Article

Using Twitter for Students Learning in Now Era

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Abstract

Twitter is a site that offers a social network of micro blogs thus allows users to receive and send messages called tweets. The purpose of this study to examine how social media can influence students in building ideas and motivation for their own learning and to analyse how Twitter effects on knowledge purpose. In this research, the writer uses constructivism theories to know purpose of learning by using Twitter and sample research method to find out how students use Twitter in every aspect of their learning and how effectively this online application for study. After observing this study, the writer can represent using twitter as a media for learning can build the creativity and self-reliance students, also can build their own knowledge.

Keywords : constructivism; social media; twitter

1. Introduction

Twitter is one of social media allows users to send a 140-character on their status update, or "tweets," on their Twitter timeline. Using Twitter is also very easy, new user just need a valid email or active phone number if you want to create an account on Twitter as it has been directed by the system and users have to set up personal profiles. Since its inception in 2006, Twitter has been through rapid growth as a source of news and information that serves as a communicating network. Because of the high of Twitter high popularity, this application to be utilized for various purposes such as a place to protest, politic campaigns, emergency communication media, and as a media for learning. In education purposes, Twitter has benefits for everyone like for sharing knowledge especially for students and teachers. In now days, many schools use Twitter as a learning tool because it is considered as a place where students can take notes on school assignments, and also can share important lessons. By using Twitter, teachers also easier to share links, communicate, and improve communication to their students.

Using Twitter in Education provides a great way of socialization and encourages

students to speak for problems they believe in. Teachers have used Twitter in classrooms
in a variety of studies, in terms of duration, discipline, and activity. That way, twitter,
twitter is one of the best resources for teachers. This aims to give each student an
opportunity to give a voice or opinion, which is interpreted to a higher level of
personalization, learning, engagement [1]. In this quotation shows that Twitter is an
appropriate place for education purpose. Thus many sophisticated new technologies
emerging, teachers like feeling the hassles to face them much less than using social
networking tools to increase student engagement and interest in learning [2].

Either [3] and [4] carried out research using twitter and social media in terms of
higher education in general and make conclusion from analytical results relating to the
education practice using twitter. Teachers or educators are also tries to capitalize on the
students' interest in using technology by putting it into a learning experience that can
motivate the students themselves. Indeed, online tools have gaps or potentially involved
in motivating students [5] to advance and improve the results of their academic activities
[6]; also to improve presence and discipline [7]. *The National School Board Association*
(NSBA) reports, creates and connects: study and guidance on online social-and
educational-Networking [8] explains that students who use social networks almost reside
at 60% talk about online education topics and more than 50% they are talk about school.
Although many things that have been done, more studies need to be managed to find out
how Twitter is giving influence in each students in learning process. In addition, their
social media accounts can connect with phones or computers that are much more
effective and timely (in viewing notifications, etc.) from other education-based
technologies. Denying the popularity of social media and refusing to use social networks
is inappropriate because it is responsible for giving students the best experience of
learning. For this, social media appeals to students. Thus, social media can be used in a
very useful way for education [9]. The writer chose this topic because this topic is very
interesting to discuss with. Twitter is one of the options where is a place for e-learning
process for students which have good features to support in terms of educational
purposes.

The difference between this article and others is the writer share how to create a
twitter account specifically for study and also personally guided by teacher. And the
results of the discussion are taken from the thinking of people who have used Twitter as
their learning tool. So, its according to the experience of users itself. This article analysis
is analyzed by the constructivism theory. [10] states that constructivism is a theory of
learning which posits that students learn by actively constructing their own knowledge. It
explains that constructivism is an approach in which students learn something by
building their own understanding and knowledge. The aims of this study is to explain
about the perceived effects and benefits of students when using Twitter as a learning tool
to build their own understanding and knowledge using the constructivism approach and
theory. As previously mentioned that constructivism theories used to analyse how
students study independently through the online application and also see the development
of students to build their own ideas and motivation to learn. The main focus of
constructivism theory is to include the collaborative nature of learning in the learning

process. Social networking is to involve and to build from the concept of social thinking. Most social media tools are defined as collaboration features such as Facebook, Wikipedia, etc. that make this feature very suitable when we use in cooperative learning environment. Social constructivism can make learners an active participant in building knowledge [11].

The purpose of this study is to analyze how Twitter can affect educational purposes in learning process which is to build motivation for students to learn and take responsibility. Also students have a brief overview of educational gains and experiences in using Twitter and a teacher just as a facilitator where they only help them with their own self-understanding. This topic makes the writer interested because we can see the result of individual's response to the stimulus given because learning with this theory focuses on guiding learners to achieve pre-defined learning outcomes.

2. Methods

Qualitative descriptive method is used to make this study. The data from this study is Twitter users. They are the ones who have been using Twitter as their media for learning. In order to complete this study, there are several steps that can be used as a method of research. The method used in this study are research library and sampling method, then describe them in qualitative method. Library research is a process involving step-by-step use for searching and collecting information or data in the purpose of writing papers, making presentations, or completing projects. By using research library method, the writer tried to collect data various sources and other research references that related to the topic that the writer chosen. In the process of collecting data, there are two sections in collecting it. This method uses to find insights, benefits, and other advantages in the Twitter. In doing so, the authors reading various sources to find out an important point to put in the study. The second is data derived from Twitter users or students who commonly use Twitter as media for learning. In getting the second data, the writer uses the questionnaire or sampling and is given to the Twitter users.

Sampling is the process, action, or technique of selecting the appropriate sample, or a representative portion of the population for the purpose of determining the parameters or characteristics of the entire population. The question also follows the theory used. However, everyone gets the same question in every questionnaire. It will be descriptive-qualitative because there will no be a number in it. This study will explain the effects gained from learning through Twitter and how they build ideas and motivation to learn independently. So, a descriptive-qualitative will be more useful. That is, this research is conducted objectively based on the facts that exist with a significant assessment.

3. Discussions

3.1. What is Twitter? How Do We Use It?

Twitter as one of the various micro blogging portals. Twitter brings together millions of different backgrounds across countries within a platform. Twitter or *typing what I'm*

thinking to everyone reading is certain that any idea that can be removed through finger gestures can provoke a public reaction into a large-scale discussion, from something insignificant to being an important thing. Not only that, Twitter also has a growing feature ranging from the character capacity from 140 to 360, the ability to send images, make polls, live streaming activities, and to give the news portal features presented in one social media platform. Twitter is also used as a media for learning. There are important features in Twitter that can access specific discussion that students need.

The first one is the student can use a feature called hashtag. A hashtag is combination of # and a specified group of words/numbers (for example, #victorianproseclass or #biology101). Hashtags are added to tweets or status updates when someone wants to create tweets that others can search for and look on Twitter. Searching for a specific hashtag will make it easier to access more tweets that have been written for a particular purpose or on a specific topic [12]. The second one is bookmark. This feature is launched to help you keep a variety of interesting tweets you find. This feature can also only be seen privately. So, if there are important tasks or notes that are uploaded by using tweets, users can be saved with that feature and can be see and read at any time.

3.2 Practice in Classroom

In nowadays, high school and college students can quickly understand how to "tweeting", but how to work in using chats "for school " will be quite understandable. Chatting can be performed outside of class time or outside lesson hours, it is important how the rules to use it but also how all students are prepared for discussion with this tool. To get started, show students your professional or personal Twitter account. Allow students to browse other professional Twitter accounts and ask them to find similarities in both (for example, profile/bio information, location, image, or avatar, a tweet from another user). Invite students to look at professional tweets from selected scientists. After discussions about professional accounts, students are given the opportunity to create their own accounts for professional purposes so that they actively follow class activities by using Twitter. To privacy reason, we recommend that students use the abbreviation of their real name and limit the amount of personal information in the bio. Students should also be taught about how to report and block other users whose behaviour is inappropriate.

After students create an account, they are asked to look for a specific topic using a specific hashtag, for example #biology101. Students can see all tweets that have been shared on hashtags. Now, students are required to write a Tweet or new update status. After the Tweet is posted, it will appear on the hashtag within a few minutes. Students will be able to see posts of other students in same hashtag. When students reply to each other's tweets using the specified hashtag, their tweets will appear in the search box. This way gives students an opportunity to see how to use hashtags to communicate with others.

3.3 What's the Importance of Twitter in Education?

In the first twenty centuries, students needed the skills to face the challenges of

emerging new technologies. The cutting-edge features that Twitter gives, can influence in terms of educational purpose. It is important to integrate Twitter as a learning tool based in the curriculum. Twitter-provided features can help teachers and educators design an instructional system in line with the changing needs of the students.

Twitter gives people a lot of information that matters, in areas such as entertainment, business, and educational. Twitter provides what we need. Twitter is also an interesting communicating media, making people easier to learn from through existing technologies. For example, in nowdays, many people share information about *Seleksi Bersama Masuk Perguruan Tinggi Negri* (SBMPTN), discuss the thesis, share many information about how to do a thesis, find out the methods, tutorials for reliable paper sources, grids, and also sharing fellow Twitter users. A base or we can call it an account to share some information on Twitter gives a lot of news also for Twitter users especially those related to education.

3.3.1. Creates a Collaborative Learning

Using Twitter or one of social media as a learning tool creates a collaboration. Basic nature of a social media is to build collaborations between students and teachers or teachers. Most of the theories that support constructivism, which is main focus is that students ' learning is better in their natural social environment and to build their own ideas in study. This can create teachers to form an online learning communities with the purpose of increasing student interactions on social media platforms. Twitter provides features for students to give some feedback on each task, work in the form of groups such as creating content, to ask and make questions, and to open a discussion session. Finally, students learn more actively by interacting with their peers.

In creating collaborative learning, Twitter provides a specific forum, which contains associations of people with same interest, where the users can learn each other from mutual sharing response from shared discussion so as to create a relaxed collaborative learning that utilizes resources and skills of each other (asking for one another's information, evaluating ideas of each other, monitoring the work of each other, etc. Because members of the forum or society can be actively interacting with sharing experiences and taking different roles.

3.3.2. Increase of Student Engagement

Using twitter as a media for learning has the potential to increase student engagement. Student involvement is defined as student involvement in activities and conditions related to high quality [13]. Adequate and appropriate environment and environmental informality make the learning process more interesting and have a new experience in learning which makes them feel fun. They will automatically be more receptive to the material presented or delivered on social networking sites. This use of Twitter gives

teachers the opportunity to reach out to students who are hesitant to become active members in a notated teaching process. Finally, students are more engaged when they are learning on Twitter or they can be more active if they learn using online media.

3.4. The Benefit of Using Twitter in Learning

Twitter is almost used in all aspects of life. Therefore, almost all companies, business accounts, and even artists have Twitter profiles and use them to connect with their audiences. The same goes for education. With Twitter teachers it will be easy to share links, communicate, and develop relationships with others. There are several examples of the benefits of Twitter in the educational process such as sharing videos and pictures, build their own knowledge.

3.4.1. Increase of Student Engagement

A number of social media tools such as Youtube, Facebook, Flicks, podcast can be used to share online media as well as Twitter. As it is known to say: "A picture is worth a thousand words". On Twitter we can share videos and pictures differently with predefined durations that will make the learning experience more vivid and engaging to improve learning mood for students.

3.4.2. Build Their Own Knowledge

Using Twitter in the learning process is very related to the theory of constructivism, where students build their own knowledge independently. It can develop motivation in there, besides they are also asked to find out and ask his own question so that it can build his skills in terms of knowledge. These media give them the opportunity to gain new knowledge in his own way. Teachers only become facilitators or guide them how to use the media.

3.4.3. Dialogues and Discussion

This approach is based on discussion between participants. One of the most important features of a social network is that they encourage users to take part in a discussion. Twitter is one of the places used to open dialogue sessions and the discussion also allows students to place their viewpoints and questions to teachers and students as well. One of the main benefits of this approach is that the media can encourage learners to initiate dialogue or discussion, which makes them more active in social media than with live discussions in the classroom.

3.4.4. Make Easier for Teacher and Student

The benefit of Twitter as a media for learning is that teachers and students quickly get the information without having face to face. Students will feel happy and more interested in learning because they have new experiences in learning or not using conventional media or ways.

4. Conclusions

Big force that affects almost all aspects of human life nowadays is social media. Today's face-to-face mode is less in demand, because everyone prefer to communicate through social media. There are many arguments about social media especially Twitter that appear about the inclusion of such tools into education. Twitter is very helpful in achieving students ' interest in learning, thinking, and having skills independently.

Media learning is a learning and teaching tool. Everything is used to stimulate the mind, feelings, attention and skills or skill of students who can encourage the learning process. Twitter is one of the friendships social networking sites that makes its users meet relationships by registering themselves on the site www.twitter.com. One of the benefits of Twitter's social networking site is anyone and wherever we can connect directly with many people at once can do two-way communication with them.

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