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Student Perceptions of Humanist Literacy

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ABSTRACT

Literacy ability can empower and improve individual quality because of its "Multiple Effect" nature or can provide a very broad field. This article aims to analyze the perceptions of PAI students about humanist literacy. This study used a qualitative approach which was carried out using field research methods and collected data by interviews. In this study, it provides an understanding that literacy must be increased among students and cannot be abandoned because students have academic responsibilities. Therefore, to build literacy skills and awareness must be carried out systematically with effective and efficient methods. The efforts that can be made are: 1) knowing the structure and form of academic writing, 2) examining the components of PAI course material, 3) maximizing the learning process by preparing good planning.

ABSTRAK

Kemampuan literasi dapat memberdayakan dan meningkatkan kualitas individu karena sifatnya yang "Multiple Effect" atau dapat memberikan ranah yang sangat luas. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi mahasiswa PAI tentang literasi humanis. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan menggunakan observasi dan wawancara sebagai teknik pengumpulan data. Dalam penelitian ini memberikan pengertian bahwa literasi harus ditingkatkan di kalangan mahasiswa dan tidak dapat ditinggalkan karena mahasiswa mempunyai tanggung jawab akademis. Maka dari itu, untuk membangun kemampuan dan kesadaran literasi tersebut harus dilakukan secara sistematis dengan metode yang efektif dan efisien. Adapun upaya yang dapat dilakukan, yaitu: 1) mengetahui struktur dan bentuk dalam karya tulis akademik, 2) menelaah komponen materi mata kuliah PAI, 3) memaksimalkan proses pembelajaran dengan menyiapkan perencanaan yang baik.

PRELIMINARY

Literacy on campus plays a very important role in supporting the achievement of each student, especially reading literacy. In learning in lectures, the method often used is the discussion method, where when the presenter has finished presenting his paper or material, then a discussion session will be opened which requires students to express their opinions well according to the literature they have read. This is where the role of reading literacy in determining the quality of opinions expressed by a student. If a student's reading literacy is high, then the opinions expressed will be of high quality, unlike students who have little literacy, of course the opinions expressed will float without purpose.

Literacy is a basic literacy that must be mastered by every human being because it is the initial literacy known in human civilization and is a very important functional literacy in life, especially in campus life. With good literacy skills, it will improve a person's quality of life (Mardiana, 2021). In this modern era, digital technology has two sides in influencing society, especially students. On the one hand, digital

technology can facilitate and help many students' work and assignments. With easy access to information, reading literacy is increasing. However, on the other hand, the ease of accessing information and other cultures makes most students lazy to read, they tend to immediately look for the core of information without wanting to know what the source and validity of the information are, so without any fear they immediately spread it so that what is called "hoax" is very easy to spread.

In this digital era, the nation's youth often prefer to adopt foreign cultures that are not necessarily in accordance with Indonesian culture. It is often found that the nation's youth follow trends from abroad, especially western countries, just to get praise and be seen as people who follow trends. It is very unfortunate that there are so many cultures in the country itself, but they choose to follow other cultures. If this continues, then over time traditional culture will fade and eventually disappear.

Literacy education, especially cultural and state literacy, really needs to be taught to the millennial generation of the 21st century. This aims to increase the love of the homeland and participate in preserving local culture and be able to think intelligently and wisely in responding to globalization and the development of the times (Pratiwi, 2019). The above phenomena occur due to the lack of humanist literacy in processing information data received from digital media, the data and information received should not be swallowed whole without first filtering which is good to be used as a guideline.

Based on a preliminary study of several PAI study program students at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra on March 12 and 13, 2023, their interest in reading is still very minimal, often they only use digital technology to satisfy their pleasure, for example by playing games, watching videos that are less useful in various applications, such as Tiktok, Facebook, and Instagram. From the habit of spending time with these things over time, their character is formed, and they tend to imitate what they see on digital media. For example, when playing games, players are often found to be very easy and even proud when saying dirty words (toxic) which are then carried over into everyday life and become their habits.

In fact, studies on humanist literacy have been widely studied by previous researchers. Among them are discussing the Design of Cultural Literacy in Learning Indonesian in Higher Education (Helaluddin, 2018). Cultural and civic literacy as a solution informed to the millennial generation in Indonesia (Pratiwi, et al., 2019), elementary school literacy movement (Teguh, 2017). Implementation of the School Literacy Movement (GLS) as a builder of character education (Wandasari, 2017). The difference between this study and the previous one is in terms of the problems and educational methods applied to learning in the campus world which really needs humanist literacy.

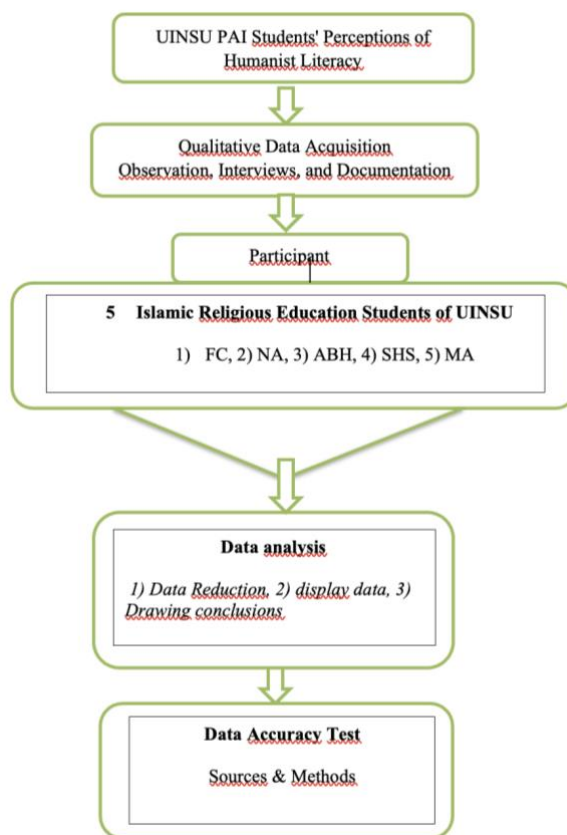
Observing the literature review above, it is understood that there is a "new" problem in the form of students' humanist literacy being eroded by changes in the era and modernization of digital technology in the 21st century. Which students' perceptions on this issue have not been studied before. Thus, the researcher will analyze the problem, which is summarized in the title, "PAI Students' Perceptions of Humanist Literacy". Through this study, it is hoped that it can be a reference for students in maintaining humanist literacy in lectures in the 21st century. Furthermore, information is obtained about the "positive and negative" views of students regarding humanist literacy.

METHOD

This type of research uses qualitative research that aims to analyze the perceptions of PAI students about humanist literacy. The data sources in this study were taken from several reference sources such as digital books, journals and other information. This research began on March 5-10, 2023. The data collection technique in this study used the "field research" method, namely the method of collecting data by conducting direct research or interviews with 5 PAI students at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra regarding humanist literacy. The main informants in this study are:

Table 1. General Identity of Informants

No	Initials of the Informan	Age	Gender	Information
1	FC	21 years	Male	PAI FITK Sem. VI Students
2	NA	20 years	Female	PAI FITK Sem. VI Students
3	ABD	23 years	Male	PAI FITK Sem. VI Students
4	SHS	21 years	Male	PAI FITK Sem. VI Students
5	MA	19 years	Male	PAI FITK Sem. VI Students



Scheme 1. Research Methodology Chart

Furthermore, to ensure the accuracy of the research data, triangulation techniques were used. This triangulation was carried out to compare the results of one interview with another. The use of this technique aims to filter data with various methods and ways so that the data obtained is in accordance with what is expected.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Humanist Literacy

In general, literacy is the ability to read, write, speak, and listen. Literacy is defined as the ability to use a variety of languages and images to read, write, speak, and think critically about ideas. Literacy can also be defined as a complex way that enhances previous knowledge, culture, and experience for the development of new knowledge and more complete explanations. Its function is to connect the individual and society, as well as a tool for participating in a democratic society (Abidin, et al., 2021).

However, the more information technology develops, the broader the meaning of literacy. Literacy is a developing concept and will have consequences for the use of digital media. Its use is to see the diversity of culture and language, as well as a resource involving new digital media that is critical and creative. For the term literacy in the development of this era is known as multiliteracy. The term multiliteracy is a skill that uses a variety of ways to understand ideas and information that uses conventional text or innovative text, symbols, and multimedia (Mulyati, 2017).

According to Eisner, literacy is seen as not only being able to capture the meaning of written symbols, but also from various symbols around us, as well to find and create meaning from various representations around us. Meanwhile, according to C. Luke, multiliteracy is a person's ability to view knowledge in an integrative, thematic, and interdisciplinary manner (Yunansah, et al., 2017).

The word literacy has existed since prehistoric times, even since the time of the Prophet Adam who lived for 930 years (around 3760-2830 BC) after the beginning of creation, which has been explained that the Prophet Adam was educated directly by Allah SWT with reading and writing.

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ
"And (Allah) taught Adam all the names (of objects), then presented them to the angels, then said: "Tell Me the names of these objects if you are indeed truthful" (QS. Al-Baqarah verse 31).

This verse explains that the Prophet Adam was taught to recognize the names of other creatures. Here, literacy and history have begun. The message of the verse above explains that "The Most Literate" is God, not humans. However, God, besides being "All-Knowing" and "The Almighty", God also gives His servants the opportunity to be literate in the form of being given reason, thoughts, and feelings. Meanwhile, humanism or humanities comes from the Latin "humanus" which means human, cultured, and refined. Humanist literacy aims to be more humane, more cultured, and more refined. Humanist literacy concerns communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation (Rozak, 2018).

The word humanist is a concept that emphasizes the interests of humanity and ideals. In the scientific dictionary of the word humanist, human means about humans or the way of humans. Humane means being humane. Humanism is the potential of oneself to measure and achieve divinity and can provide solutions to problems. And humanistic is a sense of humanity or something related to humanity (Muslih, et al., 2022). According to Zulaeha, humanist literacy is a human awareness in reading the phenomena of socio-cultural and multicultural contexts through listening and reading, then pouring an idea into writing that reflects the values of respecting and appreciating others, tolerance, empathy, and caring for others, especially those of different cultures, ethnicities, races, or religions (Zulaeha, 2013).

Thus, humanist literacy is human awareness in listening, reading, and writing ideas about the values of respecting and caring for others, even though they are different in culture, ethnicity, race, and religion. Therefore, humanist literacy can become a pillar in community life, especially multicultural in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 which is fast, without obstacles, and without face-to-face can still communicate with anyone.

Benefits of Humanist Literacy

Literacy is one of the things that a person must have when entering the global society in today's era. The meaning of literacy according to KBBI as reported on the official website of the Ministry of Education and Culture, is the ability to write and read. Etymologically, the term literacy itself comes from the Latin "litteratus" which means a person who learns. In this case, literacy is closely related to the process of reading and writing (Riyad, 2022).

Meanwhile, in EDC (Education Development Center), literacy is the ability of an individual to use their potential (the ability is not limited to reading and writing). UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) also provides an understanding of literacy, namely a set of real skills, especially a person's cognitive skills in reading and writing which are influenced by competence in the academic field, national context, institutions, cultural values, and experience. There are 6 types of basic literacy that must be known, namely: First, Reading and Writing literacy is the ability to understand the contents of written texts, both implicitly and explicitly, developing self-awareness and potential.

Second, Numeracy literacy is the ability to use various numbers and symbols with basic mathematics to solve everyday problems. Third, scientific literacy is the ability to understand natural and social phenomena in our lives to make science-based decisions. Fourth, digital literacy is the ability to use digital media responsibly to obtain information. Fifth, financial literacy is the ability to apply understanding of concepts, risks, skills, and motivation in a financial context. Sixth, cultural and civic literacy is being able to understand and appreciate the national identity of Indonesian culture.

Nowadays, literacy products are not only in the form of textbooks but also come in various forms, for example, visual and audio media such as listening to songs or watching videos on YouTube, of course literacy skills are also needed to understand all the contents. So literacy skills are a person's basic ability to survive, survive, compete, and even just to develop self-competence starting from improving literacy skills first.

Reading various reading materials from various themes is certainly very important, even there are many benefits of reading short stories which are not only to add good vocabulary for public speaking skills but also to increase knowledge and insight. So let's start literacy from now so that in the future it will

be more advanced, not the other way around. It can be understood that literacy also has many benefits in the academic life of students.

The benefits of literacy are: First, opening insight. Books are a bridge of knowledge, without books a person does not have a comprehensive vision, because by using books a person can read effectively and easily understood. Second, increasing knowledge. If you want to be smart then study hard because knowledge is not learned instantly, everyone needs a process to increase knowledge and improve reading so that the knowledge they have is more complete.

Third, improve one's ability to understand information. In the current situation, most of the information obtained by someone who is sure of the truth of the information turns out to be a hoax. Therefore, it is advisable to read more, because by reading information will be easier to understand. Fourth, grow self-awareness about sorting out what is good and what is not. With the rapid development of technology, the spread of information is also fast. A person's ability to sort out which information is good, and which is not is very necessary.

Fifth, it is good for increasing personality values. One way to increase personality values is to improve reading skills by diligently reading, expanding knowledge, and broadening horizons. In addition to the benefits of reading self-development books, your personality will also develop. Sixth, as one way to form a culture. The literacy skills of a country's people can also be a determinant of the formation of a culture. The higher the literacy skills of its people, the better the culture of the country.

Seventh, improving one's verbal ability. The higher one's reading skills, the better one's speaking skills. This refers to the vocabulary one picks up when they read a lot. It also affects public speaking. In other words, if you want to improve your speaking skills, don't just focus on speaking but also expand your knowledge and understanding by improving your reading skills.

Eighth, helps develop focus and concentration. People who are good at reading tend to be calmer because it allows them to focus more on seeing or interpreting something and make better decisions. Ninth, reading helps improve writing skills. The benefits of reading books or being good at reading also have a significant impact on writing skills. Tenth, has better analytical skills. One of the benefits of reading that can be produced by good reading skills is also better analytical skills.

Islamic Religious Education Students' Views on Humanistic Literacy

Based on data obtained in the field through interviews with five students, it was found that not all Islamic Education students at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra understood the definition of humanist literacy well. Of the five students who were respondents in this study, only three students were able to provide a good definition of humanist literacy. The following are the views of Islamic Education students on humanist literacy:

According to FC: "*Humanist literacy is an idea that arises from events that occur in social society which is then expressed in written form. Understanding of humanist literacy is greatly needed by society, especially students, because it can solve problems that occur in society*".

According to NA: "*Humanist literacy is information obtained through reading, such as books, articles, and journals. The influence of humanist literacy in everyday life is to make someone change with good and polite speech and behavior*".

According to ABD: "*Humanist literacy is a world of reading, especially people who are more humane, so it does not only focus on the literacy aspect, how to know the essence of the reading value, there is no pressure and no coercion but there must still be a definite goal. Meanwhile, the benefits of humanist literacy are that humans become more relaxed in communicating, automatically feel cared for, and the effectiveness of learning will be higher. When humanist literacy in the world of college is still lacking, both in terms of students and in terms of education staff. In terms of students, when lecturers give lessons, there are still many students who are busy with their cellphones. And in terms of education staff, many only give assignments and then disappear without a trace, some have finished the meeting but seem to not know anything about the material they are teaching, there is no clear communication between lecturers and students*".



Figure 1. Group photo activity after interviewing one of the PAI students.

The views of Islamic Religious Education students on humanist literacy are expressed in various opinions according to their respective understandings. The first opinion is explained that humanist literacy is created based on events related to social problems in society. Indonesia is a country that has diverse citizens, be it ethnic, cultural, or even religious diversity, therefore it is prone to problems related to social relations among the diversity of society in Indonesia. With the awareness of humanist literacy, ideas are created to answer the resolution of problems that occur which are then expressed in writing.

The views of Islamic Religious Education students on humanist literacy are further explained that humanist literacy is information that can be obtained through writings sourced from books, journals, print media, and other written information related to good morals in carrying out community life. With the awareness of the importance of humanist literacy, it is hoped that it can increase reading interest among people in all fields so that it can change community ethics for the better.

The last view of Islamic Religious Education students on humanist literacy in this study is explained that humanist literacy is an awareness of the importance of reading interest in society and among students. Awareness of the importance of reading interest must also be followed by understanding the value and essence of the information read through various reading media. Thus, humans can communicate well and increase the effectiveness of learning in the world of education.

In addition to the views of several respondents in this study who are PAI students above, there are two PAI students who do not understand well about humanist literacy. Therefore, the author is of the view that it is necessary to carry out activities among PAI students as a means of conveying information about humanist literacy along with the benefits of humanist literacy to students with various types of activities, such as seminars, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) or dissemination of information through media such as wall magazines, WhatsApp and so on, which discuss the importance of humanist literacy among students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the interviews that have been conducted, it can be concluded that the existence of humanist literacy in community life can be a pillar in community life about how to communicate with people of different cultures, tribes, races, religions, or different nations. According to the opinions of several PAI students, humanist literacy is the idea of events that occur in society that aim to provide benefits in a good life for society. However, there are some students who already understand and apply humanist literacy in their lives, and there are also those who still do not understand what humanist literacy is and have not fully applied humanist literacy in community life. Therefore, as students, they should be able to apply humanist literacy in society, because in order to train themselves in communicating, help students think critically, and strengthen personality values and develop student potential.

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