

## Does Students' School Culture Observation Guide Students' Teaching and Learning Practice Competence?

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### ABSTRACT

Culture is the habits carried out by individuals and groups that can be shown by the behavior of the organization or agency concerned. Introduction to the school field for students of teacher training and education faculty of UN PGRI Kediri is an activity where students go directly to several high schools or vocational schools for directly observing the teaching and learning activities and the existing school culture. Through direct observation, the implementation of introduction to the school field aims to build the foundation of educator identity and strengthening educational academic competence. However, sometimes the result of observation has no significant impact on students' teaching practice quality in schools. Therefore, this paper is written to give suggestions on better direct school observation. This idea is expected to be able to guide students to come to the identification of the real needs of ELT in EFL context for their teaching practice preparation so that the quality of students teaching practice will be improved.

**Keywords:** introduction of the school field, school culture, direct observation, English teaching and learning

### ABSTRAK

Kultur adalah kebiasaan yang dilakukan oleh individu dan kelompok yang dapat ditunjukkan dengan perilaku organisasi atau instansi yang bersangkutan. Pengenalan lapangan persekolahan bagi mahasiswa fakultas keguruan dan pendidikan UN PGRI Kediri merupakan kegiatan dimana mahasiswa terjun langsung ke beberapa SMA atau SMK untuk mengamati secara langsung kegiatan belajar mengajar dan budaya sekolah yang ada. Melalui pengamatan langsung, pelaksanaan pengenalan lapangan persekolahan bertujuan untuk membangun fondasi identitas pendidik dan penguatan kompetensi akademik pendidikan. Namun terkadang hasil observasi tidak berdampak signifikan terhadap kualitas praktik mengajar siswa di sekolah. Oleh karena itu, makalah ini ditulis untuk memberikan saran-saran terhadap praktik observasi sekolah yang lebih baik. Gagasan ini diharapkan dapat membimbing mahasiswa untuk sampai pada identifikasi kebutuhan nyata akan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris sebagai Bahasa asing untuk persiapan praktik mengajar mereka sehingga kualitas praktik pembelajaran oleh mahasiswa akan meningkat.

**Kata Kunci:** Pengenalan lapangan persekolahan, kultur sekolah, pengamatan langsung, pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris

### INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) is one of the faculties at Nusantara University PGRI Kediri with 6 study programs in it. One of them is the English Education study program where students are prepared to become English teachers with certain qualifications. To obtain these qualifications, students are

required to take teaching practice activities held by the University which is called internship or Pengenalan Lapangan Persekolahan (PLP).

Introduction to the school field for students of teacher training and education faculty of UN PGRI Kediri is an activity where students go directly to several high schools or vocational schools for directly observing the teaching and learning activities and the existing school culture. This observation is conducted in order that students become familiar with the school culture to make them easier to adapt themselves with any activities which relate to their future teaching practice. Through internship students are expected to be sincere, serious, committed, and motivated to develop learners' affective, knowledge and skill aspects on the basis of good attitude and local wisdom for the community. The students should also be able to think logically, critically, systematically, and innovatively in the context of developing or implementing the knowledge and technology by paying attention and applying moral value based on their expertise. Beside that, they should also master the general concepts, principles, and techniques of designing teaching and learning, assessment, and evaluation process of learning outcomes, analyzing, adapting, and developing materials as well as learning media (Fadhillah, 2014). Other important things the students should know is how to give guidance or facilitation and education research.

With all the learning outcomes expected above, the students' internship activities should lead them to reach those learning outcomes. In order that the students get successful result, they are given a chance to do some direct observation on teaching and learning activities and existing school culture. This observation is considered important and has a considerable influence on the development of students' insight as prospective educators. However, many students still need more information or knowledge especially about the practice of teaching and learning process including the teaching preparation. Therefore, it is important to make an evaluation on the students' observation activities to identify the suitability of the observation activities and the students' teaching practice expected competence.

This research is aimed at describing the activities and the result of direct observation so that the suitability of the aspects being observed to the students' need for teaching practice. The result of this research will be useful for redesigning the observation instruments for the further internship program to improve students' competence on teaching practice.

## **METHOD**

This research was conducted by the research at SMAN 1 Kediri located in Jl. Veteran No. 1. SMAN 1 Kediri. The sample is an English teacher and Assisstant Principal of Students Affairs. This observation is a data collection technique carried out through a direct observation, accompanied by notes on the situation or the behavior of the target object. In addition, the author also conducted interviews, with this technique data collection through a questioning process and verbal answer that takes place in one direction, meaning that the question comes from the other party, the interviewer, and the answers are given by the interviewee.

The type of research that the researchers use is qualitative research. This descriptive qualitative research is intended to describe the student's observation activities and the observation result and also the aspects the students need to improve

in words. The data obtained from an observation sheet and interview are analyzed and the researchers begin their result presentation with describing the obtained information from the school observed followed by describing the existence of the information about teaching approaches and techniques used in school, the ways of developing materials, the types of teaching media, and the evaluation process. The descriptive research does not provide treatment or therapy on variables, but rather provide an overview of conditions as they are (Sukmadinata, 2011:73).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reflecting on the results of observations made at SMA Negeri 1 Kediri for two weeks starting on February 1, 2021, until February 14, 2021 the data includes several components, namely:

1. School Culture  
SMA Negeri 1 Kediri has and implements a good culture, it can be seen from the observation that teachers and students have reflected good character.
2. Organizational Structure and Work Procedures (SOTK)  
The organizational structure and work procedures have been implemented and almost meet the criteria in the observation sheet. From these observations, the most prominent are the 35 classrooms and each class is supported by a room that has LCD and AC.
3. Education Management  
The management of education at SMA Negeri 1 Kediri is good, namely in terms of curriculum management, it has been implemented with the given provisions.
4. School Rules and Regulations  
All citizens of SMA Negeri 1 Kediri already have good school rules and regulations. The school tries its best so that all school members can obey the rules and regulations that have been set previously.
5. Ceremonial Activities at School  
Ceremonial activities at SMA Negeri 1 Kediri are very prominent, namely in religious activities, that is the visible nature of tolerance between students and teachers, or teachers and other school employees.
6. Cocurricular activities  
The co-curricular at SMA Negeri 1 Kediri is about tutoring for class XII students who will face the national exam with subject teachers who have been prepared by the school.
7. Extracurricular activities  
Only scouts are mandatory extracurriculars, for other extracurriculars students may choose according to their respective interests and talents.
8. School habits  
Students of SMA Negeri 1 Kediri have positive habituation practices and habits that are exemplary, namely when they meet the teacher, all students greet and smile at the teacher and nod their heads as a form of respect. Another good habit habituation practice, namely, working together with students is done well by students. Students also discuss about the lessons that have been given by the teacher. By holding discussions, students can have the nature of respecting opinions, learning together, discussing together.

From the result of observation above, it is obvious that the information about the teaching practice is not really adequate for students to prepare their teaching practice. In fact the observation conducted during the first part of internship program should be able to dig up clear information concerning with the teaching practice of the observed school. The significance of the information is as a medium of identifying what is already well practiced in the classroom as examples of teaching. Another important thing is that students also must be creative for example implementing new knowledge about teaching strategies, teaching materials, teaching media and so on. This cannot be achieved maximally without having students observed directly in the school to see the real practice.

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of the research obtained, it can be concluded that most of the aspects assessed ranging from school culture to the learning process are good. However, there are still aspects that have not run optimally, for example aspects of punctuality, discipline, learning methods, and the enthusiasm of students themselves in participating in teaching and learning activities. However, the direct observation activities have not covered the students' actual needs sufficiently for the further internship program activities. Thus, the complete and suitable observation activities are still needed for better preparation of students' teaching practice. The future researcher is thus suggested to make deeper observation with completer and more suitable instrument.

The researchers also make several suggestions for the school that have been observed, namely:

1. The learning process must be firm to students so that students have respect for teachers and boundaries between teachers and students.
2. The use of media in learning is more utilized, thus creating a livelier and more fun classroom atmosphere.
3. Teachers must also comply with all the rules and regulations that exist in the school which are expected to be a good example for students.

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