# Using Interactive Blogs to Improve Writing Skills: A Case Study of Students Engineering at Polytechnics

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## ABSTRACT

In the modern era, technological developments in the world of education continue to increase. The use of the internet (blogs) as an alternative and innovative learning resource used in current learning activities has a major impact on the world of education. A blog is a website or online journal that contains information in written form that is published as a post on a website. The purpose of this study was to determine the use of blogs as an effective learning innovation strategy for Electrical Engineering students at Manado State Polytechnic. Utilization of interactive blogs specifically for learning English, Indonesian, and religion as a solution for students to explore new things and reflect on them through personal blogs in the form of learning materials, assignments, and timeliness. Data collection techniques with observations, interviews, and documentation. This study uses descriptive quantitative methods with research instruments by distributing questionnaires to respondents in the form of a Likert scale of 4 options: strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), and strongly agree (SA). The results showed that, based on the responses of respondents, 82% answered positively on the use of blogs for writing skills and self-paced learning; and those gave a negative response, 18%. Based on this data, the implementation of the case method through the use of interactive blogs as a learning innovation strategy can improve vocational skills such as skills, independent learning concepts and principles, and skillful use of media.

### Keywords

Learning media, blogging, information, and communication technology.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Learning in the technology era 4.0 requires creativity to develop and improve appropriate learning strategies, so polytechnic students' vocational skills and digital skills are needed to reflect on learning through the use of personal blogs. Lecturers need to find alternatives in the learning process. To provide the best service to stakeholders and realize learning innovations, lecturers make various different efforts in carrying out the learning process. Tools in the field of information technology are very important in this digital era's learning development strategy as a small, important, and urgent step for change. Students can review the various knowledge and skills they have learned. The implementation of the case method using blogs for learning models focuses on developing student skills, including complex problem-solving critical thinking, and creativity. The factors that have a significant impact, such as the internet network, assignment delivery, and memory storage in the drive, are all full, resulting in less-than-optimal learning for both lecturers and students.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the use of Blogspot as

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a medium and source of learning for students in the Department of Electrical Engineering and the use of this blog for learning reflection in general in the use of learning technology. Specifically, through this research, it is implemented in English, Indonesian, and character education (religious) courses.

Rustam Abdilah wrote in the journal: Pendidikan Universitas Sebelas Maret Utilization of Blogs as a Learning Media in Improving Skills. "...A Blog is a website in the form of an application consisting of several posts, often referred to as a post on a web page. The ease of blogging with WYSWYG (what you see is what you get), the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to use complicated programming languages, the elimination of the need to, Therefore, the use of media such as blogs needs to be maximized. Especially if the content of the blog material presented is enriching, good, inspiring, informative, and rich in reference sources, and is not closed and can be accessed by anyone. Based on the analysis and discussion in this study, it is evident that the application of the case method in the use of learning media blogs can improve the writing skills of vocational skills students. (Nugroho S, 2019) wrote in the article The Implementation of the Case Study Method to Develop Students' Activities and Characters. The Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Learning reflection is important for students because it has the function of reviewing the various knowledge and skills they have learned as a basis for improvement and deepening of learning. (Bruno, 2019). Reflection in learning becomes a space that gives students the opportunity to replay the memory of the learning journey they have gone through. The usefulness of this research is to provide information to teachers and students in the implementation of the case method of using interactive blogs as a learning innovation strategy. As Munaiseche M et al. explain in a case study research online learning during the COVID period in the IJCA International Journal, the role of digital in education is important when the world is experiencing a pandemic as a form of education in the 4.0 era.

According to evidence, online or distance learning functions best as a system of dynamic, interconnected components that may vary in how they are implemented depending on the circumstance (Holmberg, 2005; Picciano, 2017). These elements (Figure 1) work together to establish a learning community that is pedagogy-driven and involves a variety of activities, allowing for flexible delivery (Picciano, 2017). The constituent parts may be modified, mixed, or omitted as necessary. Self-paced learning, for instance, may not always be used, and reflection exercises may combine with learner collaboration in some situations (Picciano,2017). By employing this paradigm, educators can tailor the way they present content to meet the unique objectives of their curriculum (Acquaro, 2020).

#### 2. METHOD

The research method used is a quantitative-qualitative descriptive method. Data collection using research instruments; data analysis using a Likert scale to measure student perceptions of the use of personal blogs as learning aids.

This research was conducted in stages: 1. data collection; 2. literature study; 3. observation; 4. research instrument design; and (4) instrument determination. 5. Processing of data, 6. Analysis, and 7. Conclusion Furthermore, the method of data collection was through the distribution of questionnaires containing questions designed with a four-choice scale such as 1. Disagree, 2. Strongly Disagree, 3. Agree, and 4. Strongly Agree. Based on the selected questions related to the collection of analytical data and recapitulated with the Multi-Stage Sampling technique selected in several different classes, the sampling can be done by, for example, taking 10 groups at random in the first stage and taking each of the 4 elements randomly in each group that was selected as a sample. The number of respondents, as many as 100 people, was chosen because it was considered representative because it was greater than the minimum sample limit. The variables studied were carried out using the Multi Stage Sampling Technique. 35% of the total number of 280 respondents was taken using the random sampling technique. Respondents were divided into four study programs, with the number of samples taken equal to 35% of the respondents (there were 4 classes = 100respondents).

Program Study	Sample/ Class	Respondents	Blog User
Informatics Class A	1	25	25
Informatics Class B	1	25	25
Electrical Class A	1	25	25
Electrical Class B	1	25	25

Table 1: Sample Class

In the first step of data collection, majoring in Electrical Engineering, then in the second step of sampling in three study programs, namely Informatics Engineering, two classes; Electrical Engineering two classes.

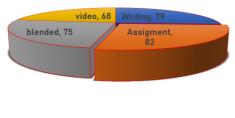
Table	2.	Likert's	Scoring	Table
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Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Positive	1	2	3	4
Negative	4	3	2	1

Likert's scale to measure students' perception. Respondents answered: 1. Strongly Agree, 2. Agree, 3. Disagree. 4. Strongly Disagree.

#### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

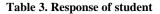
Based on 14 questions, there are 7 items were selected according to the research title. Likert analysis shows questions 1-7 respondents answered according to a measurement scale of 1 to 4. Respondents in this study amounted to 100 people according to the characteristics of the research sample determined by the researcher. The subjects of this study were students in the second semester. The following is the perception assessment: students' ability in writing skills in blogs received a positive perception rating of 82%, for writing skills self-paced. There 79% explained blended learning, 75% uploaded assignments, and blended learning methods related to video tutorials, and 68% This value indicates the success of the Case Method Implementation through the Utilization of Interactive Blogs as a Learning Innovation Strategy.

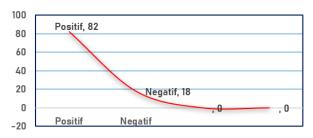


■Writing ■Assigment ■blended ■video

#### **Figure1: Student Perception**

From the data above, it can be seen that the accessibility or ease of students in using blogs on writing skills for assignments gets a positive perception rating of 82%. This value indicates the success of the Case Method Implementation through the Utilization of Interactive Blogs as a Learning Innovation Strategy online or distance. From the data above, it can be seen that self-paced learning or easy for students in utilizing.





82% answered positively, 18% answered negatively



Figure 2: Integrated Model of online/distance education (Adapted from Picciano, 2017, p182)

### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the data analysis and research on the use of Blogspot as a medium and source of learning online or by distance for second-semester electrical engineering major students, it is effectively employed as an acceptable learning medium because students enjoy using Blogspot as a medium and source of learning online. Students utilize Blogspot as a medium and source of learning since the material offered in the blogs is fascinating, good, motivating, and educational contains plenty of citations, and is open and available to everyone. Issues can be overcome by using personal blogs, especially during the time when students are learning from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The usage of personal blogs is a solution to challenges, especially during the homebased learning period brought on by the COVID-19 epidemic, so that learning time is not delayed and it is easier for students and lecturers to carry out learning.

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