# MICRO LEARNING FOR LEARNING BIOLOGY IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

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#### Abstract

This paper investigates the utilization of micro learning in distance education at Universitas Terbuka. Micro learning is the use of short content material. In distance learning, micro learning includes using material from youtube or powerpoint. In this study, students who take BIOL4219 Genetics course at Department of biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Universitas Terbuka are interviewed with open-ended questions on how and why micro learning are important. The respondents are 5 students who take the course. In this course, they are required to learn youtube video provided by the tutor. The result shows that they like the youtube video.

Keywords: Micro learning, youtube, biology, distance education.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Micro learning is based on limitation of human brain, which can only process information in limited time. A longer learning process will create Pembelajaran mikro didasarkan pada teori bahwa kemampuan otak manusia umumnya akan lebih baik mengingat materi pembelajaran yang diberikan dalam waktu yang singkat. Bila belajar dalam waktu yang lama, akan terjadi kebosanan atau kejenuhan pada mahasiswa.

Components of micro learning are content, time, curriculum, form, process, mediality, and learning type are the dimensions of micro learning (Jomah, et. al, 2014).

A benefit of micro learning is that it helps avoiding stressed out of the brain. Besides, micro learning is fun and more attractive to students (Jomah, et. al., 2014).

Students in distance learning have problems with distraction such as social media and games. they need learning media that makes learning material interesting and easy to learn. Therefore, learning material is provided in short segments. For example, learning material consists of short video in 1-3 minutes duration, one-page infographic, or picture. The benefit of micro learning is that it is short, so that students easy to understand. It contains examples and practices as well. The duration is also short. In addition, it can be produced according to the need (Elise, 2017).

## 2 METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative study. A list of open-ended questions is sent to students who take BIOL4219 Genetics course at department of biology, Faculty of Science and Technology in 2022.

Research question are:

Why micro learning is important.

Why the use of micro learning help students learn better:

What are the obstacles of using micro learning

Research method:

The researchers carry out interview. The questionnaire is based on Jomah et. al. (2014) with some revisions.

### 3 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Learning material uploaded in youtube help students to learn material in the textbook. This finding is in line with Jonah (2014) that micro learning is more interesting.

One respondent pefers learning from youtube since youtube have audio-visual feature, allowing him learn faster compared to reading the textbook. Each individual has different learning style.

For those who are more familiar with audio-visual presentation, the youtube short video is ideal.

The material is easier to access. As everyone has gadget, the youtube video of biology is available to all students. They can access the material anywhere.

Other students can also learn the content.

Students also like additional face to face to understand the material.

A weakness of the youtube is that the sound is not clear enough.

### 4 CONCLUSION

The conclusion is that students need the youtube to learn biology.

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