Editors: Ade Gafar Abdullah Ida Hamidah Siti Aisyah Ari Arifin Danuwijaya Galuh Yuliani Heli S. H. Munawaroh

# Ideas for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education





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Editors

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## The enhancement of self-regulated learning and achievement of open distance learning students through online tutorials

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ABSTRACT: Self-Regulated Learning (SRL) skill is an important aspect to be successful in studying at Open and Distance Learning (ODL). Independent learning skills can be introduced and be trained to students in various ways. The aim of this study was to discuss the benefits of SRL training in enhancing SRL skills and learning achievement of ODL students through an integration of learning strategies into the process of online tutorials. The design of this study used one group pretest and posttest design. Samples of this study were students who were taking the online tutorial of Biology Learning Strategies Course (n = 16). The results showed that the self-regulated learning ability of students before and after the treatment increased, though not significantly. However, self-monitoring aspect showed significantly increased. The students' achievement improved significantly. This study recommends that ODL tutors of online tutorials should train SRL skills to their students along with the online tutorial process so that the students' independent learning skills can improve gradually.

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Students of distance education are autonomous learners. It means that they have the authority in controlling their learning method and determining where to learn and how to achieve their goals (Moore 2005). The behavior of autonomous learners is strongly associated with the term of selfregulated learning (SRL). Distance education students should be able to take advantage of their authority when they study. The authorization can be carried out properly if they have skills in selfregulated learning. Zimmerman and Martinez-Pons (1990) emphasize that there is a correlation between student achievement and the use of self-regulated learning strategies (1990). Furthermore, according to Schunk and Ertmer (2000), students' independent learning skills can be improved through systematic interventions. Students' independent learning can be developed through the developing time management skills, understanding and summarizing the text, noting ideas, anticipating and writing test (Zimmermann et al. 1996); the use of tools matrix note taking and prompt self-monitoring (Kauffman et al. 2011), the use of time management tools (Puspitasari 2012), and etc. Along with advances in technology, the use of ICT-based networking in education, including distance education, have increased (Malik et al. 2005, Hu & Gramling 2009), especially when they are used as students learning services (Fozdar & Kumar 2007, Jung 2005).

Online tutorial began to be used as student learning services in distance education in Indonesia in 2009. It was developed with the intention to bridge the characteristic of distance education, which is "the physical separation between teacher and student". The online tutorial process is a mean of interaction between student, teacher, and student. Students' independent learning skills are possible to be trained through online tutorials (Rahayu et al. 2015). In this study, we will integrate learning strategies of SRL including cognitive and metacognitive strategies, such as self-monitoring, self-reflection, mind mapping, and question & answer into the online tutorial process. Then, we will conduct a study that aims are to identify the difference of students' self-regulated learning skills and students' learning outcomes (pretest and posttest) between before and after online tutorials that integrate learning strategies.

#### 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Self-regulated learning (SRL) is a process that involves students in managing and organizing complex learning activities to achieve their academic goals (Zimmerman & Schunk 2001). In line with these opinions, Pintrich (2000) states that SRL is an active and constructive process where learners specify learning goals and monitor, manage and control their cognition, motivation, and behavior to achieve the goal. Downloaded by [Ade Gafar Abdullah] at 17:23 11 October 2017 the state of the second s

Self-regulatory is a cyclical process which consists of three phases that are, forethought phase, performance or volitional control phase, and self-reflection phase (Zimmerman 2000). According to Shuy (2010), SRL consists of 3 aspects, those are, cognition, metacognition, and motivation. Cognition includes skills and habits in coding, remembering, recalling and critical thinking. Metacognition includes skills in which students are able to understand and monitor cognition process. Motivation includes the development of cognition and metacognition.

Each student has a different level of independent learning. It depends on their motivation to learn, the method used in the study, the utilization of existing performance, and the utilization of social resources and learning environment. Students whose level of independence of learning is low are much more likely to have lower educational achievement in schools (Zimmerman 2000).

#### **3 RESEARCH METHODS**

This research applied mixed methods. This study used one group pretest and posttest design. The independent variable of this research was the training of SRL integrated into the online tutorial. The dependent variables of the study were students' SRL skills and students' learning outcomes. The experiment was conducted during the academic year of 2016.

The populations of the study were the students who accessed the online tutorial of Biology Learning Strategy (BLS) courses in the first semester in 2016. The samples of the study were 16 students taking the online tutorial of BLS in Biology course and receiving the students' learning guide "Cerdas Strategy". The students' guide described how (1) to select and to use learning strategies, to manage and to motivate the learning process; (2) to use study time effectively; (3) to plan learning process realistically; (4) to set goals that can be achieved; (5) to plan learning targets accurately and with measurement; and (6) to plan learning objective specifically (Rahayu et al. 2016).

Data were collected using questionnaire, test, and observation sheets. Participants filled out 40 valid items modified MLSQ (motivation for Learning Strategy Questionnaire) in order to measure students' SRL skills; four-point Likert-type scale (1 = never; 2 = rarely; 3 = often; and 4 = very often), with the level of reliability (r) = 8.6 at  $\alpha$  = 1%. Participants filled out this questionnaire before and after the online tutorials integrating learning strategies. Participants took the online pretest and posttest to measure students' achievement, which was a standard test taken from the item bank. The online pretest was conducted before the online tutorial, and posttest was conducted after the online tutorial. During the online tutorial, participants were observed how often they had practiced self-monitoring (SM), self-reflection (SR), mind mapping (MM), and questions and answers (QA) writing. Besides that, participants also did three online tutorial tasks in order to measure concepts mastery. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS 17 for windows.

#### 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We offered two primary sets of findings. The first set of analyses focused on the difference of students' SRL skills before and after the online tutorial, including 11 aspects of SRL. Then, it was correlated with the finding during the SRL training. Second, we analyzed the difference in the students' learning outcome before and after tutoring. It was correlated with the finding during the training of SRL and doing the tasks.

#### 4.1 The difference of mean score on students' SRL skills before and after the online tutorial

The data by means of students' SRL before and after online tutorial were normal (p = 0.200) and homogeneous (p = .085). Then, the data was analyzed by t-test and the result was that the mean score of students' SRL before and after online tutorial were not significantly different (p = 0.165). It means that even though the mean score of SRL was increased (SRL' mean score before the online tutorial = 3.050 and SRL' mean score after online tutorial = 3.184), but the increase was not significant. The results of this study were consistent with other research. Darmayanti (2004) found that the intervention of learning strategies to open distance learning (ODL) students did not have a significant influence on the improvement of student' learning independence. Likewise, the results study of Puspitasari (2012), who found that the intervention time management and learning strategies did not significantly influence on the improvement of learning independence. Moreover, Barnard-Brak et al. (2010) suggested that the online lectures could not improve self-regulated learning. It seems to us that the SRL skills training given to the students might need more time. It is relevant to Darmayanti' study that student independent learning, increased after 5 years when students had implemented a learning strategy (Darmayanti 2012). Then, the data were analyzed further in order to see the difference of each SRL aspect. Summary of the p-value of mean difference of each SRL aspect, before and after online tutorial can be shown in Table 1.

Table 1 showed that the mean score of self-monitoring aspect was significantly different. Self-monitoring is one of the processes that occurs in the performance phase. It is conducted during the learning process

Table 1. Summary of p-value of mean score difference of each SRL aspect before and after online tutorial.

Dimension	Aspect	Р
Motivation	Intrinsic & extrinsic	0.287
	Self-efficacy	0.519
Learning	Goal setting	0.910
strategy	Strategic planning	.236
	Scientific goal accomplishment	.452
	Self-monitoring	.00**
	Resource management	.452
	Time management	.859
	Regulation effort	.105
	Self-evaluation	.207
	Self -reaction	.094



Figure 1. Frequency of student' self-regulated learning training for self-monitoring (SM) and content selfreflection (SR) at the online tutorial of BSL course.

(Schunk & Ertmer 2005). Self-monitoring is a metacognitive skill which is necessary for students to control their learning process. According to Kaufman (2004), self-monitoring is an important aspect of the SRL because with this ability student gain feedback related to their own performance. Without selfmonitoring, effective control to the cognitive system might be very limited. In line with these results, Arsal (2009), Sungur & Tekaya (2006) emphasized that there was a significant effect of the intervention on students' metacognitive ability.

During the online tutorial process, the students were trained metacognitive SRL (SM and SR) and cognitive SRL (MM and QA). There were 27% of students performed SM five times. Students did SM four times, three times and two times were 13%. Students did not practice SM were 19%.

In addition, during the online tutorial, 26.5% of students did the content of SR four times and three times. Students did the content of SR once and two times was 13.3%. Students did not do SR were 33.3%. Figure 1 showed the training activities of regulated learning regarding SM and content of SR.

### 4.2 The differences of mean score on learning outcomes before and after the online tutorial

The data of mean score of students' achievement before (pretest) and after online tutorial (posttest) were



Figure 2. The frequency of student' self-regulated learning training for mind mapping and writing question and answer at the online tutorial of BSL course.

normal (p = 0.200) and homogeneous (p = .0853). Then, the data was analyzed by t-test. The t-test result was that the mean score of students' achievement before and after online tutorial were significantly different (p = 0.005). It means that there was an increase mean score of student achievement. The significant difference between pretest and posttest indicated that students' training on cognitive SRL, which were making mind mapping (MM) and writing question & answer (Q & A), had an effect on students' achievement.

During the online tutorial process, students' activities during the SRL training were; 13.3% of the students composed MM five times. Students composed MM four times were 26.6%. Students composed MM three times were 67%. Students composed MM two times were 33.3%. The rest of the students (13.3%) did not compose MM.

In addition, during the online tutorial process, 26.6% of students wrote Q & A five times. Students wrote Q & A four times and three times were 13%. Students wrote Q & A once were 27%. The students did not practice Q & A were 6.67% (see Figure 2). Then, when we analyzed further, the students who did the task for more SRL training had better posttest score than those who did not.

A significant difference between the pretest and posttest might also be the impact of metacognitive besides cognitive training undertaken by these students. The student who did more self-monitoring and self-reflection training, they arranged more mind mapping and question and answer. There was correlation between SM training and MM training (correlation coefficient (r) = 0.893, p<0.05 with  $\alpha$  = 0.01). There was correlation between SM training and QA training (r = 0.866, p<0.05 with  $\alpha$  = 0.01). There was correlation between SR training and MM (r = 0.808, p<0.05 with  $\alpha$  = 0.01). There was correlation between SM training and QA training (r = 0.905, p<0.05 with  $\alpha$  = 0.01).

Training on cognitive process encourages the students to monitor activities during their learning. (Kaufman 2011). It might occur in this case. Training of MM and QA encouraged students to monitor and do self-reflection during their learning. Information which was obtained during monitoring, it

tive training and its impact on learning outcome. It was in line with the result study of Kaufman (2011) dan Cazan's (2013). Cazan (2013) showed that the training combination of cognitive SRL and metacognitive strategies were able to improve learning outcomes. Kaufman (2011) showed that students who take notes using an online taking note matrix tool and self-monitoring prompt had better achievement than students who did not. In addition, during the process of online tutorial, students did tasks 1, 2, and 3. The average score achieved by the students at the first task was 83.79, its second task was 92.5, and its third task was 81.4. So, the average score was about 86. It showed that students' achievement was quite high. It indicated that tasks' score influenced on the post test score.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

SRL training through online tutorial integrating learning strategy has significantly improved students' achievement and self-monitoring SRL. Therefore, SRL training should be continuously conducted by ODL instructor so that ODL students' SRL skills improve gradually.

was possibly used by students to adjust their learn-

ing strategy (Zimmerman & Paulsen 1995). There

was a synergism between metacognitive and cogni-

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