Learning strategies during the covid-19 pandemic to improve Arabic skills

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine (1) types of Arabic learning strategies, (2) the effectiveness of learning strategies which can be applied in Arabic learning during covid-19 pandemic. This study is qualitative descriptive with secondary data sources. Data collection techniques are carried out through document studies through books, journals, website and other relevant sources. The results showed that (1) there are kinds of learning strategies that can be used to improve students' Arabic skills during the covid-19 pandemic, there are: Intelligences-based classroom management and Mimicry memorization to improve *Mufradat* skills, flipped applications and mind mapping to improve *Tarkib* skills, whatsapp and youtube to improve istima' skills, Kallimni program and zoom application to improve *Kalam* skills, e-learning to improve *Qira'ah* skills, canva and google meeting applications to improve *Kitabah* skills, (2) the use of digital or online learning media is an effective leaning strategy used in learning Arabic during the covid-19 pandemic by adjusting the media to improve what Arabic skills needed.

1. Introduction

The teacher is an element that have an important role in the education system with the main task of organizing learning and education. Along with the development of current educational policies, teachers must be able to adapt to this. As professional educators, teachers must be able to organize quality learning that can produce an educated generation, able to compete globally and morally [23], therefore teachers must know the nature of learning to achieve the expected learning objectives. One of the efforts to achieve this goal is through appropriate learning strategies according to the theme being taught. What to teach, to whom to teach, how to teach, and how to measure success all must be planned and arranged in such a way [4] so that it is expected through a strategy learning consisting of methods and techniques (procedures) that can properly bridge the process of knowledge transfer from teachers to students in order to achieve learning objectives.

Learning strategy is a form of operationalizing methods, media and facilities that contain styles and arts that are carried out by teachers in learning process including rules, steps and facilities [19] whose application must be carried out starting from opening to closing in the learning process [3] in order to realize the learning objectives, so that learning strategies need to be designed as well as

possible. The ability to design learning strategies is a skill that cannot be separated from the learning process. A teacher is not only required to teach well but also must be able to plan the learning process well [25] in line with the objectives and other components such as learning materials and media. In addition, the differences in the characteristics of students require teachers to be able to create learning situations through effective strategies [7].

Learning strategies are the main factor in improving learning process. In determining application of learning strategies, teacher should conduct class analysis, so the strategies used are accordance with the needs of students and the material being taught. The position of strategy in learning activities is to organize the implementation various selected methods and media and organize teaching materials from various sources and students are learning, so learning objectives can be realized effectively and efficiently. By using learning strategies, teacher will be easier to determine information and manage step by step learning will be carried out.

Several studies have been carried out by previous researchers to find out effective learning strategies used during covid-19 pandemic. The results of previous studies stated that most of the effective strategies used were online learning either through synchronous discussion [12] [9] or virtual facilities [26] [25]. Based on results of the previous research, this study was conducted to examine what learning strategies were effectively used in Arabic subjects during the covid-19 pandemic

Based on this background, this study was conducted with the aim of knowing (1) the kinds of learning strategies that can be used to improve students' Arabic skills during the covid-19 pandemic, (2) the effectiveness of learning strategies that can be used to improve students' Arabic skills.

2. Method

This study is qualitative descriptive research with secondary data sources. Data collection techniques were carried out through document studies through various sources, namely books, journals, websites and other sources relevant to Arabic learning strategies during the covid-19 pandemic. Data analysis was done descriptively.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. Kinds of Learning Strategies to Improve Students' Arabic Skills

In general, Arabic learning strategies adapted to the language skills that will be learned in learning process. Arabic learning strategies based on language skills are divided into six skills, there are: mufradat, tarkib, istima', kalam, qira'ah, and kitabah. The results in Table 1. showed that there were several effective Arabic learning strategies used to improve students' Arabic skills during the covid-19 pandemic.

- Learning strategies to improve *mufradat* skills (*maharah mufradat*)

Mufradat skills are students' skills in mastering vocabulary and translating the vocabulary into a sentence that can be used to communicate [28]. *Mufradat* learning is important because *mufradat* is a basic guide and requirement in learning Arabic. In this learning, it is not enough to just memorize the *mufradat*, but students are expect be able to master the *mufradat*. Students able to translate *mufradat* forms and able to use them in a sentence correctly. *Mufradat* learning strategies are divided into three levels, there are: basic level *mufradat* learning strategies (*mubtadi'*), intermediate level *mufradat* learning strategies (*mutawassith*), and advanced *mufradat* learning strategies (*mutaqaddim*). Strategies that can be used to improve students' *mufradat* skills during the covid-19 pandemic are through Intelligences based classroom management learning media and Mimicry memorization [28] [1]

- Learning strategies to improve *tarkib* skills (*maharah tarkib*)

Tarkib skills are rules or rules governing the use of Arabic as a tool to understand a sentence [15]. The function of tarkib learning is to correct uslub-uslub from nahwiyah errors, assist students in sparking what is desired by uslub-uslub who have very thin differences, development of linguistic material so that it is easy to understand, build correct bi'ah lughawiyah, maintaining the relationship between sentence structure and the beauty of its meaning, minimizing ambiguity and weakness of

meaning in understanding an Arabic ibarah, equipping students with linguistic abilities, as well as arranging the right sentences in making perfect sentences. The tarkib learning strategy is the same as the mufradat strategy, which is adapted to each level. At the basic level, this learning strategy uses a cooperative approach between two people which is usually called the power of two. The goal to be achieved is that students able to distinguish between isim with fi'il and letters. Learning strategies that can be used during the covid-19 pandemic to improve these skills are through the use of flipped application media and mind mapping [22] [15]

Table 1. Kinds of effectivity Arabic learning strategies during covid-19 Pandemic

Year	Author	Arabic Skills	Learning Strategies
2020	Rizka Widayanti, Dian Febrianingsih [28]	Mufradat	Intelligences-based classroom management
2020	Nor Afifah, Sunarto, Moh. Fery Fauzi, Irma Anindiati, Talqis Nurdianto [1]	Mufradat	Mimicry memorization
2021	Agus Riwanda, Muhammad Ridha, M. Irfan Islamy [22]	Tarkib	Aplikasi Flipped
2021	Darsa Muhammad, Muassomah [15]	Tarkib	Mind Mapping
2020	Aulia Mustika Ilmiani, Marsiah, Yulia Rahmah, Mahfuz Rizqi Mubarak [14]	Istima'	Aplikasi Whatsapp (group)
2020	Hamidah, Marsiah [10]	Istima'	Youtube
2021	Lisa Khillatur Risalah, Umi Machmudah, Zakiyah Arifah [20]	Kalam	Online-based Kallimni program
2021	Ngindana Zulfa [29]	Kalam	Zoom application
2020	Apri Wardana Ritongga, Mahyudin Ritongga, Talqis Nurdianto, Martin Kustati, Rehani, Ahmad Lahmi, Yasmadi, Pahri [21]	Qira'ah	E-learning
2021	Salsabila Gita Nurani, Utami Widiati [18]	Qira'ah	E-learning
2021	Vinda [27]	Kitabah	Google meeting
2021	Amrina, Adam Mudinillah, Ahmad Hafiz [2]	Kitabah	Aplikasi Canva

- Learning strategies to improve *istima'* skills' (*maharah istima'*)

Istima' skills or listening skills are the ability to understand words and sentences spoken by interlocutors or certain media [17]. *Maharah istima'* is intended as the ability of students to understand sounds or utterances in Arabic properly and correctly. The purpose of special learning is to imitate, memorize, summarize the main points of his thoughts, and understand the contents. Learning strategies that can be used to improve *istima'* skills during the covid-19 pandemic are whatsapp and youtube [14] [10]

- Learning strategies to improve *kalam* skills (*maharah kalam*)

Kalam skills or speaking skills are important skills that involve linguistic and non-linguistic elements [16]. The purpose of learning kalam includes several things, including ease of speaking, responsibility, clarity, forming habits, and forming critical listening. Strategies that can be used in learning Arabic during covid-19 pandemic in improving *kalam* skills are through the Kallimni program and the zoom application [20] [29]

- Learning strategies to improve *qira'ah* skills (*maharah qira'ah*)

Qira'ah skills or language skills are receptive skills through a variety of writings [5]. The target of *qira'ah* learning is to be able to read Arabic text fluently, be able to translate and be able to understand it well and fluently. In other word, *qira'ah* is an activity that includes all forms of reading think, evaluate, make decisions, analyze and find solutions to problems. Good reading skills are needed so that readers can truly understand the reading text. Strategies that can be used in learning Arabic during the covid-19 pandemic in improving *qira'ah* skills are through e-learning [5] [21] [18].

• Learning strategies to improve *kitabah* skills (*maharah kitabah*)

Kitabah skills are skills in Arabic in the field of writing because they can actualize abilities and knowledge to the public [6]. The study of the book focuses on three things, namely: the ability to write correctly, improve speech, and the ability to express thoughts clearly and in detail. Strategies that can be used in learning Arabic during the covid-19 pandemic in improving *kitabah* skills are the Canva application and google meeting [27] [2]

These results indicate that almost all the strategies used in improving students' Arabic language skills during the covid-19 pandemic are using digital-based learning media in accordance with Arabic language skills that will be improved. Through the use various platforms that are integrated in online learning, it can provide space and opportunities for students to practice their language skills so the teachers must also get used to using digital-based Arabic learning media [13].

3.2. The Effectiveness of Learning Strategies to Improve Students' Arabic Skills

Based on results of the analysis of various learning strategies in improving students' Arabic skills, it be seen that online learning strategies are an effective strategy to use compared to conventional learning carried out during covid-19 pandemic. The learning media used is adapted to the students' Arabic skills to be improved. For example, in improving speaking skills (*maharah Kalam*), learning media is used in the form of the *Kallimni* program which is an online Arabic course designed for students who want to be proficient in speaking Arabic. Thus, in the selection of learning media, it is necessary to do a needs analysis in advance of the skill variables to be improved, not just using learning media.

Technology in this century demands the learning process, including learning Arabic by utilizing relevant media according to the times [13], so that the world of students in this century tends to use technology such as gadgets and smartphones in the learning process. In addition, [11] also stated that the use of technology in learning can improve student's learning outcomes. Therefore, learning Arabic during the covid-19 pandemic must also implement digital-based learning by utilizing various platforms and online learning media applications in improving students' Arabic skills. Thus, the teacher as a facilitator must also be proficient in operating digital media used in the learning process.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions that have been carried out previously, the conclusions in this study are, there are several kinds of learning strategies that can be used in improving students' Arabic skills during the covid-19 pandemic, including: Intelligences-based classroom management and Mimicry memorization to improve mufradat skills, flipped applications and mind mapping to improve tarkib skills, whatsapp and youtube to improve istima' skills, Kallimni program and zoom application to improve kalam skills, e learning to improve qira'ah skills, canva and google meeting applications to improve kitabah skills.

The results show that the use of digital/online learning media is an effective learning strategy used when learning Arabic during the covid-19 pandemic by adjusting the media used to improve Arabic language skills. The results of this study can be a reference for other research that will conduct similar research or be an alternative in Arabic learning strategies during the covid-19 pandemic that can be carried out by teachers.

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