

Perceptual learning style in English at Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College

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Abstract: This research discussed perceptual learning style of students in English at the fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College in academic year 2016-2017. This research aimed to know the kinds and the strategies of perceptual learning style of students in English with eighty-four students as respondents. This research focused on Reid's theory about visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, individual, and group in perceptual learning style and strategy. Thus, the data were analyzed using mixed method which meant that the researcher used questioner sheet and FGD as the instruments to find out the valid data. This research showed the questionnaire result that indicated there were 14 students (17%) as visual learners, 10 students (12%) as auditory learners, 16 students (19%) as kinesthetic learners, 6 students (7%) as tactile learners, 14 students (17%) as individual learners, and 24 students (28%) as group learners of perceptual learning style in learning English. The result from FGD indicated the visual learners learned well by seeing things, auditory learners learned well by listening, kinesthetic learners learned well when they were able to move around while learning, tactile learners learned well when learning by doing things with hands and touch sense, individual learners learned well when worked alone, and group learners learned well when studied at least one student. It can be concluded that the students were interested in group learners. Many students focused on group techniques in learning English material and they needed help from the others. Group learners' strategy could also help them to improve their ability in learning English.

Keywords: Strategy, Learners, Perceptual Learning Style.

Introduction

English as a foreign language was very important to learn in Indonesia especially in Makassar because English was the international language (IL) all over the world that could help people to communicate with each other. Many styles in learning English language that were done by every people who wanted to improve their ability to study English.

Students as individuals had some differences and similarities that could not be avoided as natural factors by the teachers. Learning style is one of student's different characteristics that have not been paid more attention yet. Learning style is inherent and is a blend of cognitive, affective, perceptual and behavioral elements (Oxford and Horton 1988 in Oxford 1989; Reid 1987, 1995).

There were three types of learning style such as cognitive (focused on the knowledge), affective (focused on the value or emotion), and

perceptual (focused on the sensory of body). Based on Reid (1995) approaches different perceptual learning style covered visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, individual, and group learning.

This research focuses on “Perceptual learning style in English of students at the fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College in Academic Year 2016-2017”.

1. Learning Style

Learning style refers to how we describe the approach which individual use in acquiring new language or learning in complex manner in processing, storing and recall what they are attempting to learn. Reid (1995) said that there are three types of learning style: cognitive, affective, and perceptual.

2. Perceptual Learning Style

Perceptual learning styles are the means by which learners' extracted information from their surroundings through the use of their five senses. (Institute of Learning Styles Research, 1996).

These can be classified as auditory (listening to lectures and tapes), visual (reading and studying charts), kinesthetic (experiential, total physical involvement), tactile (hands-on, doing lab experiments), interactive group (study with at least one other student) and interactive individual learning (work alone), Reid (1995).

3. Kinds of Perceptual Learning Style

Reid (1995) approached learning style from the point of view of perceptual learning style. There were six kinds of perceptual learning style:

a. Visual Learner

Visual learners like to read a lot, which require concentration and time spend alone. Visual learners are fast talkers; concern with the appearance in the dress or presentation; not easily distracted by the commotion; the reader is quickly and diligently; more like a demonstration of the speech.

b. Auditory Learner

Auditory students enjoy the oral-aural learning channel. Characteristics of an auditory learner are : when working like talking to herself; easily distracted by a commotion; happy reading aloud and listening.

c. Tactile Learner

Tactile students need to touch and handle objects. They are happy making collages. The characteristics of a tactile learner are doing hands-on approach (manipulation, object, simulation, live events); physical involvement in learning; field trip to gain knowledge; small group discussion (2-3 in group).

d. Kinesthetic Learner

Kinesthetic learners will rather learn through “experiential learning that is total physical involvement with a learning situation”. Some characteristics of extrovert learners are: talkative person; like to ask something; must learn with another people.

e. Individual Learner

Individual learning is one of the sociological styles that include in PLSPQ by Reid. It refers to preferring to learn through working alone. Some characteristics of introverts are: become a silent person when do an assignment; do everything by herself/himself.

f. Group Learner

Group learning style is also one of the sociological styles. Group learners prefer learning through working with others and participating group works. Some characteristics of extrovert learners are talkative person; like to ask something; must learn with another people.

4. Learning Strategy

Learning strategy was the way or pathway of individual to support their learning to get knowledge or new material in some activities. Reid (1995) classified in three strategy categories: cognitive, affective, and perceptual (sensory or memory term). And this research focused on the perceptual learning style strategies based on the five senses according to Reid's theory (1995).

5. Perceptual Learning Style Strategies

Reid (1995) approached strategies of learning style from the point of view of perceptual learning style preferences. There were six strategies:

a. Visual Learners Strategy

Visual perceptual learning style provides strategies for students, and offer activities that can implement in their classrooms in order to help visual learners better understand course information.

Type stylized of visual perceptual learning style, which play an important role is the eye or vision (visual), in this case the teaching methods use should be more focused on the show or media, invite to objects related to the lesson, Visual's perceptual learning style should look at body language and facial expressions the teacher to understand the subject matter.

b. Auditory Learners Strategy

Auditory learners rely on the success of their learning through the ear (hearing instrument). Auditory perceptual learning style can learn more quickly by using verbal discussions and listening to what is said. Auditory learners can digest the meaning is conveyed through tone of voice, pitch (high or low), the speed of speech and other auditory things.

c. Tactile Learners Strategy

Tactile learners remember things better when they can use their fine motor skills to make or handle relevant materials while learning new or difficult work. They generally need to write or type notes while listening. They concentrate best when they can manually manipulate information in concrete formats.

d. Kinesthetic Learners Strategy

Kinesthetic learners prefer to learn new or difficult information through 'real-life' experiences and demonstrations. Experiential learning suits them well. Kinesthetic learners are the type of person who tend to receive the most information and the most effective to involve

body movement, demonstrations, and physical activity.

e. Individual Learners Strategy

Individual learners is one of the sociological styles as the name suggests, these kinds of students are the quiet angels who can work alone with minimal directions from the teacher or lecturer. Oftentimes mistakes as the shy ones of the classroom, individual learners can be quite extroverted when given the opportunity.

f. Group Learners Strategy

Group learners are also one of the sociological styles. Group learners streamline the learning experience of social or interpersonal learners. They are quite verbal and are always anxious to apply what they have learned in interactive settings. Give your social butterfly a chance to spread their wings and fly with meaningful activities. Teach a lesson on social awareness, etiquette or cultural differences.

Method

The method of this research applied mixed method. Based on Creswell (2009: 211), mixed method is a research method that combines between qualitative method and quantitative method to be used together in a research to get more comprehensive, valid, reliable, and objective data.

This method aimed to describe perceptual learning style of the students at fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College in academic year 2016-2017 in learning English by using percentage and the strategies of perceptual learning style of the students at fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College in academic year 2016-2017 in learning English related to Reid's theory by using questionnaire and focus group discussion.

Findings and discussion

1. The Kinds of Perceptual Learning Style

From the data analyzed, it was used to describe the score student's answer of the questionnaire about the perceptual learning style. In general, students could be classified into six groups'.

Based on the data analyzed, it was found that number of students who were indicated as individual were 14 students (17%) of 84 students. It showed from many students who answered the items of individual questions consisted of: Item 4: 10(12%), Item 13: 20(24%), Item 18: 12(14%), Item 27: 6(7%), Item 30: 9(11%). Where this percentage analyzed was obtained by total score individual learners as the kinds of perceptual learning style.

Table 1 The Percentage of Kinds of Student's Perceptual Learning Style

Kinds of Perceptual Learning Style	Frequency	Percentage
Visual Lernerers	14	17 %
Auditory Lernerers	10	12 %
Kinethetic Lernerers	16	19 %
Tactile Lernerers	6	7 %
Group Lernerers	24	28 %
Individual Lernerers	18	17 %
Total	84	100 %

2. The Strategies of Perceptual Learning Style Related to Reid's Theory

a. Visual Lernerers Strategy

Based on the result from FGD, the members of visual learners did the strategies related to the Reid's strategy. They could be encouraged by visualizing skills in considering the content, picture, video, and process of writing. Among the techniques, there were visualizing through still pictures, a television documentary, computer, drawing, text, writing procedures in idea by idea, paragraph by paragraph through on the whiteboard, concept mapping for information writing.

b. Auditory Lernerers Strategy

For auditory learners, they could be encouraged by hearing, collaborative writing, role playing, interviewing, telephoning, hearing the voice, listen to the music, writing frames and sentence starter by saying it, and spelling learning through repeating letters aloud, hearing words within words, saying words in an exaggerated way, and utilizing sense or rhythm and rhyme.

c. Kinesthetic Lernerers Strategy

Kinesthetic learners did not like to stay for a long time in the same place to finish something like assignment or task. Read the material and made a note for the main points in every materials could help them to remember the material.

d. Tactile Lernerers Strategy

Tactile learners could be encouraged by drawing, underlining, and going on field trips, manipulating and assembling objects, material. They needed to do something about English with the others to make them understand the material.

e. Individual Lernerers Strategy

The desire for self-study kept individual learners away from active, voluntary classroom participation. In a group setting, the individual learners might seem reserved, inactive or even indifferent.

f. Group Lernerers Strategy

Group learners enjoyed joining in class discussions. They preferred group work to work in isolation. If they had to decide something, they asked other people for their opinions. If they understood a problem, they liked to help other learners to make them understand too. Moreover, they liked to play games to improve their ability to get new knowledge.

Conclusion

The students' perceptual learning style in learning English at the fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College were: 14 students (17%) as visual learners, 10 students (12%) as auditory learners, 16 students

(19%) as kinesthetic learners, 6 students (7%) as tactile learners, 24 students (28%) as group learners, and 14 students (17%) as individual learners. In addition, the highest score from this finding was group learners, 28%. It indicates that the students preferred group learners in perceptual learning style.

The students' at the fifth semester of Accounting Department of Tri Dharma Nusantara Makassar Economic Science College were interested in group learners. Many students focused on group techniques in learning English material and they needed help from the others. Group learners' strategy could also help them to improve their ability in learning English.

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