

## University's Model of Education: to Master or to Emancipate?

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### ABSTRACT

The new millennial students had different challenges when studying in university level. The vast development of technology made informations obtained faster and easier, nonetheless the new millennial still struggle in developing their knowledge and way of thinking with those many informations. This paper examined the university's students way of thinking which fall in identification method and how students used the method to understand phenomena. The pitfall of identification model is students could not use the theory to explain and analyze phenomena. Thus, for students, theory only served as instrumental tools and the purpose of education is to master the knowledge. This paper reflects the missing philosophy of education for the millennial students. With the technology and globalization, millennial students tend to see the world and everything in it, including knowledge, as something to obtain and object to consume. University needs to introduce emancipation model of education, in which knowledge could assist students to acquire autonomy and self-responsibility. Although it still quite far away for students to perceive knowledge and education would emancipate them from domination and oppression, this paper shows how critical thinking class could introduce emancipate model through integration of self-reflection and critical thinking in task-assignment.

**Keyword:** model of education, instrumental tools, emancipate, identification, critical thinking, self-reflection.

### INTRODUCTION

Globalization has change the facet of education in Indonesia. To be able to compete in global market has become our aim, especially in highlight of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). AEC has agree upon Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), which to recognize the qualification of skilled labour between ASEAN country (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2015). With this MRA, people from one country can easily work in other country in ASEAN. The qualification of skilled labour has been implemented in higher education level based on Pemenristekdikti RI no. 44 tahun 2015 that established national standart higher education (SN Dikti). Kerangka Kualifikasi Nasional Indonesia (KKNI)/ Indonesian Qualification Framework was develop to fill the qualification of skilled labour (Sugiharto, 2015) that focus

on forming the curriculum. The curriculum has established learning outcomes into 4 aspect: attitude which reflecting the attitude and values as Indonesian people, general skills that cover the general work skills and responsibility based on level and kind of education, specific skills which incorporate specific skills related to study course and knowledge that describe the level of mastery knowledge on study program. Within this learning outcomes, KKNI has brought emphasis on ready to work and specific workfield competency.

This new facet of education which driven by globalization is what Tilaar described as social Darwinisme in education (Tilaar, 2005:146). The purpose of education then has been to supply the market's demand and study programs which produce graduates that easily transferable to workfield has long become favourites in universities. Thus, utilitarian has become the new principle of universities (Sastrapratedja, 2013: 252). With the tagline to become world class universities, most university focused on using applied science to fulfill market and industrial needs. Therefore, research has evolved into product of knowledge to be used rather in creating and developing students to have an academic culture. Nowadays, students likely see education, especially in university, as stage to prepare them only for professional and vocational works (Joesoef, 2018: 288). Yet, the academic culture were nowhere felt or seen on daily life in universities. Seminar, discussion, research, community service were treated as the requirements to get something, either certificates or to be published in journal and so on, not many academics go extra mile to construct knowledges. If education set a picture of how future will be, then based on how our education currently operates, Indonesia will always on the hand of market and capital power (Tilaar, 2005: 147).

Nowadays, most of the students in university are categorized as the new millennial, they likely to be called generation Z or net generation. Generation which exist in a world connected globally by Internet and are tech-savy. They always conneted through social media and spend most of the time in the Internet. Generation Z has some of profiles which differ than older generation, they more attracted to visual imagery and find visual learning to be more effective than auditory (lecture and discussion). This generation are just one click away from information, they can obtain many information without difficulties through the Internet. Yet, they likely just spot some keyword information rather than reading all the text when getting information online. While generation Z acquire information through headlines, tagline, hashtags and any form of quick and in small bits, their brain were rewired with short and rapid burst of information, thus making this generation incapable to focus and analyze complex issues (Rothman, 2016). Instead of focusing to analyze problem, they tend to find quick ways and answers to problem solving, and prefer doing it by trial and error. Though generation Z lived in abundant and easily accessed information, they find it hard to choose and evaluate from reliable sources (Mohr & Mohr, 2017). This charatheristic will bring new color in academic culture, such as doing seminar and discussion through Skype, or more conference will focus on doing poster and video presentations rather than traditional oral one. However, this generation also will need much work to do writing assignments and need to be encourage to go deeper and pursue critical way of thinking.

Generally, our education system in elementary and secondary education used guided discovery model (Anitah, 2014) and most common activity is using *lembar kerja siswa* (LKS). Within this activity, students most likely focus to find answers and rely on quick and already available answers (Salirawati, 2006). If there any form of assignment to write paper, the students usually only transfer information they get from the Internet. Based on author's experience on testing IQ in various high school and universities from 2006 until now, most of the students have higher score on memory test. It reflect that our education system likely emphasis on memorizing, focused more on what to think rather than why and how to think (Joesoef, 2018: 286). Therefore, this students likely acquiring 'know about', yet not too much developing 'know why'. 'Know about' is more about skills in gathering information and receiving knowledge as it is, whereas 'know why' is beyond 'know about', it seeks for explanation and constructing various information into comprehension (Keraf & Dua, 2001: 34-36). Thus, there lots of homework in our higher education. Students will have to realize that learning is not equivalent with transferring knowledge from books or lecturers, they have to establish independency on constructing knowledge by themselves.

Bloom's Taxonomy is generally known model of higher order thinking, which consists of six levels: remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate and create (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001). This model has been used as learning tools to raise critical thinking and writing skills (Granello, 2001; Athanassiou, McNett & Harvey, 2003). Research shows that Bloom's Taxonomy was effective to identify the level of thinking based on students' writing and give indicators on how to move to higher level (Granello, 2001). It also help them to evaluate their performance and monitoring the occurrence of higher level of thinking (Athanassiou, McNett & Harvey, 2003).

Critical Thinking is an extra credit class, in which the purpose is to encourage students to analyze social phenomena. Students who attend this class are on their second year in university. At the first stage, students were given an article which they need to summarize by answering three question: find out the question which proposed by the author, how the author answers those question and what is the solution that author come up with. This method facilitated students to understand structure of writings. Next stage, students were encourage to pose a personal questions which peak their interest and curiosity. The writing will focus on how students can elaborate their questions based on phenomena and perspectives they used in order to explain those phenomena. There were 3-4 meetings where students can discuss progress of paper and seek feedback from lecturer and assistant lecturer. This article will discuss examples of papers which were written by students and will examine pattern of thinking which shown in those paper.

## **DISCUSSION**

Students have come up with various topic that depict interesting social phenomena, such as sharenting; corruption; death penalty; importance of saying thanks, sorry and help; religion; trash; smoking behavior, etc. Some of students did not have problem in elaborating

their question about those topics, they also can support questions with data or background situation. This questions demonstrate students potentially have critical perspectives about social situations.

*“Survey by PEW Research Center, United States in 2015 indicates that 95% Indonesian consider religion as the important thing in their life. [...] Are this 95% people taking religion in the ‘actual’ context (religiosity)? Or religion only perceived as something obligatory to have, because in Indonesia people with no religion would often see as bad and immoral?” [EA, 1]*

*“Research from Atlas Tobacco, Indonesia possess first place of total active smoker in the world. Indonesian smoker has increase every year, especially in teenager. Survey from Indikator Kesehatan Nasional (Sirkenas) in 2016 showed that male adolescence has reach 54,8%. What makes adolescence, especially boy in Indonesia choose to smoke?” [PT, 1]*

*“Malesbanget.com stated that criteria of body goals which now has become trend are slim abdomen, even lead up to flat abdomen, gap between left and right thigh (thigh gap), not too big arms and everything which lead up to slim physicals. Is having that kind of body has become accomplishment?” [YK, 1]*

In other sides, there few students still struggled to develop questions. It seems they understand some of concepts, yet they cannot arrange their thinking in order. Subsequently, there are lots of thoughts which seem jumping from one sentence to another.

*“Kompas (28 September 2017) wrote a story about mother that snap and scold her children using foul language. It started from a vase broke and the mother which provoked by it, exclaimed some foul words. Based on cognitive phase, children understood how parents do things and then used it to get what they want. This process is called modelling which mimic by Bandura. However, what would be the effect if children did not understand language that they observe before they can use it effectively?” [VT, 1]*

*“Car Free Day (CFD) on Saturday and Sunday is one of activities which proposed by DKI Jakarta government as a way to deal with pollution. CFD is aimed to minimize people dependency with motor vehicle with using vehicle without motor or public transportation with emission free so it can minimize*

*pollution. Nevertheless, former vice governor of DKI Jakarta, Djarot Syaiful Hidayat said that the use of public transportation with emission free are still under 20%. There are many people still used personal vehicle on area other than CFD and increase pollution in other's area. Based on those phenomenon, why people lack of awareness to minimize pollution by using public transportation?" [JP, 1]*

Some of students have flaw in introducing the questions by specific and personal case, they could not arrange the case by using objective data and point of view. Eventhough the questions has some possible critical perspectives, it lacks the power of social relevance and could fall into common sense traps.

*"I saw lots of parents post their children daily activities in social media. At first, I feel delighted because the children are cute. Yet, after some time, I realize that children's right to have personal secret in their life were distrubed. There are no personal space in those children life. This phenomenon is called sharenting." [RV, 1]*

*"[...] But in reality, in the sidewalk, streets and crossing bridge are never without trash. Author once has saw people who seated near the crossing bridge in Grogol while holding food, after they eat and drink, they just throw away their trash in the sidewalks. Meanwhile, there are three trash can just three step away from them. Why people seems don't care and ignorant of neighborhood's cleanliness?" [JM, 1]*

After students received feedback from lecturer, they could compose more strong questions,

*"In everyday life, we use various language to communicate, such as verbal language, written language, etc. Yet, what would be the effect if children do not understand language they imitated before they can use it effectively? Parents and enviroments have important part in developing how children speak, children's skill to imitate, observe, listen and children's mind from their observation. [...] It is important to notice what language which delivered to children" [VT, 2]*

*"Based on news which already elaborate above, we can see that people seem do not care with their behavior of throwing garbage which would bring disadvantages to other people. People will feel reluctant to cross bridge that full of trash and they will prefer to cross the street which would bring higher change of accident. News excerpt from poskota, it is obvious that people think throwing away garbage anywhere would not become problems because there*

*are personnel who will clean those garbage. [...] Yet, in reality this systems are not effective, not all people who threw away garbage carelessly got penalty. Therefore, people still do that behavior because they know that rules are on paper only.” [JM, 2]*

*“DKI Jakarta government has attempt to minimize pollution, one of it is by implementing Car Free Day (CFD) on Saturday and Sunday. This activity is aim to minimize people dependency on motor vehicle and encourage using public transportation which emission free so can reduce pollution. However, public transporation which free from emission still under 20%. Based on those phenomenon, why people have lack of awareness to minimize pollution by using public transportation?” [JP, 2]*

Examples from above demonstrated that students likely have develop an interesting and fairly critical questions. They could identify some problems in social contexts, and have no trouble in finding sources which help them elaborate those problems. Nevertheless, students lack of writing and language skills to present a keener question. We can see that most of the questions were very simple, in terms that students saw and described only one specific situation or data to understand social phenomena. This could lead to common sense and jumping to conclusion which mostly found in other’s paper, for example like this one,

*“Why students nowadays lost interest on joining student’s body organization? While few other students who prefer to join organization and willing to spend their time, energy even material to work in organization tend to perceived as crazy and go beyond the limit. Whereas there are lots of benefit if students join organization compared to those who only focus for grading in their academic life. Despite only focus on academic, perhaps students need to consider to be active in organization to fulfil her/his need as an individual” [TC, 1]*

In trying to explain those phenomena, students generally allocate more to describe the social phenomena because they rely on online sources which categorized as news or popular article,

*“There are few reasons why we rarely say sorry, help and thank you; at first we feel that other will understand because we have close relationship with those people. Secondly, we thought those words as formality so we feel strange and only said those words only in formal situation. Third, we felt other people won’t be offended with our saying or action. Four, we felt that others will be bother if we said those words. Fifth, we felt we have close relationship with others, so we do not need to maintain image overtime.” [SS, 1]*

*“Research from dr John Cacioppo from University of Chigago found that foul words will have big impact to our brains. This impact is called negative bias. Foul word will marked in childern’s memory than praises. From 2 till 12 months, children can voice put ‘ooo-ooo’, ‘dadada’, even they can understand restriction “no’ with high tone. On 2-5 years old, childern can vocalize more clear words and their vocabulary increase from 50-100 words and can reach over 1000 words.” [VT, 1]*

We can see examples of remembering level of Bloom’s Taxonomy on writing format. In this level, writing pattern goes as students unable to translate the idea of source author and integrate it with their own main ideas, they only listing what source authors investigating and the results. Few students display comprehension level of Bloom’s Taxonomy on their papers, they can use source appropriately and could distinguish main ideas from the article (Granello, 2001). Nonetheless, they still lack integration and analysis of the social phenomena.

*“According to Head of Dinas Kebersihan DKI Jakarta, the waste volume in Jakarta ammounted to 7.000 tons every day and those number increase every year. More than half of the waste produce in DKI Jakarta come from organic materila. On the second place is various kind of paper and plastic waste. People often did not realize their careless throwing behavior, such as straw, candy wrappers, food wrappers and other small waste. They think that if they throw only small waste in the street will not bring big effect. Yet they can not imagine if other people will have the same thought and do the same thing, so streets will have lots of trash even if it small trash. Those kind of thinking are found mostly in our people, eventhough there are trash can just near them, or if they can not found one, it is better to keep it first until found another trash can” [PA,1]*

*“In fact there are dangers that arise from sharenting. One of them is digital kidnapping. If sharenting occurs often (oversharenting), there is a chance that other can know childern’s school address, childern’s favourit and even home address. Child who are not in the age level to keep personal privacy still need to rely on their parents. But if their parents oversharenting about the child, thus there will be a threat to childern’s right of privacy.” [RV,1]*

Some students try to use theory in their attempt to analyze those phenomenon, but unlike analysis level of Bloom’s Taxonomy in which there are layer of complexity and could identify pattern from sources to formulate their argument (Granello, 2001), students used theory only to describe the phenomena,

*“Acording to Erikson, in puberty era, individual is on the stage to look for self identity. Self identity was gained through doing many things which help to know*

*their identity. Adolescence era has become an era to explore so that they can learn from anywhere, including from trend, thus that allowing trend to become important part in finding self identity. Minimum self exploration could lead to diffusion of identity status so adolescence will grow to become individual with unstable self concept, vulnerable to peer pressure dan low self acceptance. Therefore, female adolescence who do deep self exploration are more able to find self identity. Yet, those self exploration need to be followed by high commitment” [YK, 2]*

*“Social Dilemma is term for conflict where person do action which beneficial for him/herself, yet when those action was done by more people, those action will become harmful. The connection of throwing trash behavior with those concept is many people in Jakarta thought that by throwing trash carelessly will not give big impact. However, those thought and those action were done by so many people, and gave big impact such as flood.” [PA, 2]*

There also few students who try to explain phenomenon using theory, yet there are flaw logic of thinking in which students could not build premise and conclusion correctly.

*“In adolescence, development task mainly focus on becoming themselves. It means that they need self identity to face other in their society. Self identity is process to become an unique individual with important roles in life. One of factor which contributes to identity development in adolescence is their parents. Oftenly parents post about their children into social media, put the children to appear attracting. When the children grew, they will feel pressure to be inaccordance with what people know and liked them when they were a child. Children who in the middle build up their identity could lose their confidence because their past appearance when they were a child, were the work of their parents, not by their willingness.” [RV, 3]*

*“Parents gave us moral guidance including on our words, so that it build up in our superego. Yet, ego is not escaped from id desire which also our part since we are born into the world. If we try to connect with the question of why individual does not saying the words of help, sorry and thank you, it becaused ego choose to listen to id and abandon superego.” [SS, 1]*

Other students could analyze social phenomenon using theory which is easier to be applied, such as behavioral theories. Yet those theory operates in more mechanistic way, in which students just need to identify the pattern of social phenomenon and matches with the concept of theory. Students are not able to use more complex and abstract theory.



*“There are some mistake in learning process in people. People who threw away trash carelessly often did not get punishment (penalty from government), instead they got positive reinforcement on those behavior. Positive punishment that they recieved was cleaning service who will clean all those trash.” [JM, 2]*

*“Attitude in Planned Behavior Theory reflect decision which individual make to do behavior, whether they like it or not. The more possitive attitude that individual have about certain behavior, the more bigger their inttention to do that behavior. As previously stated that using public transportation considered to be low. It reflect that people attitude towards environmental care behavior tend to be negative. Therefore, people did not have inttention to choose public transportation with emission free and did not have awereness to reduce pollution.” [JP, 2]*

Students learn to develop their thinking skills through critical thinking class. Nevertheless, based on examples above, it reveals that our students are still in the remembering and comprehension level of Bloom’s Taxonomy. Most of the students have some trouble in using theory to explain social phenomena, and did not have skills to analyze phenomena deeply. Our students mainly use common sense in explaining phenomena, they assume their personal opinion could be considered as valid answers. It shows though they have learn a lot of theory, they still do not know how to use it and could not transfer it outside classes. This reflects our model of education, students perceive to learn is only to add knowledge, thus their aim are to master the knowledge. The danger of this model is students would assume learning is completed after they got degree or jobs. They will only be technocrat and user of knowledge, yet they will not able to construct their own knowledge (Joesoef, 2018: 253). Other potential problems that would emerge is students could not acknowledge the complexity of social problems because without critical thinking they could not see from various perspectives.

This findings should alert us if our purpose of education still based on *Tut Wuri Handayani*. World class university or research based university should not overshadow our principle in education, those terms were refered from industrialized developed countries (Tilaar, 2015: 111). If we blindly follow those curriculum or model, we will always be left behind because we differ in our starting position from those countries. At the end, we merely consume other’s product of knowledge, and barely creates our own version of knowledge. Therefore, it is important that we teach our students in university so that learning is not transferring knowledge, rather to grow independent thinking and learning. In this way, learning process was not just preparing students to enter the industrial market, but to emancipate them (Tilaar, 2005: 154). Education should help them to undertand their options in life, their freedom to choose those options and understand responsibilities which follow after (Tilaar, 2015: 99). Through education, students will learn to establish themselves so that

they can compose the right options (Sastrapratedja, 2017: 253). The first task in education is to enable our students to determine themselves, so they will have power in life, otherwise our education just produce a well trained dog rather than a harmoniously developed person (Joesoef, 2018: 292). This summarize the emancipation model of education.

This article presenting the preliminary study of using Bloom's Taxonomy on developing critical thinking. All the students in critical thinking class only got feedback of their writing assignment and not yet in the step to do self-reflection of their thinking position on Bloom's Taxonomy. Although there are approximately 78 papers, this article is limited to discuss 9 papers as a representation from the class.

## **CONCLUSION**

If we are not careful enough, education will play as factory to deliver graduate into industrial market in globalization era. Students will only just numbers of workers and would have minimum contribution on strengthening the national identity. Thus, it is important universities engage education which emancipate students, so that they can liberate themselves from domination and oppression. The millennial students need to be introduced with emancipate model of education in university, they are already familiar with mastering model through elementary and secondary education. Writing assignment which examines social phenomena could help students to understand their thinking level based on Bloom's Taxonomy. With their understanding on their current level, they can be guided to move to higher level of thinking. This model which combine critical thinking and self-reflection process could emancipate students in learning.

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