

The effect of ex-add learning techniques on critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence of Islamic education students

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the effect of explain-analysis-doing-discussion or known as ex-add learning techniques on critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence of Islamic religious education students at State Islamic University (UIN) Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi and at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, Indonesia. The approach used quantitative with quasi-experimental techniques. The number seen in this study was 31 students from UIN Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi. The data were obtained using tests, namely pretest, and posttest. The test instrument was in the form of multiple-choice questions, each consisting of 40 questions. Data analysis was carried out using percentage techniques, N-gain analysis, and a T-test. Based on the data and discussion that has been done, it can be concluded that the ex-add technique in 'learning methods and strategies' can increase critical thinking skill (CTS) and pedagogic competence (PC) respectively by 78.23% in the 'high' category and 59.81% in the 'medium' category. This is reinforced by the results of the T-test that both variables obtain a value (2-tailed) of $0.000 < 0.05$. This means that there is an average difference between the pretest and posttest scores for each variable. In other words, it can be said that the increase in student CTS and PC after participating in learning with the ex-add technique is significant.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the skills that are very important to guarantee success in the era of society 5.0 is the ability to think critically. This is in line with the explanation of Changwong *et al.* [1], Borodina *et al.* [2], Facione [3], and Alsaleh [4] that the ability to think critically is a very important high-level thinking ability to face the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 and the era of society 5.0. Cakici [5] stated that in facing the era of society 5.0 every student must have good critical thinking skills. Heard *et al.* [6] also explained that the ability to think critically is a very important skill in the 21st-century era. Even Karakoc [7] wrote that implementing the concept of independent learning is an effort to improve critical thinking skills. In general, students critical thinking skills in Indonesia still need to be developed [8].

Critical thinking skills can be taught, trained, and developed by teachers and lecturers through planned and systematic learning. Therefore, efforts to improve critical thinking skills are always associated with the real abilities and efforts of teachers in the learning process. Each teacher has an important role in

developing students' critical thinking skills. Laar *et al.* [9] state that the role of the teacher in preparing students' critical thinking skills in the learning process is by the characteristics of constructivism itself, where the teacher has various roles that can be used in helping students during the learning process. Research Alsaleh *et al.* [4], Nor and Sihes [10], and Rogti [11] also describe the important role of teachers in training and developing students' critical thinking skills. The important role of the teacher can be carried out by carrying out action research [12]. Therefore, it can be understood that efforts to improve critical thinking skills are closely related to the teacher's ability to plan and implement learning.

Talking about the teacher's ability to plan and implement learning also means talking about teacher competence, especially pedagogic competence. According to Ningtiyas and Jailani [13], Sulaiman and Ismail [14] and Sahana [15] pedagogical competence is the ability of teachers/lecturers who are combined and coordinate terms to plan, implement, and assess the learning process. According to Bayram [16], there are six aspects of pedagogical competence, namely: i) Mastering the characteristics of students; ii) Mastering learning theory and principles of educational learning; iii) Developing curriculum; iv) Learning activities that educate; v) Developing the potential of participants students; and vi) Communication with students. Competent teachers will ensure the continuity of a quality educational process [17]. This happens because competent teachers will have an impact on work performance and motivation [18]. Thus, it can be understood that pedagogical competence is very important for teachers and has a broad impact on the quality of education.

The influence and the important role of teacher pedagogic competence on the quality of education can be seen from the results of research by experts. Several studies, among others, were conducted by Prihono *et al.* [19] who in his research concluded that pedagogic competence has a positive effect on lecturers' academic performance. Channa and Sahito [20] in a study found that teacher pedagogic competence had a positive effect on student learning motivation. Several other studies also prove that teacher pedagogic competence has a positive effect on learning quality [21], teacher performance, and students' intellectual quality [22]. Based on the results of these studies, proves that teacher pedagogical competence influences the quality and outcomes of education. Therefore, efforts to improve teacher pedagogic competence must continue to be carried out to ensure an increase in the quality of education in general.

One important factor in improving the quality of education and the success of the educational process is related to the approach, model, method, strategy, or technique used by the teacher in the learning process. This is as mentioned by Namusoke and Rukundo [23], Nind and Lewthwaite [24], Syahrial *et al.* [25] and Mallillin *et al.* [26] that to achieve a standard educational process, it is best to start by analyzing how it applies effective learning methods and strategies in each lesson. Wen and Peng [27] explained that methods and approaches in Islamic education have a very important role in achieving educational goals. In addition, Feng [28] also stated that learning methods have a very important role in the learning process. Thus, it can be understood that the diversity of ways or techniques in teaching has the potential to improve the quality of education in general.

Various kinds of approaches, models, methods, strategies, or learning techniques that already exist are often not to the situation and conditions of students. Therefore, in using approaches, models, methods, strategies, or techniques, teachers or lecturers must consider certain factors. According to Hergan and Pečar [29] and Tomak [30], several factors must be considered in choosing a learning method, namely learning objectives, student conditions, learning resources, and characteristics of the technique or method used. Alnufaie [31] and Khalil *et al.* [32] states that the selection of learning methods or techniques used in learning must be adapted to the teaching materials and media to be used. Considerations in selecting learning methods or techniques must be made by the teacher or lecturer because each method or technique always has its advantages and disadvantages.

In the learning process in tertiary institutions, the selection of methods or techniques in learning is intended to optimize the process and results of student learning. The intended student learning outcomes include critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence. Efforts to improve critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence have been carried out by many experts before using existing learning methods or techniques. For example, Zhang [33] conducted research on improving critical thinking skills using the engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate (5E) approach. Bashir [34] make efforts to improve students' critical thinking skills through discovery learning. As for pedagogical competence, Alhaj and Albahiri [35] makes efforts to increase student pedagogic competence through microteaching techniques, and Çelik *et al.* [36] made efforts to increase student pedagogic competence through apprenticeship techniques.

Efforts to improve student's critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence by using existing models, approaches, or techniques are often not by the existing situations and conditions. In addition, often existing models, approaches, or techniques are not to the characteristics of students and their learning environment. Therefore, it is necessary to develop new models, approaches, or techniques so that efforts to improve these two capabilities can continue to be carried out optimally. The development of learning

methods or techniques also means efforts to improve the quality of education. In developing learning methods or techniques, various criteria for quality methods or techniques must be considered. According to Dolapçioğlu and Koşar [37] there are four criteria for a good learning method or technique, namely: i) It can arouse students' curiosity; ii) It can generate positive optimism in students; iii) It can foster student creativity; and iv) It can be applied effectively. However, each model, approach, or technique developed must be tested for its effectiveness and efficiency in developing students' critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence.

Referring to the description above, this study focuses on examining the effectiveness and efficiency of the explain-analysis-doing-discussion or known as ex-add learning technique for improving students' critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence. Although theoretically, the ex-add learning technique which consists of explain-analysis-doing-discussion activities has proven to have a positive impact on learning outcomes. For example, research by Öztürk *et al.* [38] states that lecture and discussion methods can increase student learning activities. Mekonnen [39] found that finding that the application of the concept of learning by doing can improve the quality of student learning. Vrabec and Bôtošová [40] also stated that the application of the concept of learning by doing can improve the quality of education in schools. However, the implementation of the ex-add technique is still partial and not systematic and has not linked students' critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence. Therefore, there is a need for more systematic ex-add learning implementation research to improve students' critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence. Thus, the question that will be answered in this study is whether there is an influence of the ex-add learning technique on the critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence of Islamic religious education students.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

As previously mentioned, this research focuses on examining the effect of ex-add learning techniques on students' critical thinking skills and pedagogic competence. Therefore, the approach used in this research is quantitative with a quasi-experimental design through the implementation of learning. The research was carried out at the Islamic Religious Education Study Program at UIN Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi, Indonesia involving 31 students in the learning methods and strategies course. Data for each variable in the study was obtained by using a test technique that was carried out twice, namely the pre-test and post-test. Therefore the design used in this research is a one-group pretest and posttest design [41].

The variable measurement of critical thinking skills adapts the indicators developed by Ambar [42] which include indicators: i) Providing simple explanations; ii) Building basic skills; iii) Summarizing, and iv) Providing further explanations. The pedagogical competence indicators include: i) Mastery of student characteristics; ii) Mastery of learning theory; iii) Mastery of the curriculum; iv) Development of student potential and v) communication with students. The instruments used in this study have been validated by previous research, both expert validation and empirical validation. Each variable is measured using a test in the form of multiple-choice questions totaling 40 questions. Data analysis was carried out by giving a score for student loyalty, which was carried out using the (1):

$$N = \frac{\text{Acquired score}}{\text{Maximum score}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

After all, students have obtained pretest and post-test scores, then to find out the increase in student ability in both variables is analyzed using N-gain. This analysis is carried out using the (2):

$$N - \text{Gain} = \frac{N_{\text{post}} - N_{\text{pre}}}{N_{\text{max}} - N_{\text{pre}}} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

N-gain: The increase achieved by students

N post: The value of the post

N pre: Pretest value

N max: Maximum value

Decision-making is based on the results of the N-gain analysis with the classification as shown in Table 1.

| N-gain | Upgrade classification |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| $g > 0.70$ | High |
| $0.30 < g \leq 0.70$ | Moderate |
| $g \leq 0.30$ | Low |

Furthermore, data analysis was continued with the T-test (mean average difference test). That was to see how far the level of confidence or significance of the results of the N-gain test had been carried out. The F-test was carried out with the help of SPSS 16 software.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the measurement results for each variable at the end of the lecture with the ex-add technique, namely in the middle of the semester. Each variable is analyzed to determine the increase in each indicator observed. Through this analysis, the percentage of categories in each indicator for each variable will be known. Presentation of data in Table 2.

Table 2. Percentage of improved critical thinking skills

| Indicators | Upgrade classification | Range score | Number of students | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Give a simple explanation | High | 76-100 | 18 | 58.06 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 8 | 25.81 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 5 | 16.13 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Build basic skills | High | 76-100 | 15 | 48.39 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 9 | 29.03 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 7 | 22.58 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Conclude | High | 76-100 | 21 | 67.74 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 7 | 22.58 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 3 | 9.68 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Provide further explanation | High | 76-100 | 12 | 38.71 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 11 | 35.48 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 8 | 25.80 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that in general, each indicator measured on the critical thinking variable is in the 'high' category with a score range of 76-100. The four indicators scored in the 'high' category, respectively: i) Providing simple explanations 58.06%; ii) Building basic skills 48.39%; iii) Concluding 67.74%; and iv) Providing further explanations 38.71%. Thus, it can be said that in general students' critical thinking skills in the post-test are relatively good.

Furthermore, in the pedagogical competency variable, the measurement results for each indicator are shown in Table 3. Based on the table, it can be seen that in general each indicator has been well achieved. All indicators measured are dominated by a score range of 76-100 or the 'high' category. Each achievement indicators are: i) Mastery of the characteristics of students is achieved by 20 people or around 64.52%; ii) Mastery of learning theory was achieved by 19 people or about 61.30%; iii) Mastery of the curriculum was achieved by 17 people or about 54.83%; iv) Developing the potential of students was achieved by 14 people or about 45.16%; and v) Communication with students was achieved by 17 people or around 54.83%. Thus, it can be said that in general, the pedagogic competence of Islamic religious education (PAI) students is relatively good.

Furthermore, based on the analysis of test results carried out using the N-gain formula, it is known that each variable has a different increase. Variable critical thinking skills (CTS) increase in the 'high' category was achieved by 17 students or around 54.83%. The increase in the 'medium' category was nine people or around 28.03%, while the increase in the 'low' category was six people or around 19.34%. In general, or on average, the CTS variance increased by 78.23% in the 'high' category. This means that the ex-add learning technique has an effect of 78.23% on increasing student CTS.

Table 3. Percentage of pedagogic competency improvement

| Indicators | Upgrade classification | Range score | Number of students | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Mastery of student characteristics | High | 76-100 | 20 | 64,52 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 6 | 19,35 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 5 | 16,13 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Mastery of learning theory | High | 76-100 | 19 | 61,30 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 8 | 25,80 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 4 | 12,90 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Curriculum mastery | High | 76-100 | 17 | 54,83 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 9 | 29,03 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 5 | 16,13 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Development of potential learners | High | 76-100 | 14 | 45,16 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 13 | 41,94 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 4 | 12,90 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |
| Communication with students | High | 76-100 | 17 | 54,83 |
| | Moderate | 41-75 | 8 | 25,82 |
| | Low | 0-40 | 6 | 19,35 |
| | Total | | 31 | 100 |

For the variable pedagogical competence (PC) the increase in the 'high' category was achieved by 16 people or around 51.61%. The increase in the 'moderate' category was 12 people or around 38.71% and the increase in the 'low' category was three people or around 9.68%. Based on the calculation of the average N-gain at 59.81% in the 'medium' category. This means that the ex-add learning technique has an effect of 59.81% on increasing student pedagogical competence. Complete data for both variables can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Classification and percentage increase in CTS and PC

| Variables | Number of students | Number of percentages | Development percentage | Development category |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| CTS | 17 | 54.83 | >71 | High |
| | 9 | 29.03 | 30-70 | Moderate |
| | 6 | 19.34 | <30 | Low |
| Total | 31 | 100 | 78.23 | High |
| PC | 16 | 51.61 | >71 | High |
| | 12 | 38.71 | 30-70 | Moderate |
| | 3 | 9.68 | <30 | Low |
| Total | 31 | 100 | 59.81 | Moderate |

Furthermore, to find out how significant the influence of the ex-add technique is, the existing data is subjected to a T-test. The test results for both variables can be seen in Table 5. Based on the table, it can be seen that viable CTS and PC obtained sig. (2-tailed) of $0.000 < 0.05$. This means that there is an average difference between the pretest and posttest scores for each variable. In other words, it can be said that the increase in student CTS and PC after participating in learning with the ex-add technique is significant.

Table 5. One-sample test

| | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean difference | 95% Confidence interval of the difference | |
|---------------|--------|----|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | | | | | Test Value=0 | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| CTS Pretest | 11.062 | 30 | .000 | 41.452 | 33.80 | 49.10 |
| CTS Post-test | 16.981 | 30 | .000 | 57.581 | 50.66 | 64.51 |
| PC Pretest | 11.311 | 30 | .000 | 41.935 | 34.36 | 49.51 |
| PC Post-test | 17.341 | 30 | .000 | 63.903 | 56.38 | 71.43 |

The results of this study, namely that there is an influence of the ex-add learning technique on CTS and PC prove that this technique can be used as an alternative in developing student CTS and PC. In addition, the research results also prove that the ex-add technique with activities in the form of explain-analysis-doing-discussion effectively plays a role in increasing student CTS and PC. Each of these activities is strongly suspected of contributing to the development or improvement of student CTS and PC.

The role of each element in the ex-add learning technique is in line with previous research. Experts have conducted previous research that the elements of the activities contained in these techniques have a positive impact on learning outcomes. Harris *et al.* [43] and Sudarmika *et al.* [44] states that the element of explaining or lecturing has a positive effect on student learning outcomes. In the context of this study, it is reasonable to suspect that elements of lecture activities also have an impact on student CTS and PC. Although empirically no research specifically mentions that lecture activities have a positive effect on CTS and PC. Therefore, there is a need for further research in this regard.

The second element in the ex-add technique is analysis. Empirically, analytical activities have been shown to have a positive impact on learning outcomes. Blegur [45] in his research stated that analytical skills have a positive effect on learning achievement. Although no research explicitly states that analytical activities affect CTS and PC, reference to Phurikultong and Kantathanawat's [46] that the ability to analyze refers to cognitive or thinking activities and opinions Fiolida and Rohaeti [47] that analysis is an activity that involves the power of thought to examine something. Therefore, this is the basis for why analysis activities on the ex-add techniques are thought to play a role in increasing student CTS and PC.

The third element, namely doing activities, is also thought to play a role in increasing student CTS and PC. Some research proves that learning by doing or learning by doing effectively improves student learning outcomes. For example, Zafar and Hafeez [48] research states that the learning-by-doing approach can improve the quality of learning. Halimah *et al.* [49] also stated that learning with a learning-by-doing approach is very good learning. Therefore, it is reasonable to suspect that doing activities in the ex-add technique plays a role in increasing student CTS and PC. However, further research is needed on how the learning-by-doing approach influences student CTS and PC.

The last element in the ex-add learning technique is discussion activities. This activity is believed to play a major role in increasing student CTS and PC in this study. This refers to the results of previous research that discussion activities have a positive impact on student learning outcomes. Several studies related to this, for example, conducted by Farooq [50], found that lecture and discussion methods can effectively increase student learning activities. Other researcher also states that the discussion method has a positive correlation with student learning outcomes. Even though there has not been much research related to the direct effect of the discussion method on student CTS and PC, the results of the research above can be used as a basis for thinking.

Based on the description above, at the end of this research, it is necessary to convey several things, including the need for further research related to the positive impact of ex-add learning techniques on learning outcomes in other forms, for example, the ability to think creatively, scientific attitude, professional competence, and others. In addition, there is also a need for research related to the elements contained in the ex-add technique separately and their influence on student CTS and PC. This is meant in addition to strengthen arguments in research as well as add to the repertoire of insights regarding learning techniques and their impact on the educational process.

4. CONCLUSION

Referring to the data and discussion that has been done, it can be concluded that the ex-add technique in learning 'learning methods and strategies' course can increase CTS and PC respectively by 78.23% in the 'high' category and 59.81% in the 'high' category. This is reinforced by the results of the T-test that both variables obtain a value (2-tailed) of $0.000 < 0.05$. This means that there is an average difference between the pretest and posttest scores for each variable. In other words, it can be said that the increase in student CTS and PC after participating in learning with the ex-add technique is significant. Therefore, as an implication of the research is that the ex-add learning technique can be used as an alternative in developing student abilities, especially in terms of critical thinking skills and pedagogical competence.

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