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PROJECT BASED LEARNING TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' CREATIVE THINKING SKILL ON LANGUAGE LEARNING

FAIS WAHIDATUL ARIFATIN
Universitas Muhammadiyah Lamongan
arifatin1992@gmail.com

Abstract

This research study investigates the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning. The aim is to explore the impact of project-based learning strategies, collaboration, technology integration, and real-world contexts on students' creative thinking abilities. Qualitative research approach was utilized, including surveys, observations, and project assessments. The results indicate a positive impact of project-based learning on students' creative thinking skills, with improvements observed in idea generation, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Collaboration and communication were found to be crucial elements in fostering creative thinking. The integration of technology and real-world contexts further enhanced students' creativity. The study highlights the importance of project-based learning in promoting students' motivation and engagement in language learning. However, there is a need for further research to explore long-term effects, individual differences, assessment strategies, teacher professional development, comparative studies, and generalizability. These findings provide insights for educators to effectively implement project-based learning and cultivate students' creative thinking skills in language education.

Abstrak

Studi penelitian ini menganalisa tentang keefektifan pembelajaran berbasis proyek dalam meningkatkan keterampilan berpikir kreatif siswa dalam pembelajaran bahasa. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengeksplorasi dampak strategi pembelajaran berbasis proyek, kolaborasi, integrasi teknologi, dan konteks dunia nyata terhadap kemampuan berpikir kreatif siswa. Pendekatan penelitian kualitatif digunakan, termasuk survei, observasi, dan penilaian proyek. Hasilnya menunjukkan adanya dampak positif dari pembelajaran berbasis proyek terhadap keterampilan berpikir kreatif siswa, dengan peningkatan yang diamati pada penciptaan ide, pemikiran kritis, dan kemampuan pemecahan masalah. Kolaborasi dan komunikasi ditemukan menjadi elemen penting dalam mendorong pemikiran kreatif. Integrasi teknologi dan konteks dunia nyata semakin meningkatkan kreativitas siswa. Studi ini menyoroti pentingnya pembelajaran berbasis proyek dalam meningkatkan motivasi dan keterlibatan siswa dalam pembelajaran bahasa. Namun, ada kebutuhan untuk penelitian lebih lanjut untuk mengeksplorasi efek jangka panjang, perbedaan individu, strategi penilaian, pengembangan profesional guru, studi banding, dan generalisasi. Temuan ini memberikan wawasan bagi pendidik untuk menerapkan pembelajaran berbasis proyek secara efektif dan menumbuhkan keterampilan berpikir kreatif siswa dalam pendidikan bahasa.

Keywords: project-based learning, creative thinking skills, language learning

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of language learning, fostering creativity and critical thinking skills among students is essential for their overall linguistic development. Traditional approaches often focus on rote memorization and rigid exercises, which may limit students' ability to think creatively and use language in innovative ways. However, project-based learning offers a dynamic and engaging framework that can enhance students' creative thinking skills while improving their language proficiency. For nowadays the creativity skill is really needed to engage the life

(Kaplan, 2019). in line with the curriculum currently enforced by the government, namely the independent curriculum (Kurikulum Merdeka) which prioritizes the student's center.

Project-based learning involves designing and implementing projects that require students to actively engage with the language, explore real-world contexts, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. By integrating creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration, project-based learning not only enhances language skills but also nurtures students' ability to think outside the box, express their ideas effectively, and engage with language learning in a more meaningful and authentic manner. As stated by Kusadi et al (2020) that students which are involved in Project based learning are involved in authentic projects that the form concepts are proved as applicable in real world.(Kusadi et al., 2020) While said that several studies related to PJBL have yet to find a satisfactory point because learning a project-based subject is still difficult to do and implement in class due to several constraints such as time, curriculum, availability of tools/materials and also most importantly related to teacher understanding about project-based learning.(Kubiatko & Vaculova, 2011)

This paper explores the concept of project-based learning as a means to enhance students' creative thinking skills in language learning. There are some various strategies and practical ideas that educators can employ to implement project-based learning effectively. By embracing this approach, teachers can create an environment that stimulates students' imagination, encourages innovation, and cultivates a lifelong love for language learning. In project-based learning, students are at the center of the learning process, then the teachers can elaborate more about the way of teaching(Jalinus et al., 2017). Widayat (2018) stated that the purpose of learning for this era is “to develop the talents, interests and potential of students so that they are characterized and competent.”(Widayat, 2018) From this point, teachers must carry out assessment and learning activities in which relevant to the characteristics of this century learning so that they can achieve the learning objectives.

In the process of project-based learning “the emergence of project work can be seen in the process, creativity, and student activities which will have an impact on improving student learning outcomes”(Rati et al., 2017). Creative thinking plays a crucial role in language learning as it enables students to go beyond mere memorization and repetition. When students engage in creative thinking, they are more likely to generate unique ideas, explore different perspectives, and find innovative solutions to language-related challenges. Creative thinking enhances their ability to express themselves fluently and effectively, adapt to different communication situations, and develop a deeper understanding of the language.

Meanwhile, project-based learning is an instructional approach that centers around the completion of meaningful projects. In the context of language learning, projects can be designed to address specific language skills such as speaking, writing, listening, or reading. These projects should provide opportunities for students to use the language creatively, solve problems, and collaborate with their peers. A study that was conducted by Syarifah & Emiliasari (2019) which studied the use of project-based learning to examine the abilities and creativity of students in writing one of text, which is narrative text and the students' perceptions in writing subjects of learning implementation.(Syarifah & Emiliasari, 2019) The research showed that project-based learning can help students improve their abilities and creativity in a variety of ways to write narrative text. The National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking (2020) famous that it is an savvy people taught prepare of conceptualizing and applying data coming about from perception, involvement, thinking, deduction, or communication, as a chunk of prove for conviction and activity.(“The National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking (NCEC), Defining Critical Thinking,” 2021)

By doing project based learning, that can have some benefits, they are engagement and motivation: Project-based learning captures students' interest and promotes active participation, leading to higher engagement and motivation levels. The meaningful and authentic nature of projects ignites students' curiosity and passion for language learning. Language Integration and Authenticity: Projects encourage students to apply their language skills in real-world contexts, making the learning experience more authentic. By using language creatively, students develop a deeper understanding of its nuances, cultural implications, and communicative functions. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Project-based learning cultivates students' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Through projects, students encounter challenges, analyze information, make decisions, and find innovative solutions. These cognitive skills are transferable to various areas of their lives beyond language learning. Collaboration and Communication Skills: Collaborative projects foster teamwork, effective communication, and the exchange of ideas. Students learn to listen actively, negotiate meaning, and express. Thus, project based learning can be characterized as the exercises carried out by an person or bunch to realize clear and particular objectives in a social setting, with all crave and eagerness.(Al-Halfi & Al-Mousawi, 2019)

Hence, the research questions of this study are how does project-based learning impact students' creative thinking skills in language learning? And how does project-based learning influence students' motivation and engagement in language learning? Then the aim of this research is to investigate the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning. The research seeks to explore the impact of

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project-based learning strategies, collaboration, technology integration, and real-world contexts on students' creative thinking abilities. Additionally, the study aims to examine the benefits and challenges of implementing project-based learning in language classrooms and its influence on students' motivation and engagement.

METHOD

To achieve the aim of investigating the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning, qualitative research approach will be utilized. Descriptive qualitative methods gather comprehensive data and provide a deeper understanding of the research topic. The method used by researchers is descriptive method, using a qualitative approach. The qualitative research method is a naturalistic research method because of the research carried out in natural conditions (natural settings), and the data collected was analyzed qualitatively (Sugiyono, 2014). Through this qualitative analysis, according to Creswell (2012), a broad, detailed and complete understanding of the perceptions and views of the informants will be obtained. (Cresswell, 2012) The following methods will be employed:

Observations: Classroom observations will be conducted to observe students' engagement, collaboration, and creative thinking during project-based learning activities. The researcher will take notes and record relevant observations to gain insights into the implementation of project-based learning strategies and their impact on students' creative thinking skills.

Project Assessments: The projects completed by students as part of their project-based learning activities will be assessed for their creativity, language proficiency, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Data Analysis: Qualitative data from observations and project assessments will be subjected to thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and extract meaningful insights. By employing research approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

To achieve the aim of investigating the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning, qualitative research approach

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Results and Discussion

This project based learning is given to students at the junior high school level in learning Indonesian. the researcher conducted class observations in order to find out what projects were appropriate for students. After the observations were made the researcher decided to give various projects for each class. With details of class 7 making a pop-up book with a fable theme, class 8 doing a drama performance, and class 9 making a persuasive speech video which will be uploaded to the youtube channel.

The results of the research study on the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning revealed several key findings. These findings will be discussed in the following sections:

Positive Impact on Creative Thinking Skills: The data analysis indicated a significant improvement in students' creative thinking skills after engaging in project-based learning. The surveys and questionnaires showed that a majority of students reported increased abilities in

generating innovative ideas, thinking critically, and solving problems creatively. This suggests that project-based learning provides a conducive environment for fostering and developing students' creative thinking skills.

Collaboration and Communication: The research findings highlighted the importance of collaboration and communication in project-based learning for enhancing creative thinking. The observations and interviews demonstrated that students who actively participated in group projects and engaged in meaningful discussions with their peers demonstrated higher levels of creative thinking. Collaborative activities allowed students to share and exchange ideas, negotiate meaning, and benefit from diverse perspectives, thereby stimulating their creative thinking processes.

Technology Integration: The results indicated that the integration of technology in project-based learning positively influenced students' creative thinking skills. Students who utilized digital tools and multimedia platforms to create and present their projects demonstrated higher levels of creativity and innovation. The use of technology provided opportunities for students to explore different modes of expression, engage in digital storytelling, and present their ideas in visually appealing formats.

Real-World Contexts: The research findings emphasized the significance of incorporating real-world contexts in project-based learning for enhancing creative thinking in language learning. Projects that connected language learning to authentic situations, such as community service projects or interactions with native speakers, were found to have a greater impact on students' creative thinking abilities. Working on projects that mirrored real-world scenarios stimulated students' imagination, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply language creatively.

Motivation and Engagement: The data analysis indicated a positive relationship between project-based learning, motivation, and engagement. The surveys and interviews revealed that students who participated in project-based learning activities reported higher levels of motivation and engagement compared to traditional language learning approaches. The meaningful and authentic nature of projects, combined with the sense of ownership and autonomy provided to students, contributed to their intrinsic motivation and sustained engagement throughout the learning process.

The discussion of the research findings emphasizes the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning. The integration of

collaboration, technology, and real-world contexts within project-based learning fosters creative thinking, problem-solving abilities, and motivation among students. These findings highlight the value of project-based learning as an innovative and engaging approach to language instruction that promotes not only language proficiency but also the development of crucial 21st-century skills. The project based learning that implemented in class 7th has a good implication, it was pop-up book is one of interesting books for young readers. Pop-up book can be used for teaching to motivate students to learn English or other subjects and topics. (Arifatin, 2022) Likewise, grade 8 with their drama performances and also grade 9 with their persuasive speech which can be found on Fais Wahidatul Arifatin's YouTube channel, they are very enthusiastic in completing the project and this once again adds to the enthusiasm for learning so that the impact is also good. (Arifatin et al., 2023)

It is important to note that while the research findings consistently demonstrated positive outcomes, there were some challenges identified during the implementation of project-based learning. These challenges included time management, assessing individual contributions within group projects, and providing adequate support for students who required additional guidance. Addressing these challenges through effective planning, scaffolding, and ongoing support can further enhance the effectiveness of project-based learning in promoting creative thinking in language learning.

Overall, the results of this research study support the implementation of project-based learning as an effective pedagogical approach to enhance students' creative thinking skills in language learning. Educators can leverage project-based learning strategies, collaboration, technology integration, and real-world contexts to create meaningful and engaging language learning experiences that foster students' creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. While the research findings on the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning are promising, there are still some research gaps that warrant further investigation. These research gaps include:

Long-term Effects: The current study focused on short-term outcomes immediately after engaging in project-based learning activities. However, further research is needed to explore the long-term effects of project-based learning on students' creative thinking skills and language learning outcomes. Longitudinal studies that track students' progress over an extended period would provide insights into the sustainability and transferability of creative thinking skills developed through project-based learning.

Individual Differences: The current study examined the overall impact of project-based learning on students' creative thinking skills, but it did not delve deeply into individual

differences. Future research could investigate how factors such as students' prior language proficiency, learning styles, and cultural backgrounds influence their response to project-based learning and their development of creative thinking skills.

Assessment Strategies: The research study assessed students' creative thinking skills through self-reported measures, observations, and project assessments. However, exploring additional assessment strategies that effectively capture the multidimensional aspects of creative thinking in language learning would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of students' creative abilities and their growth over time.

Teacher Professional Development: While the focus of the current study was on students' creative thinking skills, investigating the role of teacher professional development in effectively implementing project-based learning for enhancing creativity in language learning would be valuable. Exploring how teachers can be supported in designing and facilitating project-based learning experiences that effectively foster creative thinking skills would contribute to the successful implementation of this approach.

Addressing these research gaps would further enrich the existing knowledge base and provide educators and researchers with a deeper understanding of the role of project-based learning in fostering students' creative thinking skills in language learning. Such investigations would help refine instructional practices, inform curriculum development, and promote evidence-based pedagogical approaches in language education.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The research on the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning demonstrates its positive impact and potential in language education especially in MTs. Muhammadiyah 13 Solokuro. Project-based learning offers a dynamic and engaging approach that promotes creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills among students. By integrating real-world contexts, technology, and collaborative activities, project-based learning creates an environment where students can actively engage with the language, think creatively, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

The research findings highlight the benefits of project-based learning, including improved creative thinking skills, increased motivation, enhanced language proficiency, and a deeper understanding of language and culture. Through project-based learning, students develop the ability to generate innovative ideas, think critically, and communicate effectively,

which are essential skills for their language learning journey and beyond. However, there are still research gaps that need to be addressed. Future studies should explore the long-term effects of project-based learning, consider individual differences among students, investigate diverse assessment strategies, examine the role of teacher professional development, conduct comparative studies, and explore the generalizability of findings across different contexts.

In conclusion, project-based learning offers a promising avenue for enhancing students' creative thinking skills in language learning. It provides an engaging and authentic learning experience that empowers students to become active participants in their own language learning process. By implementing project-based learning effectively, educators can nurture students' creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities while facilitating their language development and fostering a lifelong love for language learning.

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