Designing English Matriculation Program as Competency Mapping Device for Sharia Banking Study Program Students

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ABSTRACT

This research is a research and development (R & D) study. The procedures in conducting this research were held in some activities involving the lecturer and the students of Sharia Banking study program. Some activities will also involve some experts in certain fields, i.e. English materials expert and Sharia Banking expert. The objectives of this research study are: (1) to identify the needs in conducting a matriculation program for Sharia Banking study program which are developed; (2) to design the materials for Sharia Banking study program in accordance to the implementation of a matriculation program. Based on the findings on the needs, the matriculation program covers materials such as grammar review, and the four macro skills review. The materials provide relevant reviews which enable to show the competency of each students. In terms of the goal, it helps the students to accelerate their level to the required level to start the new semester. From research result, the average normalized gain shows up 0, 47 meaning that the design for matriculation program has an average effectiveness and can describe the competence level of Sharia Banking study program students. At last, this reference will be able to help in designing a matriculation program for Sharia Banking study program.

Keywords: research and development (R & D), Sharia Banking, matriculation, language, competency

INTRODUCTION

People, nowadays, consider that English has become an international communication device or medium. This makes English as one of important subjects to be taught whether in the primary level of education or in the secondary level, i.e. university level. Learners, including college students, have to study English in the institution where they study in order to be able to communicate using English. On the other hand, as globalization is predicted giving a significant effect in the term of bilateral or even regional relationship of countries, there are some academics criticizing the low level of English competency possessed by Indonesian youngsters. Indonesian youngsters defined here, are they who are expected to be ready to 'fight' in globalization. An irony comes up as a fact shows that they who have low level of English competency are college/ university graduates.

This finding has to be examined further to get an explanation of the causes on the level of English competency which the youngsters possess. A college/ university must have a curriculum having foreign languages as compulsory subjects for the students. A couple of subjects in the early semester are usually scheduled to give those language subject, including Indonesian. This issue has been an antithesis since there is a certain consideration that there are few college/ university graduates who are not capable to communicate well using foreign language. The issue reveals some considerations about the probable factors which cause this happened. It is in accordance with the finding in the field telling that foreign languages still become a threat to college students. Those foreign languages are English and also Arabic, especially, when talking about Islamic colleges/ universities.

The success of a teaching and learning process of English subject in an institution is affected by many factors. One of the factors is the homogeneity of the learners. In addition, he states that in a population such a class at a school, the learners tend to be more homogenous. However, the success of a teaching and learning process of English subject is also affected by minor factor, such as gender. Meanwhile, a teaching and learning process of English subject at college/ university level has more factors to determine the success of a teaching and learning process of English subject. The learners at college/ university tend to be more heterogeneous in many aspects. Instead of gender as the minor factor, learners' educational background and learners' age are considered as two major factors in determining the success of a teaching and learning process of English subject.

Those factors are, actually, able to be limited to become a drawback in determining the success of a teaching and learning process of English subject. One of the solutions to overcome this is by mapping the competency of each students in the class. By knowing the competency of each students, a program to equalize those various competencies is able to be designed. The program designed is expected to give sufficient existing knowledge and more homogeneous competencies to start the 'real' class in the first semester. The program which should be taken prior to the first semester is usually called by a matriculation program.

Low and Hollingworth (1964) states that the success of a teaching and learning process of foreign language is highly determined by the learners' existing knowledge and the competencies possessed by them. Furthermore, the gaps among the competencies and the existing knowledge possessed by the learners' are able to be overcome by equalizing those differences. Low and Hollingworth (1964) adds that a matriculation program can be a reference to start an English for Foreign Language (EFL) class which consist of learners with different competencies and also heterogeneous existing knowledge.

Based on the explanation above, there are two problems which can be formulated as below:

1. What is the requirement to start the English subject teaching and learning process in the first semester in Sharia Banking study program?

2. What materials are needed to be possessed by the learners as the requirement to start English subject teaching and learning process in the first semester in Sharia Banking study program?

LITERATURE REVIEW

English Teaching and Learning Principles

The four macro skills can be divided into two, i.e. receptive skills and productive skills (Nunan, 2016). Receptive skills include listening and reading. Meanwhile, productive skills include speaking and writing. (Terrell & Brown, 2006), English teaching and learning process not only integrates the learners' skill to use those four macro skills, but also deals with other sub skills, such as grammatical rules, vocabulary, and the likes. Moreover, Brown concludes that the difference in level of competency tend to make this heterogeneity a drawback to acquire a foreign language (Brown, 2000). The best solution to overcome this problem is by equalizing those differences.

The Aim of English Teaching and Learning Process

Generally, English teaching and learning aims to make a learner able to use English correctly and communicate using English well, whether spoken or written. Furthermore, general goal in learning English is highly related to the acquisition of a learner in learning the four macro skills, i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Specifically, English teaching and learning also aims to learn about the sub skills or micro skills. There are grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling as the micro skills.

The Definition and the Aim of Matriculation

Matriculation is to become a student at a school and especially in a college or university (Merriam-Webster, 2013). It can be concluded that matriculation is anything related to the early time in the college or university. Matriculation program is an academic effort done by an educational institution in the very beginning of the study aiming at decreasing the differences of learners' point of view or way of thinking and also giving them sufficient existing knowledge to new learners so that they can follow up the teaching and learning

process easier (Low, 1964).

The Definition of Competency

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, competency is an ability or skill. It is more like an ability to master a certain field scientifically. The relationship between the definition and one of the variable of the research is that the competency is the college students' competency related to the capability in acquiring English as a foreign language. (Titus, 2007)

RELEVANT RESEARCH

A research which is relevant with this research is a research done by Nurul Fadlilah entitled 'Desain Materi Matrikulasi Pembelajaran Bahasa Arab bagi Lulusan Sekolah Menengah Pertama di Madrasah Aliyah Al-Azhar Andong Boyolali' (Fadillah, 2016). The research was conducted in two stages, namely identification of the problem and development of matriculation materials.

In the first stage, the researcher identified the problems found in the Arabic teaching and learning process in Madrasah Aliyah Al-Azhar Andong, Boyolali. Then, she did a need assessment to formulate the design of matriculation materials. The second stage started by conducting a limited trial, followed by the revision of the materials. After revising, a wider trial was conducted before validating the materials. After that, the researcher disseminated the materials and socialized the matriculation program for Arabic teaching and learning process in MA Al-Azhar Andong, Boyolali. This research was done to answer the problems found by the researcher in the field related to the different competencies possessed by candidates of the madrasah students.

The matriculation process in Madrasah Aliyah Al-Azhar Andong, Boyolali was started by product developing, i.e. matriculation book. Then, the product was validated by some experts related to the product. Validation was done by data processing from questionnaires spread to the validators themselves. The questionnaires were also spread to the students of Madrasah Aliyah Al-Azhar Andong, Boyolali. The matriculation materials developed by the researcher was claimed effective in decreasing the gap of competencies possessed by the students in communicating using Arabic. This result can be seen from the coefficient of the average score between pre-test and post-test which shows a significant increase.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the teaching and learning process, a teacher or a lecturer often finds a fact that his/

her pupils have different abilities or competencies. It is believed that the different inputs of each students affect much. These heterogeneous inputs are expected to be minimized by equalizing them. This can be done by giving a program which is able to equalize the differences, namely matriculation program which is usually done before the first semester of the study starts. The outcomes of the program are the competencies of each students which are relatively more homogeneous to be able to start the first semester. Therefore, it is expected to minimize the gap of the students' competencies when the first semester starts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Borg and Gall defines that Research and Development is a process used to develop or design educational product. The term of educational product does not only refer to the objects or materials in education, but also refer to the methods and techniques used in a classroom (Borg, 1989). Furthermore, according Borg and Gall, the role of Research and Development in social field and educational field still needs to be enhanced because it only covers a small scope. Research and Development which develops a certain product for educational and social is still less. So that, this matriculation program is designed by Research and Development method.

Related to the setting of the research, this reseach was done in Sharia Banking study program in Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Bakti Negara Tegal located at Jalan Jeruk no. 9 Po. Box 31 Kelurahan Procot, Slawi – Tegal.

The subject of this research are:

a. Expert

Expert, here, is a validator who has to validate the material design of the matriculation program which is made. The validator also gives his or her revision to the product.

b. Sharia Banking students of STAIBN

The students are the whole Sharia Banking students in STAIBN. They are in the middle of the first semester.

Research and Development Procedure

According to Sugiyono the steps in conducting Research and Development are as follows (Sugiyono, 2014).

1. Identification of the problem
2. Data collection
3. Designing product

4. Validating product

5. Revising product

6. Product trial

However, this research uses the procedure proposed by Thiagarajan, Semmel, and Semmel consisting 4 steps of Research and Development, namely Define, Design, Develop, and Disseminate (Sivasailam,Thiagarajan, Semmel, & Sommel, 1974). However, this research do not apply the step of disseminating. So that, this research only has 3 steps, i.e. define, design, and develop.

Data Collection Technique

The data collected in this research obtained from:

1. Document;

2. Interview;

3. Assessment sheet.

Research Instruments

The instruments used in this research are:

1. Interview guideline;

2. Field note;

3. Pre-test and Post-Test.

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique used in this research are:

1. Descriptive qualitative data analysis process

2. Experts' assessment sheet analysis process

3. Quantitative data analysis process

FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

The Procedure in Designing English Matriculation Program for Sharia Banking Study Program

Preliminary Research

Preliminary research was done to collect information about the potency and problems in English subject teaching and learning process in Sharia Banking study program. The researcher interviewed English lecturer in Sharia Banking study program. The interview result

gave information that there is a dominant problem in English subject teaching and learning process in Sharia Banking study program, namely the competencies heterogeneity among the students.

Need Analysis

The data collection about the needs in order to overcome the problems is a follow up step from the preliminary research. After understanding the interview result, the next step taken by the researcher was doing need analysis concluded after getting information from library and field study.

Designing Matriculation Program Materials

The data collected became a reference in designing matriculation program materials. These materials are arranged based on syllabus and SAP. However, before designing matriculation program materials, early model of the materials was arranged.

Product Validation

Validation toward product design arranged was done by a validator. In this case, the validator is an expert in the term of materials development. The validator assessed using certain assessment sheet including some questionnaires consisting assessment points about the product design, namely the appropriateness of the content, the language used, and the layout of the product. The validator validates the product by assessing whether a certain point is appropriate or not.

Product Revision after Validation

The matriculation materials which have been validated by the validator are revised based on the inputs given to get the product improved in some aspects.

Product Trial

The trial for the revised product was held in Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Bakti Negara Tegal. The matriculation material was given to the Sharia Banking students. Not all of the materials were given, it was just the material in chapter 1. Related to other chapters, the adjustment was made by the inputs given by the validator.

Product Revision based on Trial Result

The second revision was done by focusing on the inputs given and also by paying attention to the findings found when the product trial was done.

Final Product

The final design of the matriculation materials was revised twice. The final design has some changes. It has a certain differences from the initial design.

Pre-test and Post-test Result Analysis and Interpretation

From the calculation of the pre-test and post-test result, the average normalized gain $<g>$ is 0, 47 which means $0, 30 \leq \boldsymbol{0,47} \geq 0,70$. Based on the classification table, the average normalized gain is at the average level meaning that this research has an average effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

One of some problems faced by an educator, i.e. a teacher or a lecturer, is the heterogeneity found in a class. The heterogeneity is more about the competencies possessed by each student. The different competencies can be classified from the most competent student to the least competent student. This causes hesitation to choose a certain approach which will be applied in the class. The different competencies possessed by the students have some factors as the cause. Gender, students' background study, or even age are some of those factors. Related to this, a matriculation program is developed to overcome.

English matriculation program is a prerequisite to take the English subject in the first semester. This program is expected to be able to overcome the drawback of having students with different competencies. It is needed to equalize the competencies related to students' point of view and also their existing knowledge. Based on the research result, the matriculation program developed for Sharia Banking study program is effective enough in giving the students capital to take the English subject in the first semester. It also overcome the gap among the different competencies possessed by the students.

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