

TEACHING JOURNALISM IN ENGLISH USING ICT METHOD

Nikodemus Yudho Sulisty

nikodemusoul@gmail.com

Master Degree of Education Student of Tanjung Pura University

Abstract

The rapid growth of Information and Communication Technology nowadays is a big concern. There are many advantages and disadvantages as well in this growth. Journalism as the main aspect of information is also becoming the focus. Journalism is one of the subjects taught in STBA (School of Foreign Language) Pontianak. In this research, the writer is using ICT (Information and Communications Technology) method in teaching the journalism subject. By applying the ICT method, the writer uses Internet and information and communication based technology to teach the basis of journalism. The writer also asks the involvement of the students in the form of citizen journalism. The writer asks the students to write news reports or reviews and upload them in verbumore.wordpress.com. The result intended is that the students should be able to understand the journalism subject and to be involved in the journalism activity.

Keywords: Information and Communications Technology, Journalism, STBA

INTRODUCTION

The use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) continues to grow rapidly in schools nowadays, with increasing numbers of students also having access to a personal computer at home. There are contributions of computers and information technology in a teaching and learning activity. For instance, when students are independently searching for information to complete a project or to solve a problem, they will use computer and Internet.

There are plenty reasons why computer are needed and necessary today. Computers in the classroom have provided learners and their teachers with fast and easy ways of accessing information, communicating electronically with others, and producing high quality written work and graphics. Computers can also deliver instructional programs which cover almost any area of the curriculum and geared to any age or ability level.

Therefore, the role of ICT, is not simply a trend. It provides a real opportunity for teachers of all phases and subjects to rethink fundamental issues on teaching and learning process alongside the approaches in learning that pupils need to apply in classrooms. Computers and Internet should not be seen simply as a means for organizing individual learning activities, but rather as cultural tools for focusing and stimulating intellectual activities in the class. Computers motivate students and hold their attention.

In another side, there is a close connection between ICT and journalism. As we know today, media is as simple as one does his or her fingers on the touch screen. Information, Internet and journalism are three important aspects in the spread of information and news. There are citizen journalism as well, where public does not simply access the information, but also give the information. Therefore, information in the form of journalism is definitely included in the area of ICT.

Journalism has been around since people recognized a need to share information about themselves with others. However, the study of journalism is a more recent phenomenon. There are several reasons why the study of journalism is a worthwhile endeavor for scholars. News shapes the way we see the world, ourselves and each other (Wahl-Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2009). This explanation shows that the journalism during the era has been an important aspect of spreading the information and it changes the world.

Era by era, journalism itself therefore should adapt to technology to survive. Therefore, there is a close connection between journalism and technology (Briggs, 2007). News, which was once difficult and expensive to obtain, today surrounds the public like the air that people breathe. Much of it is literally ambient. It means that the news can easily be displayed on computers, public billboards, trains, aircraft, and mobile phones. Where once news had to be sought out in expensive and scarce news sheets, today it can be found everywhere and very largely free of charge (Hargreaves, 2005, pp. 1-2). The start of digital media means that the core skills for journalists are much more complex today than during the era of the newspapers or the development of journalism schools in the first half of the 20th century (Finberg & Klinger).

Because of the change of technology, there are also big changes in how journalism works. The easy ways in accessing the information and the involvement of the public in the form of citizen journalism makes a big consideration for journalism in shaping their method in collecting and spreading the news. As the result, the values that underpin good journalism, the need of citizens for reliable and abundant information, and the importance of such information for a healthy society and a robust democracy: these are perennial, and provide compass-bearings for anyone trying to make sense of current changes across the media landscape. The standards in the profession are in the process of being set. Most of the effects on journalism imposed by new technology are shaped in the most developed societies, but these changes are equally influencing the media in less developed societies.(Jurrat, 2011).

However, if we are talking about journalism it means talking about rules and ethics (White, 2008). Therefore, there is a need of awareness in opening the public eyes to see the journalism nowadays clearer. In one side, this ethics and rules are necessary for the journalists, in another side this awareness will give public more understanding in how journalism should work.

The history of humans and technology is a long one, going back millions of years to the use of stones as tools and to their fashioning into more efficient devices through skillful flaking. Technology has been used to make life more pleasant and efficient (Headrick, 2009). Technology seeks to find practical ways to use scientific discoveries profitably, ways of turning scientific knowledge into utilitarian processes and devices (McNeil, 2002). In addition, there are some advantages using technology in teaching, Technology offers solutions to a diverse set of instructional problems and instructors augment courses with the Internet and other instructional technologies for a whole host of reasons. Some examples include: large lecture courses managing hundreds of students or dozens of sections, introductory courses providing access to significant amounts of basic materials throughout the semester, courses that shift in-class quizzes to an online format allowing for more class discussion time, or courses and programs using the Internet to reach a nonresident, national, or international audience (*Faculty Guide to Teaching and Learning with Technology*, 2011).

A fundamental aspect of educational communications and technology changes. Television was a new communications technology that influenced learning and instruction 50 years ago. Since then, there have been many other new technologies and innovations in educational communications; however, the general problems for educational researchers have remained relatively constant—for example, how to make effective use of a specific technology in a particular educational context (Spector, Merrill, Merriënboer, & Driscoll, 2008). Among the

factors that contribute to successful teacher learning include collaboration, continued learning, as well as offering ample time and support for reflection. The need for continued learning and reflection by teachers cannot be overemphasized in the new media age, with the preponderance of new technologies. Technology promotes student learning by addressing a variety of learning styles, providing thought provoking challenges, and encouraging higher level thinking. It is therefore imperative that pre-service and in-service teachers acquire the skills necessary to effectively integrate technology in their teaching in a way that would facilitate students' participation in the new global economy (Yamamoto, Kush, Lombard, & Hertzog, 2010). Technology is needed to make a systematic thinking to ensure a successful design for learning (Rogers, 2002).

This research is doing an effort to seek an answer for this notion, where the use of technology of information can benefit both students and lecturers in learning and teaching process. The writer as the lecturer used the technique of teaching using ICT method to teach students of STBA (School of Foreign Language) Pontianak. Journalism itself is also one of the lectures studied in this college. Therefore, the use of ICT method is considered a 'perfect' and matching way in teaching the students the subject.

METHOD

The method used in this research is observation. Observational method is a distinctive feature of observation as a research process is that it offers an investigator the opportunity to gather direct data from naturally occurring social situations and conditions (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2007). Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that observation is a direct research process in making an analysis. Therefore, observation is done by a very careful manner (McIntosh, 2010). Another definition, "An important component in any scientific investigation is observation. In this sense, observation refers to two distinct concepts—being aware of the world around us and making careful measurements. Observations of the world around us often give rise to the questions that are addressed through scientific research" (Marczyk, DeMatteo, & Festinger, 2005, p. 7). This research thus observes through the direct teaching of journalism in the class of STBA (School of Foreign Language) Pontianak.

The respondents of the research are the students of STBA (School of Foreign Language) Pontianak fourth semester in Journalism subject class. There were thirty students in a class. The writer practiced the method in the Tenth meeting out of fourteen meetings in a semester. The topic was "Citizen Journalism" which included social media phenomenon. The focus of the subject was the discussion and examples for posts, shares, news reports and articles. In the teaching and learning process, the writer as the lecturer of the college used Internet as the media. The writer asked the students to go to Youtube as unlimited sources of videos, censored/protected videos where there were plenty of comments and discussions. The writer also asked students to learn and browse the Internet to search articles in the form of news, newspaper/magazine's websites, theories, commentaries, or reviews. These sources later on would be used as the materials for the teaching and learning activities. In the next process, the writer would ask the students to write in a blog prepared by the writer to write news, reports and reviews (books, films, essays) and upload them. In this case, there was also the need of computer software such as *My Ebook Library*, *Google Books Downloader*, *Utorrent*, etc. in order to get the eBook source.

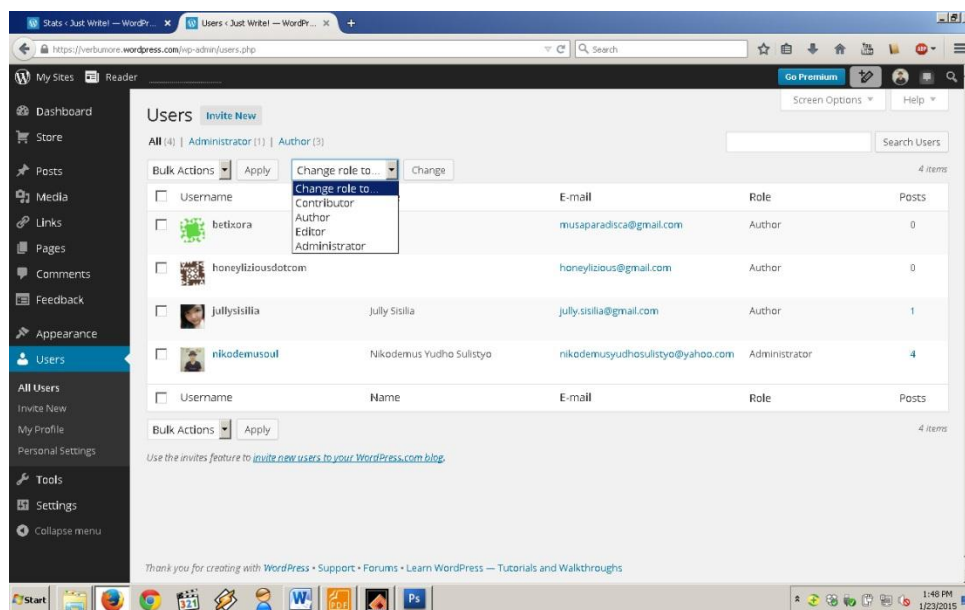
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the first part of the activity, the writer asked students to watch videos, read news articles make discussion. From this initial activity, it can be seen that one of the advantages of the use of technology as stated in the previous theories is to help student in participating in the class activity. At first, the use of computer can hold the students attention and keep them focus. By using computer, student therefore were hoped to be able to use any argument taken from

different sources in the internet. It means they participate actively in the teaching and learning activity. The students therefore would discuss and defend their opinions using the strongest arguments. Another student could also make another argument by criticizing the sources reliability that the other students got.

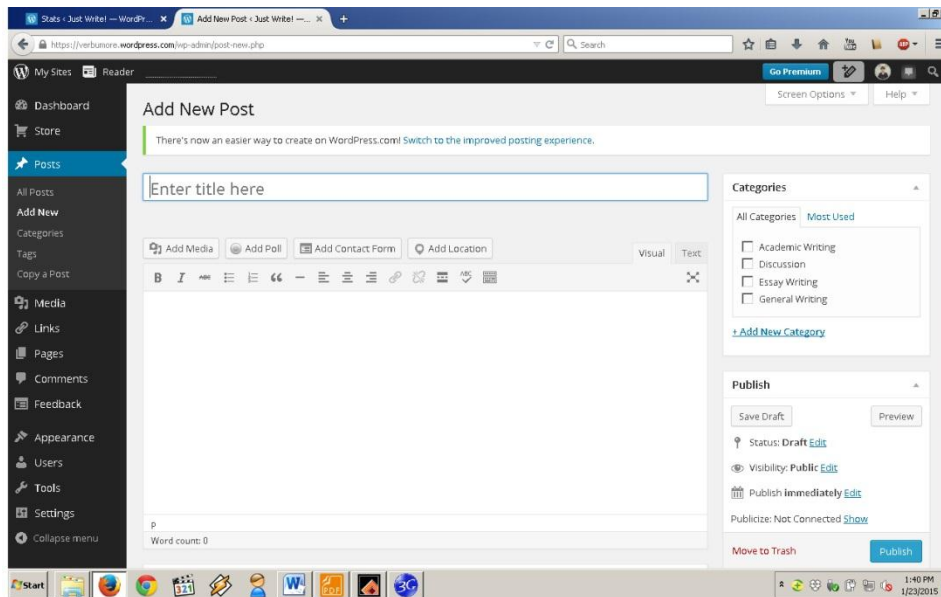
After this initial activity, the students should make presentation about certain topic concerning journalism using technology-based media (projector, computer, Internet). In this case, the technology used make it easier for the students to deliver their presentation in practical way, yet effective, interesting and rich. Students would have to use their own knowledge and techniques to gather the information of how to write a good journalism article. Consequently, students would have to use reliable sources or strengthen their explanations or arguments concerning the sources. Students could use downloadable software freely to support their writing data or information. The easiness of having downloadable materials is also one of the advantages of ICT.

After the second activity, the writer explained the next meeting’s task. The task was that they had to write a news report or a review (a music album or a movie) and upload it to a blog. The blog used was verbumore.wordpress.com. In order to be able to write and upload it, the writer asked for students’ emails. The writer then added them to be the ‘author’ role in verbumore.wordpress.com.

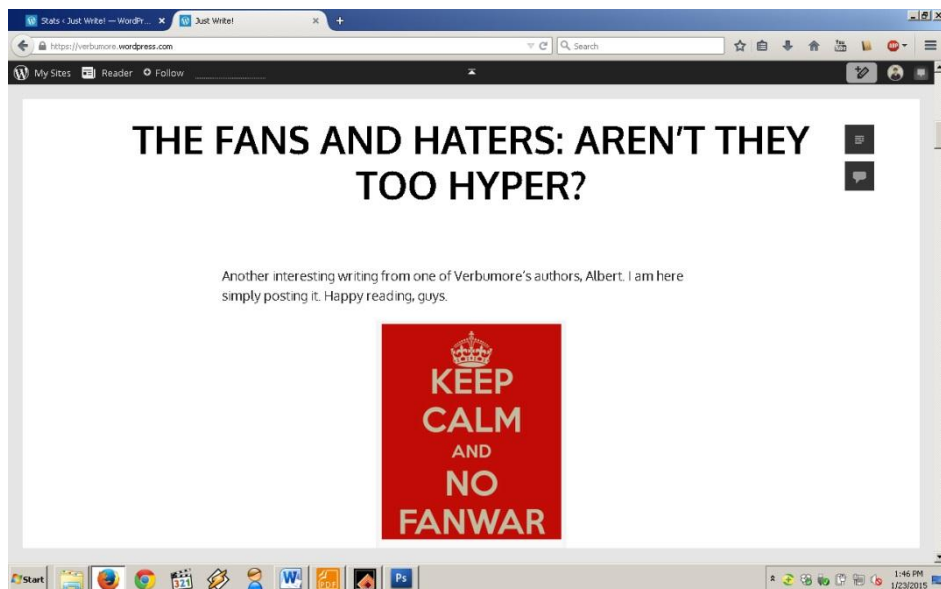


Picture 1. The display of Users in the admin page

In this role, they had the ability to write, edit and upload the writings themselves. The writer therefore asked them to be the citizen journalists by writing articles of news reports or reviews. Students may also add links, pictures or videos in their articles in verbumore.com.



Picture 2. The display of *Post* page



Picture 3. The display of one of the students' writing on the blog page

The result of the meeting was satisfying. The students wrote the articles, news reports or reviews according to their interests. They practiced the ethics of writing and finding reliable and valid sources from the Internet. Their modern understanding of social media and Internet also benefitted them in finding great or unique themes and topics. The students were also proud of having their writings on the Internet. Only in a short term, they posted their writing in their social media websites. They shared the writing on Facebook's walls or Twitter. It can be said that the students were motivated in writing the task and also had the chance in developing their ability in writing English essays using ICT method.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the ICT method was appropriate to be used in teaching journalism subject and materials. The students were able to directly practice the ICT. The information and communication technology was obviously used appropriately in journalism teaching and learning process. The students were having fun as well in doing the activities.

CONCLUSION

The growth of information and communication technology nowadays is a great concern for people. This growth gives the spread of information a big challenge. Journalism therefore faces the encounter, journalists' ethics and freedom of speech. The importance of journalism subject is at a must position. The use of ICT method in teaching the students of STBA (School of Foreign Language) Pontianak therefore is considered appropriate. The students were asked to write articles, news reports or reviews uploaded on the Internet. Their writings were uploaded on verbumore.wordpress.com after having discussion and learning process using ICT method. The result of the activities can be found that students were active and had fun in doing the activities. They were also confident in writing and uploading their writings. The most important one was that the students of STBA understood the main form of journalism and the purpose of the journalism subject.

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