Indonesian EFL Students' Dominant Learning Styles in Speaking Class

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine students' dominant learning styles in learning speaking.There were two research questions formulated; what is the dominant learning style in speaking class and what is the impact of learning style on English speaking skills. In this study, researcher used qualitative research methods. The researcher used purposive sampling technique to determine the sample. In collecting data, researcher used two kinds of instruments; interviews, and questionnaires. The participants in this study were 22 English undergraduate students who completed speaking classes (Speaking I, Speaking II, Speaking III, and Speaking IV). The data were analyzed by using thematic analysis. From the results of the analysis, it found that students have different learning styles, 54% visual learners, 53,3% auditory learners, and 54,3% kinesthetic learners. The findings show that the major learning styles of the student were kinesthetic.With knowing their learning style, students expected to achieve their learning goals easier.

INTRODUCTION

The Believes that learning styles, quite unique in each person, are developed as a result of life experience and the environmental factors, enabling people to emphasize on some learning abilities over others [1]. It is mean essential to know that every student is unique and has its own style in learning. According to [2] there are a number of differing ways of learning, by which each of us preferentially takes in and processes information. Everyone has a dominant learning style to study that allows them to easily absorb the information it receives. Some like to study in a calm atmosphere, some learn while listening to music, some learn while practicing, some prefer to learn just by reading books. With these different learning references, therefore everyone has a different way of effective learning for each other. Therefore, in order to facilitate the learning process especially learning English process, student must first know what kind of learning style suits themself, because this will help student in learning English, especially for those who are still confused about the right way to learn.

Learning styles have many theories that explain the different ways of each student in learning. There are over 25 learning style theories, one of which is Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, Kolb, Harmer and many other theories. From this study, the researcher takes the learning style based on Harmer. According to [3] in his book How to Teach English, discusses different learning styles of students. He states that everyone responds to stimuli like photos, pictures, sounds, music, and movement, but that some things stimulate student learning more than other things do. Harmer cites Richard Bandler and John Grinder's neuro-linguistic programming theory which states that everyone has a preferred stimulus (e.g. visual, auditory, or kinesthetic) which they respond to above all others.

Students who have a visual preference will remember things better if they see them. When learning new things, usually this type needs to see things visually to make it easier to understand and understand. For someone who has an auditory learning style, relying on hearing as a recipient of information and knowledge. The important thing is to listen to the teacher's conversation well and clearly. Well, the auditory type is usually the most sensitive and memorizes every utterance that has been heard, not what has been seen. This kinesthetic learning style enjoys learning that involves movement. This type of students finds it easier to learn something not just reading a book, but also practicing it. By doing or touching the object being studied will provide its own experience for the kinesthetic type. Therefore, student who have this type of learning style usually don't feel comfortable staying in class for too long.

By knowing one's preferred learning styles student it will help the teacher in teaching better. Learning styles can be helpful and beneficial for students by helping them become more focused on attentive learners, which will ultimately increase educational success. Research has shown that learning styles are an important factor in determining a student's success in increasing their skills [4,5,6]. In addition, students also need to recognize their learning style so that the learning process might be effective. Based on that we can conclude it turns out that when student have a choice in their own learning style and are comfortable learning with that learning style, their speaking becomes better.

Learning styles are important factors that can have a profound impact on language learning strategies. The most common learning styles are visual, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic. Visual learners prefer visual cues such as pictures and diagrams, while auditory learners prefer to listen and repeat phrases. Tactile/kinesthetic learners prefer physical activities such as simulations and hands-on activities. Different learning styles require different types of language learning strategies. For example, visual learners may benefit from language-learning software that uses visuals, while auditory learners may benefit from audio-based language courses. Tactile/kinesthetic learners may reap the most benefit from immersive language experiences such as living abroad and immersing themselves in the language and culture. Knowing one's learning styles and adapting language learning strategies accordingly can make learning a language easier and more enjoyable [7]. It can be seen that students have not found a suitable learning style to learn English speaking. Therefore, it is necessary to find a solution on how to learn be a fun thing or even though it is still forced but can be easier and more effective, so that student learning outcomes will also be better.

However, each studentlearning style is influenced by natural factors (innate) and environmental factors. There are certain things that cannot be changed in a person even with practice. But there are also things that can be practiced and adapted to the environment that sometimes can't be changed. In this case, recognizing student learning style does not necessarily make them smarter. By knowing their respective learning styles, student will be able to determine how to learn more effectively. This study aims to examine: 1) students' dominant learning style in speaking class and 2) the impact of learning style on students' speaking skill.

Students' learning styles

Learning styles are the way in which individuals prefer to receive, process, and retain information [8]. While there are many different learning styles, the three most common are the visual, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic styles. Each learning style requires its own set of instructional strategies in order to maximize effectiveness. For example, visual learners may benefit from strategies such as diagrams, charts, color-coding, and mind mapping. Auditory learners may benefit from strategies such as lectures, group discussions, and audio recordings. Tactile/kinesthetic learners may benefit from strategies such as hands-on activities, simulations, field trips, and games. By understanding the learning styles of their students, educators can create an environment that is conducive to learning and better suited to the individual needs of their students.

Meanwhile, [3] states that learning style is all students respond to various stimuli (such as picture, sound, music, movement, etc.) but for most of them, is more powerful than the others in enabling them to learn and remember what they have learnt. [1]defines that learning style is a method of personal choice to perceive and process information. Each people have an exactly method for their self when they understand about information. Different ways used by individuals to process and organize information or to respond to environmental stimuli refer to their learning styles. Thus, from definitions above, it can be concluded that learning style is student's preference way to get, absorb and process the information about learning material in learning process. Therefore, learning style can have a key role to play in helping to consider the most effective learning environment for students with such needs.It can be concluded based that learning style is the way learning done by student that appropriate with their loving to do in learning process. In sum, students will enjoy and feel comfortable in absorbing the information with their own way. Moreover, each student has different preferences learning way which used in learning process.

Types of Learning Styles

[9]states that there are three learning styles. Some students learn primarily with their eyes as visual learners or with their hear as auditory learners and some students prefer to learn by experience or practice as kinesthetic learners. Thus, types of learning style are visual, auditory and kinesthetic styles.

a) Visual Learners

Visual is related with sight or seeing. According to [10] prefer to learn by seeing. They have good visual recall and prefer information to be presented visually, in the form of diagrams, graphs, maps, posters and displays, for example. They often use hand movements when describing or recalling events or objects and have a tendency to look upwards when thinking or recalling information. Thus, it means that visual learners will get best comprehension in subject learning by using some object as media that they can see deeply by their eyes, like picture, power point displays, maps, etc. Meanwhile, Reid stated that visual learners will be good at visualizing events and information and use the imagination to some advantage. They can use visual strategies for remembering information. They also get considerable pleasure from learning involving visual and creative skills. A visual learner also has the ability to deep understanding in the relation between object and space. The ability in reflecting a fact image and then solve many problems due to this ability is a prominent thing for this visual aptness. Thus, it can be concluded that visual learners will get better understanding the learning subjects through object like the image or picture that they can focus to reach the information as well as their learning styles. Therefore, visual learners prefer learning by using picture.Visual students are also neat and disciplinary. They have neat handwriting and they usually learn with orderly books and pens. This type of students cannot bear if their room is in chaos with things. They also usually give attention to their appearance both in and outside school. Example of visual learning styles – this means you learn by seeing and looking.

b) Auditory Learners

Auditory learners prefer to learn by listening. [11]states that when studying, auditory learner find their selves reciting aloud as they memorize. They may change their speaking pitch, or even sing to emphasize important point. When they read throughthey study material, they tend to remember the intonation of the teacher's voice. Articulated

verbalizations, both theirs and others people, is a necessary component of their comprehension skills and memorization techniques. Auditory learners have good auditory memory and benefit from discussion, lectures, interviewing, hearing stories and audio tapes, for example. They like sequence, repetition and summary, and when recalling memories tend to tilt their head and use level eye movements. Thus, it can be concluded that auditory learners will focus on their hearing and more pay attention to voice of speakers when they hear the explanations. They prefer to listen the voice than read the paper. Furthermore, this type of students likes oral reports. They like to speak, discuss, and explain things. They prefer to get oral test or assignment than to get written test or assignment. In discussing activity, they are usually become vocalist and they usually master the conversation. Example of auditory learning style – this means you learn by hearing and listening.

c) Kinesthetic Learners

Kinesthetic learners prefer to learn by doing [7]. In kinesthetic style, students have orientation to do trial-error activity. They are brave to take a risk. In answering question, they prefer to just answer than to read the instruction before. They are good at recalling events and associate feelings or physical experiences with memory. They enjoy physical activity, field trips, manipulating objects and other practical, first-hand experience. These students always have orientation to physic and movement. They cannot stand still for a long time. Because of that these students need more time to do anything. In class, these students prefer to learn by playing games that incite themselves. In explaining information or talking, they usually gesticulate. Meanwhile [11] stated that kinesthetic learners will understand the information through some form of body motion. They often gesture when they speak and they recall the information from people's gesture.

This student's style needs to pace, move or gesture when they study, such as tap the pencil on the page while they think, snap the fingers and swing the arms when they recall the step of process, etc. In order to comprehend information, students need to place it physically within a context. Mostly, the students with kinesthetic learning style Learning through physical activity. When they are reading a book, usually they point toward words that they read. They also understand and comprehend lesson easily by rewriting the material that they have learnt. The kinesthetic learners will enjoy active learning and this is useful for assembling and making products. They will be able to demonstrate to others how to do something and they will likely be able to enjoy the actual experience of learning. Therefore, kinesthetic learners will get better understanding by doing or using body motion. Thus, kinesthetic learners learn best when they keep bodies or hands moving. Example of kinesthetic learning style – this means you learn by touching and doing.

Characteristics of Learning Styles (Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic)

Visual learner more focus on their ability in looking, means concrete things are should be able to show with the learner in understanding information process. Visual learners need high motivation to see and get the information visually before understanding something. Visual learner will absorb the lesson through picture descriptions because they have high sensitivity in memorizing color and they have good understanding in art. Auditory learners have ability in reserving the information through hearing, they need someone instruction to do something and able to imagine something better after listening the information According to Abdurrahman (2005) the characteristics of auditory learners are: uncomforted with noisy situation, move the lips when read and spoke, pleasant to speak loudly and listen, able to repeat and imitate, prefer to the music than art, learn what they listened and discussed, feel hard to write and hardly to write and easily to tell story, and fluent speaker.Kinesthetic learner is learning activity through moving process, work and touch. Learner in this type has a unique way to learn they always move, sense activity and touch. Kinesthetic learner has special characteristics, such as: speak slowly, uncomforted with noisy situation; touching is a symbol to ask the attention, early grow by big muscle, memorizing something by moved and looked, use body language and unable to sit nicely in long time. [12]learner need to be actively or moving situation, acts in their situation that have meaning for the learner in their processing of learning. This statement assumes that kinesthetic learner will be better in absorbing their information if they do or practice through their body or part of body.

The Impact Learning Style on Learning

Student learning outcomes can be determined by many factors, one of which the other is learning style [11]. Every student has their own uniqueness in learning or in separate ways to obtain something learning. Students have different abilities in accepting the lessons given by the teacher. Students have different abilities in accepting the lessons given by the teacher. With this learning style, students will improve understanding in understanding the material presented so that it will improve learning styles. The learning styles of students can be divided into three. Learning style Visual is a

learning style that by seeing with style in this learning, students are better able to understand a thing or information given by the teacher. While the auditory learning style is a learning style of students by listening. Then the third learning style is the kinesthetic learning style, namely the student learning style by means of a physical activity or direct practice.

When students are able to recognize their learning style well, then the level of student learning outcomes are also high. And vice versa if the style learner's learning is not good or does not optimize the style learning, the level of learning achievement of students will also decrease. Thus, the teacher must also be able to know or recognize the style students learn, the teacher can adjust his teaching style with the needs of students [3]. This means that the teacher can give or apply varied learning styles so that students will not feel monotonous with the applied learning style. This of course will further optimize the capture power of each participant educate. So the influence of student learning styles on student learning outcomes is when the teacher is able to realize the differences between students in receive information then adjust the way of teaching with various learning styles of students, it will assist students in optimizing learning outcomes for each learners.

Students' Preference of learning style

Understanding students' learning preferences and tailoring instruction around those preferences is essential for creating an effective learning environment. As such, it is important to determine the types of learning styles that students prefer. According to research, the most preferred learning style is the visual learning style, followed by the auditory learning style and the tactile/kinesthetic learning style [13]. Visual learning involves using pictures, diagrams, and other visual aids to help students comprehend and remember information [14]. Auditory learning involves using spoken language, music, and other auditory cues to help students comprehend and remember information [14]. Tactile/kinesthetic learning involves using physical objects and activities, such as simulations and hands-on activities, to help students comprehend and remember information [14]. By offering instruction that is tailored around each student's preferred learning style, educators can ensure that students are able to learn more effectively and efficiently [15].

METHOD

Research Design

This research used qualitative research. Qualitative research is a concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. Understanding the research environment and all its political, social, psychological, economic and cultural dynamics is vital to producing rich, useful, valid findings. Researchers chose to use qualitative as a method to collect data because qualitative research was suitable for this research because the researcher got deep understanding in the result related. This research focused on describing undergraduate students' learning style in speaking class at JabalGhafur University. In this case, students have completed speaking classes (I, II, III, or IV).

Participants

The participants in this study were English undergraduate student JabalGhafur University. The study used purposive sampling to select. The sample of this study is undergraduate students of English department of JabalGhafur University. The participant who have studied in speaking class, that courses speaking I, speaking II, speaking III, and speaking VI. From that the researcher took five undergraduate students for interview and twenty-two undergraduate students for fill in the questionnaire.

Research Instruments

The researcher used two instruments, namely questionnaire and interviews. The researcher used several questions for questionnaires and interview. The researcher use questionnaire to collect the data by using Google form as an online platform to gather the data that focuses on the survey. The questions consist of 30 question, 1-10 about learning style visual, 11-20 about learning style auditory and 21-30 about learning style kinesthetic. The questions each interview consist of 10 questions.

Data Collection Procedure

1. Questionnaire

The researcher used a Google form to submit a questionnaire that was distributed via a link and sent via WhatsApp, so participants just filled out the questionnaire on their HP (hand phone). Researcher distributed the questionnaire to student English department in learning speaking class. Students were directly to answer the questions

based on the real   condition of their experienced.
2.   Interview
        The researcher interviewing the participants begins with asking the participant if he or she is ready to be interviewed, then the researcher and the respondent will make an agreement to meet for an interview. Interviews were conducted individually according to the agreement of the respondent by interviewing the respondent informally. The interview process lasts 15 - 20 minutes. The researcher prepares a list of interview questions to be answered by interviewee. The researcher going to the campus to interview undergraduate studenrs at JabalGhafuruniversity. The researcher recorded all the answers from the interviewee with smart phone. And then the researcher trascribing the result of interview by writing it into the table. The questions used during the interview were the questions made by the writer to get an in-depth answer from the interviewees. This interview aimed to find out about see which learning style is more dominantly used by students in learning to speak English.

Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study uses a qualitative approach with thematic analysis [16] is used for interview analysis.

Thematic analysis is one way to analyze data with the aim of identifying patterns or to find themes through data collected by researchers [16]. Themes or patterns within data are identified through an inductive approach, which means that they are strongly linked to the data themselves.This study uses thematic analysis based on Braun and Clarke [16] there are six major phases of data analysis: familiarizing yourself with your data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and producing the report. There are clear explanations about data analysis process of this research:

1.   Familiarizing with Data

The researchers familiarized themselves with the data. During this phase, they transcribed and read and re-read the data while simultaneously noting initial ideas [16]. The interviews were recorded in the form of audio files and the interviews were in Indonesian. Interview transcribed by researcher and translated into English.

No	Question Interview	Data Excerpt
1.	In what way do you usually prefer to learn speaking? Is it by visual, auditory or kinesthetic?	*…belajar speaking yaitu saya sering kali mendengar suatu conversation kemudian saya meniru…* (…learning speaking is that I often hear a conversation and then I imitate or can be said to practice…)

2.   Generating Initial Codes

Involved the generation of initial codes. Braun and Clarke [16] describe this phase as the systematic coding of interesting features of the data and the collation of the data according to the codes. The researchers organized the highlighted statements from Phase 1 into different sections based on the codes.

From the results of the interview on the statement of participant 5 will be created into a code.

Data Excerpts	Coding
...belajar speaking yaitu saya sering kali mendengar suatu conversation kemudian saya meniru... (…learning speaking is that I often hear a conversation and then I imitate or can be said to practice…)	Mendengar conversation, meniru

3. Searching For Themes

 Involved the collation of the codes into potential themes and the gathering of data relevant to each theme. The various color-coded statements were used to identify potential themes after which the researchers read the transcripts again to glean further information pertinent to the themes (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

From the results of the code are grouped into 3 themes (i.e.; Kinesthetic, visual, and auditory).

Coding	Themes
Listening to conversation, imitating	Kinesthetic

4. Reviewing Themes

 Involved the checking of themes against the coded statements and the data as a whole, and the subsequent use of the collated data to identify different themes. Lists of all the themes were then placed in a table under each participant's name (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

The researcher groups from several codes of characteristics based on 3 themes.

	Theme
Code	Kinesthetic
	Listening to conversation, imitating
	Practice, try talking alone

Theme		
Code	Visual	
	likes to learn by watching those that have interesting or interesting pictures	
	happy to learn if the teacher displays interesting learning such as beautiful and colorful PPT	

Theme		
Code	Auditory	
	Listen, easy remember something from hearing	
	Easier understand by listen, reading aloud	

5. Naming Themes

Involved the defining and naming of the themes. Continuous analysis was conducted during this phase in order to refine each theme and to generate clear definitions for each theme. The researchers re-read the transcripts to confirm that all the themes had been identified [16].

6. Producing The Report

Involved the production of the research report. Once all the themes had been obtained the researchers organized the final themes that were common to all the participants and provided extracts for each theme to illustrate the participants' accounts. The themes and extracts were then compared with relevant literature [16]. From the results of grouping using thematic analysis, we can see which learning style is dominantly used by each undergraduate student in learning speaking.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Thematic Analysis on interview participant 5

No	Question Interview	Data Excerpt	Coding	Theme
1.	In what way do you usually prefer to learn speaking? Is it by visual, auditory or kinesthetic?	…belajar speaking yaitu saya sering kali mendengar suatu conversation kemudian saya meniru… (…learning speaking is that I often hear a conversation and then I imitate or can be said to practice…)	Listening to conversation, imitating	Kinest hetic
2.	Why does this method make it easier for you to learn?	…ketika praktek di rumah dengan sering sering berbicara sendiri hal ini dapat membantu mengasah skill speaking saya… (…when practicing at home by often speaking alone this can help hone my speaking skills…)	Practice, try talking alone	Kinest hetic
3.	If you are given a recording device and then you use it to record your learning in the class room, does listening to the re-recording make it easier for you to learn? Why?	…dengan alat perekam saya akan mengulangi conversation tersebut dan membuatnya lebih sempurna dengan menyampaikan seluruh ide saya dengan baik… (…so with a tape recorder I will repeat the conversation and make it more perfect by conveying all my ideas well…)	For her, without having to listen to the learning recording in the classroom, he already understands	Visual

4.	Are you the type of person who reads aloud (not read silently)? Why?	*Saya tipikal yang membaca dalam hati karena teknik ini cocok untuk saya, adapun alas annya adalah; ketika saya membaca dengan teknik membaca dalam hati saya akan lebih cepat tanggap apa isi dari tulisan tersebut...* (…I usually read silently because this technique is suitable for me, the reasons are; when I read with a silent reading technique I will respond more quickly to what the contents of the article are…)	she understands faster by reading silently	Kinesth ethic
5.	What makes it easier for you to learn by seeing/visual? Why is that?	*...saya akan lebih fokus dengan melihat, contohnya saya suka belajar bahasa Inggris melalui YouTube yang ada animasi-animasi lucu, atau pun style presentasi yang estetik...* (…I will focus more on watching, for example, I like to learn English through YouTube which has funny animations, or an aesthetic presentation style…)	likes to learn by watching those that have interesting or interesting pictures	Visual
6.	If you are given two choices in learning, such as requiring you to study at home, such as studying online due to a pandemic, would you prefer to study by watching video lessons or listening to audio explanations of the material? Which one will you choose? Why?	*..saya memilih ini karena saya tipikal orang yang senang dengan visual yang menarik, sama halnya jika dosen menampilkan ppt yang estetik/ menarik, berwarna tentu fokus belajar akan semakin meningkat dan tidak bosan...* (…I chose this because I'm the type of person who likes interesting visuals, the same thing if the lecturer displays an aesthetic/interesting, colorful PPT of course the focus on learning will increase and not get bored…)	happy to learn if the teacher displays interesting learning such as beautiful and colorful PPT	Visual
7.	Are you the type of person who tends to understand lessons more easily by remembering things that are written? Why?	*...dengan menulis secara otomatis mengingat apa yang kitatulis, oleh kerena itu dengan menulis akan memudahkan saya untuk mengingat suatu hal...* (…writing automatically remembers what we wrote, therefore writing will make it easier for me to remember something…)	Tends to remember things that are written down	Visual
8.	Do you think learning style is kinesthetic easier?	*...hal ini berlaku dengan metode yang saya gunakan dalam berlatih skill speking saya, yang mana saya sering praktek speaking dengan sering berbicara sendiri dan berdialog...* (…this applies to the method I use in practicing my specing skills, where I often practice speaking by talking to myself and having dialogue…)	practice speaking by speaking alone	Kinesth etic
9.	If someone in your house says he can't cook noodles, will you explain how to cook the noodles or demonstrate how to make the noodles? Why?	*...saya akan mendemonstrasikan kepada mereka bagaimana cara memasak mie…* (… I will demonstrate to them how to cook noodles..)	Would rather demonstrate how to do something	Kinesth etic
10.	Are you the type of person who can't sit still in studying? For example, are you used to moving your hands in explaining something? Why?	*Saya tipikal orang yang tidak bisa diam ketika berbicara ataupun mendengar. Ketika berbicara saya akan reflek mengerakkan tangan (gerakan tertentu). Selain itu ketika berbicara saya akan reflek mengerakkan alis. Kemudian*	moving hands or hand gestures when speaking	Kinesth etic

		ketika saya mendengar/ menyimak materi saya akan mengerakkan pulpen atau memutar-muta rpulpen. (I'm a typical person who can't stay still when talking or listening. When speaking I will reflexively move my hands (certain movements). In addition, when I speak I will reflexively move my eyebrows. Then when I hear / listen to the material I will move the pen or twirl the pen)		

The results of the questionnaire on undergraduate students regarding the dominant learning styles used by undergraduate students. The types of learning styles of undergraduate students in the English-speaking class show that there are three kinds of learning styles, namely visual auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles.The results of the interview show that of all those interviewed and a total of 5 undergraduate students who have a dominant learning style in speaking class and it is proven that there are 3 graduate students who have a kinaesthetic learning style, 1 undergraduate student who has a visual learning style, and 1 undergraduate student who has a auditory learning style.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the study, it can be concluded that there are 3 dominant learning styles used by undergraduate students in speaking class, one of which is visual learning style, auditory learning style and kinaesthetic learning style. From the results of the questionnaire, the most dominant learning style used by undergraduate students is kinaesthetic learning styles; it is shown that 53.3% of auditory learners, 54% of visual learners and 54.3% kinaesthetic learners. With having undergraduate students knowing their respective learning styles helps undergraduate students to adjust the way they learn to speak better. Therefore, they do not face too many difficulties in learning. The finding the right learning style they will be more interested in learning it.

The influence of learning styles for undergraduate students from the results of interviews, learning styles that are comfortable for them help improve vocabulary, correct pronunciation and others. So this proves finding the right learning style to support them in learning better and more efficiently in learning speaking. This research hopefully, encourage other undergraduate students who initially had difficulty in learning to find the right and efficient learning style to make learning more fun and comfortable without feeling pressured. Markocic and Markovic (2012) stated that "a good education system gives students the freedom to recognize their capabilities and individual potentials".

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