” new information and knowledge; b) Learning is formal and informal retention or acquired skills, c) Retention means the storage system, memory, and cognitive organization of learning experience; d) Learning involves actively and consciously paying attention to and taking actions on external or internal events of the organism; e) Learning is a relatively permanent forgetting subject; f) Learning involves multiple forms practice and intensive practice; g) Learning is the change of behavior in daily life.

Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that learning is to obtaining

and transforming knowledge, values, meanings, behavior, experiences and attitudes through a learning environment.

English learning material that must be understood by students' has four skills.

According to Brown (2000, p.232) in English teaching and learning process there are four skills to be understood by students, namely listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The four skills in learning English is a general for understanding by students as foreign language. Listening skill is a skill to get information from hearing sounds. Writing skill is skill to create text that consist information to share other people. Speaking skill is a skill to produce meaning sounds for communication with other people. Reading skill is a skill to understand about messages from some word, text, paper or something by seeing.

There are some factors that influence learning namely external and internal factors. External factor are factor from external forces such as environment, school, family, friends, and learning

strategies. Meanwhile, internal factor are factor that exit within students themselves, including physical condition, intelligence, skills, interests, and learning style.

Learning style is a factor that influence student in learning process, to more and easily understand about material. Wulandari etc. (2019, p. 44) stated that learning style is one of the main factors that help determine how and how well students learn a second language or a foreign language which can affect their understanding in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Pritchard (2009, p.41)

Learning style is defined variously as:

- a. Learning style is a particular way in which an individual learns;
- b. Learning style is a mode of learning an individual's preferred or best manner in which to think, process information and demonstrate learning;
- c. Learning style is an individual's preferred means of acquiring knowledge and skills;

d. Learning style is habits, strategies, or regular mental behaviors concerning learning, particularly deliberate educational learning that is an individual display.

Based on definition above, learning style is the easiest ways and habits in which students' individual to process and absorb understanding about subject materials. Student's learning styles are not the same with each other.

Learning style is a students' way to absorb understand information in learning process. DePoter (2016, p.56) explained that three types of learning styles in learning English, namely visual learning style, auditory learning style, and kinesthetic learning style. Students who use visual learning style tend to looks neat. Auditory learners prefer to learn by listening or hearing sound, students with this learning style tend to like noise but like music and talk a lot. Kinesthetic learners prefer to learn by active and moving, which is where they like interaction and physical

movement that allows their limbs to move so they can more easily understand the material.

Currently, the process of teaching and learning mostly conducted via online due to the covid-19 outbreak. It was done to minimize the increase of positive cases of Covid-19 (Corona Virus) in Indonesia. Online learning is the learning which is conducted without face-to-face contact between lecture and students, and internet as a medium to interaction on their learning process. Online English learning activities make students required to actively learn independently. Sujarwo (2020, p.128) explained that online learning is only a form of distance learning, which relies on the internet as a medium.

DePorter et.al (2010, p. 214) were covering the characteristics of visual learners. Visual learners as follows; a) Tidy and order; b) call activation; c) good planners and managers; d) careful and thoughtful; e) good appearance; f) good spelling; g) good at remembering what they

see; h) Good at using visual associations for memory; i) Less susceptible to noise; j) Not good at remembering verbal instructions; k) Reads fast and diligently; l) Good at learning by reading rather than listening; m) Requires comprehensive vision and goals; n) good at taking notes on the phone; o) presenting rather than giving speeches, p) always giving short answers to every question; q) Prefer art than music.

DePorter et.al (2010, p. 218), they pointed out that auditory learners such as, a) Talking to own self when working; b) Getting easy to be disturbed by noise; c) Making lips move when they are reading a book; d) Prefer reading loud and listening; e) Feeling difficult to write, f) Great in telling a story; g) Speaking in the good rhythm; h) Used to be a fluent speaker; i) Listening to music rather than art; j) Learning by listening and remembering what they discussed rather than seeing; k) Discuss and telling a story completely, l) Having a job problem which commits to visualization; m) Spelling loudly rather

than to write; n) Making a joke than to read comic.

DePorter et.al (2005, p. 219) claimed the characteristics of kinesthetic learners are a) Speaking slowly; b) Responding to physical gesture; c) Touching people for getting their attention; d) Standing closer when talking with someone else; e) Orienting to physics and much made moving; f) learning through manipulation and practice; g) Memorizing by walking while seeing; h) Using fingers to point when reading; i) Using body language intensively; j) Never staying quietly for long time; k) Bad to remember Geography; l) Excluding if they have ever visited the place; m) Tending to do everything, n) Playing games much.

Unlike DePorter et.al, Kolb (1984) in Gufon and Risnawati (2014, p. 97) says that learning style is an individual's method to obtain information, so that in principle learning style is an integral part and active learning cycle. He also explained that learning style factors are influenced by

personality, habits, experiences and changes in time. Learning style by Kolb are four types, there are diverger style, assimilator style, convergent learning and accommodator style.

Krish, 2008) in Susilowati (2020, p.57) online learning is a set of learning in which lecture to delivering about material and a place for interaction among lecture and students or students and students through internet access by means of certain technological devices or application in learning process. Dağ and Geçer (2009, P.864) “online learning not involves just the presentation and delivery of the materials using the Web or application, also it involves the learners who use the internet to access learning material, interacts with the content, instructor and other learners.

Tjokro (2009) in Indrakusuma and Putri (2016:7) explained that several advantages from the application of online learning there are, easier to absorb, Much more cost-effective, It is much more concise Available 24 hours per day.

The several disadvantages Nursalam (2008) as quoted in Indrakusuma and Putri (2016:7) there are disadvantages from the application of online learning there are, lack of interaction and communication between students and teachers, Not all places have internet facilities, Lack of a human resource who understands the internet, Lack of a human resource who understands the internet.

Based on initial observation made by researcher in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University, especially at the fifth semester English education study program academic year 2021/2022 with a total 41 students, the teaching and learning process uses online learning. Students and lecturers do not carry out the teaching and learning process in one room or face to face directly, but without face to face and use the internet as a medium of communication. In the online learning process, it is known that students face difficulties in the online learning process and feel that the learning process is less effective. Therefore, students are

forced to learn independently by looking for material on the internet or other sources. So, in this case students actually used without realizing learning style, because learning style is an individual's basic internal characteristics for the intake or understanding of new information. So that, learning style is one of the factors that can help determine how students learn English to be easy to understand in online learning.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher find out some problem at students fifth semester, first some of students face difficulties in online learning process. Second, the process of teaching and learning is not really effective because it was conducted without face to face. Last, some of students are not aware about their learning style in online learning process.

Furthermore, the researcher is interested in conducting research on to investigate what learning style are used by the students and to investigate which type of learning style dominantly used by the fifth semester students in the online English

learning process. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study entitled "A Descriptive Study of Students' Learning Styles in Online English Learning at the Fifth Semester English Education Study Program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2021/2022."

## **II. METHOD**

In this research, the researcher used descriptive method, with quantitative approach. **Darmawan (2013, p. 37)**, quantitative research is described by numbers or figures and the analysis uses statistics. Descriptive quantitative is a type of research that is used to analyze data by describing or describing the data that have been collected as it is. Researcher used descriptive research because this research is not to test hypotheses but to describe phenomena that exist in the field, especially on based phenomenon in students learning style in online learning process. The researchers used a total sampling technique, in which all members of the population are

used as samples. As a result, the samples that used by research are all students at fifth semester English education study program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University, which consist of 41 students.

Research instruments are important things that must be considered in carrying out a study. The instrument is a means used by researchers to obtain data collection. In this study, the research used closed-ended questionnaire that consists of 30 statements about three types of learning style, namely visual learning style, auditory learning style, and kinesthetic learning style. In this research, the data collecting technique is used closed-ended questionnaire by online google form to that was distributed the link google form questionnaire to group whatsapp of fifth-semester students at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University. After that, for data analysis techniques the researcher used data tabulation, formulation for calculate determine the tendency of students' learning style, and,

calculate to what dominant type of students' learning style.

### **III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Research Result**

Before researcher conducted the research, the research was tryout to find the validity and reliability of the instrument, and the researcher conducted tryout on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 at the third semester English education study program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022. As a result from validity and reliability are, validity used expert judgment and content validity that are 30 items statement, and reliability used Cronbach's Alpha formula, it is reliable with  $r_{\text{observed}} \geq r_{\text{table}}$  so that  $0.788 \geq 0.7$  ( $r_{\text{observed}}$  is bigger than  $r_{\text{table}}$ ).

The research was conducted on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2021. The samples were taken from one class with 41 students and the instrument given in the Google form application of a questionnaire consisting of 30 statements, by share link

on whatsapp group students fifth semester.

As a result questionnaire as follows;

**SUMMARY SCORE OF LEARNING STYLE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Variable	Score	Percentage	Ideal Score
Visual learning style	1094	66.7 %	1640
Auditory Learning style	1053	64.2 %	
Kinesthetic learning style	1120	68.3 %	

Based on table above, the result total score of each learning styles, find out that kinesthetic learning style is the lowest score is auditory learning style totally score 1053 or 64.2% from ideal score, the medium score is visual learning style with score 1094 or 66.7% from ideal score, the higher score with totally 1120 or 68.3%

from ideal score. The descriptive data tabulation provided in this study concludes the mean (M), median (Me), mode (Mo), standard deviation (Sd), and range. The interval class obtained is 6 interval classes. The range of data is the largest value minus the smallest value  $(92 - 69) = 23$ . The length of the class is obtained from the range divided by the number of classes  $(23 : 6) = 3.639$  and is rounded up to 4.

For result students' score questionnaire by tabulation data as follows;

**THE TABULATION DATA OF QUESTIONNAIRE SCORE**

No	Interval Score	Fi
1	69 – 72	5
2	73 – 76	6
3	77 – 80	15
4	81 – 84	6
5	85 – 88	5
6	89 – 92	4
Total		41

**SUMMARY SCROE OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

Min	69
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<b>Max</b>	92
<b>Mean</b>	79.7
<b>Median</b>	79
<b>Mode</b>	78.5
<b>SD</b>	3.8

Based on table above, students with lowest score or minimum is 69 score, and students with higher score or maximum is 92 score, mean score 79.7, median 79, mode 78.5 and standard deviation 3.8.

Researchers has found the students with the highest scores from each learning style indicate the category of learning styles used, namely visual, auditory or kinesthetic. From the results of this study, it was found two categories or groups of learning styles used by students, namely students with one learning style tendency and students with two learning styles tendencies. Students with a tendency to one learning style are 75.6% of students or 31 students, of the total number of students in the fifth semester of English education are 41 students. For each percentage, the

tendency of a student's learning style is kinesthetic learning style with a percentage of 36.6% students or 15 students having a total questionnaire score of 450, visual learning style with a percentage of 24.4% or 10 students with a total questionnaire score obtained of 298, and auditory learning style with a percentage of 14.6% or 6 students with a total questionnaire score obtained of 166. Then in this study also, it was found 2 variations of student learning styles, which were caused by the results of the same score between two learning styles namely visual-auditory learning styles, visual-kinesthetic, and auditory-kinesthetic. For students who have two combinations of learning styles as much as 24.4% of the total 41 students, or equivalent to 10 students. Each percentage is for a combination of two learning styles, namely visual-auditory as much as 7.3% or 3 students, visual-kinesthetic as much as 7.3% and auditory-kinesthetic as much as 9.8% or equivalent to 4 students. From these findings it can be concluded that each

student's learning style is different, and some of them also have a combination of two learning styles.

From the description above, it can be concluded that most students' at fifth semester of English education have a kinesthetic learning style, meaning that students' at fifth semester English education study program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022 tend to learn English online by way of Like to try and not tidy, Learning with physical activity, sensitive to expressions and body language, Physically oriented and moving a lot, Memorizing by walking while seeing, and Likes group work and practice

To determine categorization of level tendency students' learning style as follows;

**SUMMARY OF LEVEL TENDENCY STUDENTS' VISUAL LEARNING STYLE**

Level	Score	F	%
Low	$X < 20$	0	0 %

Medium	$20 \leq X < 30$	33	80.5%
High	$X \geq 30$	8	19.5%

Based on the table above, it can be seen that student visual learning style on questionnaire instrument for fifth semester English education study program has high category (19.5%) with frequency 8 students, has medium category (80.5%) with the frequency of 33 students, and has (0%) in low category. So, in this case tendency of students used visual learning style in online English learning is medium level.

**SUMMARY OF LEVEL TENDENCY STUDENTS' AUDITORY LEARNING STYLE**

Level	Score	F	%
Low	$X < 20$	0	0
Medium	$20 \leq X < 30$	38	92.7 %
High	$X \geq 30$	3	7.3 %

Based on the table above, it can be seen that student visual learning style on

questionnaire instrument for fifth semester English education study program has high category (7.3 %) with frequency 3 students, has medium category (92.7%) with the frequency of 38 students, and has (0%) in low category. So, in this case level of tendency of student used auditory learning style in online English learning is medium.

**SUMMARY OF LEVEL TENDENCY STUDENTS' KINESTHETIC LEARNING STYLE**

Level	Score	F	%
Low	$X < 20$	0	0 %
Medium	$20 \leq X < 30$	29	70,7 %
High	$X \geq 30$	12	29,3 %

Based on the table above, it can be seen that student visual learning style on questionnaire instrument for fifth semester English education study program has high category (29.3%) with frequency 12 students, has medium category (70.7%) with the frequency of 29 students, and has (0%) in low category. So, in this case level tendency of student used kinesthetic

learning style in online English learning is medium.

To determine dominant type studnets' learning style at the fifth semester English education study program in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022, researcher find out by the high frequency of each students' type in learning style. The formula by Riduwan (2011, p.73) as follow;

$$P = \frac{f}{n} \times 100 \%$$

**THE RESULT OF STUDENTS' DOMINANT TYPE LEARNING STYLE PERCENTAGE**

Category	F	N	(%)
Visual	10	41	24.4 %
Auditory	6		14.6%
Kinesthetic	15		36.6%
Visual Auditory	3		7.3%
Visual Kinesthetic	3		7.3%
Auditory- Kinesthetic	4		9.8%
Total	41		100%

In conclusion, the dominant type of students learning style in online English learning used at fifth semester English education study program is Kinesthetic Learning Style. That totally 15 students or 36.6 % used kinesthetic learning style in online English learning.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This research can be concluded that each student at the fifth semester of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022 with a total sample of 41 students, in which 31 students or 75.6% have a tendency to one of the three learning style, namely visual learning style, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles. From these 75.6% students, there are as many as 10 students have visual learning style or 24.4%, auditory as many as 6 students or 14.9%, and kinesthetic learning style as many as 15 students or 36.6%. In addition, in this study it was also found that 10 students or around 24.4% had

a variation of two learning styles, namely visual-auditory learning style totaling 3 students or 7.3%, visual-kinesthetic totaling 3 students or 7.3%, and auditory-kinesthetic totaling 4 students or 9.8%. Furthermore, for the dominant type of learning style employed by the fifth semester of the English education study program at the Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University academic year 2021/2022 in online English learning process is the kinesthetic learning style with a percentage of 36.6% or 15 students out of 41 students.

Based on the conclusions described above, this research can be used by lecturers, students, and next researcher. For lecture, this research can provide information for lectures about students' type learning styles in online English learning. It also suggested that lectures use methods or strategies in the learning process that can be adapted to students' learning styles, to be more effectively in learning process. For students, this research as the information for students about

learning styles in English online learning and which learning style might be the most appropriate to be employed, and suggested to be able to know recognize, understand and develop their learning styles. In order to find out their learning styles, students are suggested to identify their characteristics in learning and can classify them into what learning styles are suitable to use. The next

researchers, this research as the information expected to be used by further researchers as an additional reference for conducting research on student learning style in online English learning, to more perfectly the next researcher suggested to more detailed research on what theories and method can be used.

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