Student Perceptions of Blended Learning in Character Building Courses in Higher Education

Agus Masrukhin

Character Building Development Center, Information Systems Department,
School of Information Systems
Bina Nusantara University
Jakarta, Indonesia 11480
agus@binus.ac.id

Abstract

Technological advances have an impact on changing the learning system with Blended learning with the consequences of diverse student perceptions. This paper aims to map students' perceptions of blended learning in the Character-Building course and analyze how the Binusmaya LMS supports the success of blended learning at Bina Nusanatara University. The data was obtained from online articles and then confirmed by several students as informants in this paper. Informants were limited to a few students who had studied several semesters using the blended learning method and were randomly appointed from various majors. In collecting data, the interview guide instrument was used to formulate questions. Open-ended questions include three things: First, data related to the effectiveness of learning with blended learning. second, satisfaction with LMS Binumaya. Third, the success factor of the blended learning system. This study found three types of perceptions: First, in general, students were satisfied with the Binusmaya LMS as a supporter of the blended learning method. Second, a small number of them were dissatisfied with the LMS due to some technical issues, and third, the students felt quite effective and satisfied but needed improvement in the performance of the Binusmaya LMS. Thus, it is necessary to improve so that the perception of students is happier with the blended learning method.

Keywords
Blended learning, student perception, LMS Binusmaya, Character Building Course

1. Introduction
The monotonous learning method in lectures has made the quality of student learning decrease. This is because many factors include face-to-face routines in class, unattractive teaching methods by lecturers, and textual material. Study schedule that drains time and energy. The distance between the college and the place of residence. In addition to the above factors, technology demands to develop new teaching methods so that students do not feel bored. This coincides with the rapid advancement of information technology. Universities try to meet the demands of the problem. Binus as a university is one of the campuses that conducts learning methods by integrating online technology. Since 2010 Binus University already has a face-to-face learning curriculum that is not full. Of the total 16 face-to-face meetings, there are 3 meetings whose teaching is done through online Binusmaya. It is interesting to analyze whether the development of blended learning methods (Chaeruman, 2019) is more effective and whether the factors that support the success of this learning are.

Unfortunately, the existing studies tend to largely ignore the importance of opinions about the relationship between students and campus facilities. Most of the existing studies discuss the factors, models and quality of blended learning (Setiawan & Aden, 2020) , (Putri et al., 2019) , (Chaeruman, 2019) . Only a few studies that discuss student perceptions show that blended learning is very attractive to students (Wiharja et al., 2020) . From the results of existing studies regarding student perceptions regarding online methods, it turns out that not all students are happy, even some feel difficulties and objections, some of them prefer to study with text books (Wiharja et al., 2020) . In addition, the blended learning method that the researchers found only discussed Indonesian language material. This is certainly an opportunity for the researchers of this article to discuss in the context of character-building material.

This paper aims to complement the existing studies by focusing on three things: First, to explain how the perception of blended learning. Second, mapping the pattern of student expectations for blended learning. Third, to analyze how the Binusmaya application supports student learning. The basic argument used in this paper is that the perception of satisfaction answers given by students reflects the quality of Binusmaya facilities as learning facilities and other supporting facilities on the Binus University campus. In other words, student satisfaction can support the success of academic achievement and the growth of the number of students. However, progress in the implementation of internet technology can also affect student behavior or attitudes, this is a challenge for the following researchers.

2. Literature Review

Research shows a mixed approach to learning may provide an optimal environment to increase student engagement in successful learning (Oktriono, 2017) . This makes students not easily bored because there are variations in learning either face-to-face or online. When there is an obligation by the government that all students must study online, Binus University a few years before the widespread use of online media, Binus was already running an online class program or Binus online learning (BOL). Online learning or e-learning requires quite a lot of learning tools in the form of hardware and software. One of the required distance learning software is the Learning Management System (LMS) (Setiawan & Aden, 2020) ; (Sari et al., 2018) . LMS is a set of web-based systems that allow instructors/lecturers and/or students to share materials, submit and complete assignments, and communicate with each other online. LMS Binus Online Learning (BOL) is currently quite good and interesting.

Along with technological advances such as online zoom media and google meetings, Binus has also developed a renewable LMS with a renewable platform, namely newbinusmaya where this LMS is able to accommodate regular students and online students with a very large capacity, capable of loading all learning activities and transactions of up to tens of thousands of students. This is proof that Binus is always one step ahead in the field of learning technology and continues to develop to improve learning outcomes. However, the use of online media is not better than face-to-face learning. However, the face-to-face method is better than online, especially as courses that are in practice and behavior. For example, in the character-building course for the BOL class program, lecturers are not able to monitor and objectively assess their behavior directly. There are also many problems with being absent in online learning, either because of camera problems or internet errors. Of course, this is a tricky part in finding a solution.

Blended learning is generally understood as a learning process that combines face-to-face and online learning (Chaeruman, 2019) . Some of the advantages of online learning include saving tuition fees, especially from transportation and accommodation to boarding houses, time efficiency and flexibility, ease of collecting assignments, and transparency of grades even though the assessment component is different from regular classes. So, this is suitable for students from the office world who have limited time to study.

3. Method

Written data were obtained from online articles and then confirmed by several students as informants in this paper. Data from online journals were deliberately selected based on topics that met the criteria for the focus of research concerning the implementation of blended learning in universities. Student perceptions include satisfaction with campus methods and services, in other words, the main factors for the success of blended learning will be known. Informants were limited to a few students who had studied several semesters using the blended learning method and were randomly assigned from various majors. In collecting data, the interview guide instrument was used to formulate questions. Open-ended questions include three things: First, data related to the effectiveness of learning with blended learning. second, satisfaction with the binumaya application. Third, the success factor of the blended learning system. Questions made by *chatting via Whatsapp* (WA). At the same time, probing is carried out to get clear and in-depth answers. online articles and interview data were classified and mapped thematically to clarify student answers. In addition, the data is also compiled by considering sufficient and correct aspects. Data were analyzed in three stages: data restatement, description, and interpretation. The presentation is done by referring to the data obtained from the informants based on the answers to the questions. Data sourced from informants becomes a reciprocal comparison of data sourced from initial findings for confirmation. The three stages of analysis become the basis for concluding the research.

4. Result and Discussion

This study reveals that the blended learning method has been interpreted in various ways by Binus University students from various backgrounds. There are five question formulations consisting of effectiveness, satisfaction, and success

factors for blended learning: (1) Do you feel the effectiveness of learning with blended learning? (2) Are you satisfied with LMS Binumaya? (3) Is the blended learning system more interesting than regular lectures? (4) What factors will determine the success of the blended learning system, lecturers, materials, Binusmaya? Various student answers are summarized and mapped as presented in Table 1- 3 below:

Table 1. The Effectiveness of the blended learning method

Category Effectiveness of Blended Learning method	Student answers	Informants from students
Effective in the context of its flexibility	If the effectiveness in question is in the context of flexibility, of course yes, but if the effectiveness in question has a context, namely regarding understanding the material for me personally it has been effective but, the possibility for this to be developed further is still very possible to increase the effectiveness mentioned above.	Vincent
Effective	But for the things of implementing formulas etc. need explanation via zoom/ vicon in more detail along with examples.	Mimien Hermin
Effective enough	Because it makes it easier for us to learn more easily (can learn anywhere)	Arelia
Effective	Because if I use this method, I can focus on ongoing learning because basically it can combine various conventional learning models with online learning. That way, the benefits that I feel with this method are more motivated to be able to carry out learning activities independently and be responsible for completing their learning.	Elsa Anendhita
Satisfied enough	It's quite satisfied, but for the vicon and active discussion there must be more time.	Florence
Effective	The effectiveness of learning by using blender learning from various sources and various ways of learning in my opinion has shown the maximum level of effectiveness. This can be seen from each student's understanding of the courses taught at Binus University.	Rio

Table 2. Binusmaya LMS satisfaction

Binusmaya LMS Satisfaction Category	Student Answer	Informants from students
Not satisfied	The Binusmaya application still has many small bugs that reduce the QOL (Quality Of Life) of the application, and for mobile application standards in 2022, Binusmaya mobile can be classified as one that is quite slow in processing data and so on, as well as one of the criticisms. My opinion towards binusmaya is that one of BINUS' decisions to stop and make "binusmaya myclass" no longer accessible at all so that we as students cannot pre-join the class and have to open binusmobile->open schedule->copy link->paste to PC- >just a prejoin class, it really destroys the QOL feature that I as a student often use.	Vincent
Satisfied	For people who are already working, entrepreneurs, many online learning activities are more interesting because they can manage their time	Mimien Hermin
Satisfied	Because this app displays lecturer ppt, articles, class schedules. I think the blended learning system is interesting, but it will be more effective if the lecture system is face-to-face.	Arelia
Satisfied	Because the Binusmaya application is very informative about what I need. With the blended learning method, I will be interested because it can combine 2 components, so I will be able to feel both because basically with the existence of technology it becomes a part of everyday life. Using	Elsa Anendhita

	technology when studying will make me or other students more involved in learning activities.	
Quite satisfied	But binusmaya often has errors and is not connected to the LMS, more interesting because the time is not tied.	Florence
Satisfied	I am personally satisfied with the use of the Binusmaya application. This is due to the ease of accessing all information about lectures at Bina Nusantara University so that students find it easy to get information. The blended learning system will be more interesting than ordinary lectures due to a non-monotonous learning system so that students who get the material in lectures do not get bored and receive the material well.	Rio

Table 3: Factors that determine the success of the blended learning method

The category of success factors for the blended learning method	Student Answer	Informants from students
Relatively	For blended learning, the QOL is clear, for relative lecturers, the typical teaching of the best lecturers in the world fits very well but not for my friends. For the material, it is clear the method of delivery and who the lecturer conveys the material, what packaging and what spices are given by the dose in delivering a material. For Binusmaya, what is clear is the loading time, the quality of the website, the quality of the server, the number of errors that appear suddenly.	Vincent
Relatively	How do Lecturers use their time at Vicon because time is limited, especially for those like answer number 1. above, maybe an additional zoom outside the vicon for those who need guidance. The material should also be given in an easy-to-understand manner. User-friendly Binusmaya	Mimien Hermin
Discipline	The most determining factor for success is punctuality and discipline	Arelia
Student	In my opinion, the most decisive thing is student involvement. Why is that? because if students are not involved in the system, the learning that will be given later becomes very ineffective and does not increase their knowledge because of a lack of interest in the system.	Elsa Anendhita
Student	The main factor from yourself, if you don't try, it's a bit less successful but all of them are interconnected.	Florence
Relatively	Each factor has its own role to be able to realize effective and efficient lectures at Bina Nusantara University. This is because each factor is interconnected and has the same goal, namely, to realize good lectures.	Rio

This study shows that blended learning occurs due to technological advances and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which causes the perception that some universities and students are not ready to implement the system. Various prerequisites for responding quickly to urgent situations that require blended learning courses are not immediately fulfilled by campuses and students. In addition to inadequate university infrastructure, there is a perception of dissatisfaction with student resources that are not yet ready, making it not conducive for some campuses. So, the weaknesses of various sectors have made the implementation of blended learning not optimal for some campuses.

Reproduced perceptions require an action plan at two levels, in addition to anticipating unfavorable perceptions, also assisting campuses and students in improving the quality of using new technologies in blended learning. So far, campuses and students are passive, so they feel that blended learning models are less than optimal compared to regular lectures with conventional models. To overcome bad perceptions, it is necessary for campuses and students to conduct intense training related to blended learning methods. Learning and how the perception will be good really need to formulate a plan for mastering the latest technology in depth.

1. Conclusion

The findings of this study (contrary to previous results) indicate that student satisfaction with the blended learning method supported by LMS Binusmaya in learning Character Building is quite diverse. Most students are quite satisfied with the LMS Binusmaya and feel the method is more effective in the learning process. On the other hand, for a small number of students, they are dissatisfied with the Binusmaya LMS for various reasons, including the Binusmaya application still has many small bugs that reduce the QOL (Quality of Life) of the application, and for the standard mobile application in 2022, Binusmaya mobile can be classified as one that is quite slow in processing data and so on. Thus, one thing that needs to be improved is the optimization of LMS performance in processing data from all business learning activities where the number of students is very large. With this, the quality of the blended learning LMS is very important for the effectiveness of the blended learning method in supporting student academic success.

Analysis of student satisfaction perceptions has made two important findings possible. First, the perception of satisfaction with the blended learning method is dynamic and diverse, which shows that even though it has been carefully prepared, there are still obstacles in practice and of course many of these constraint factors, both from the ability of students to use the LMS and can also from external factors that affect the learning process. technically possible. Second, this research also provides a new perspective on the renewal and development of blended learning methods with new technologies, especially related to the Binusmaya LMS.

This research is limited to articles and information from social media (whatsapp) for several students, both regular students and Binus online learning (BOL) students. For a more comprehensive or in-depth understanding, further studies are needed which focus more on larger students and in a longer research period based on more complete research variables.

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Biography

Agus Masrukhin is a senior lecturer in the field of religion and character building at Bina Nusantara University, earning a doctorate at Padjadjaran University 2020 in the field of religious culture studies. annually following research from internal and external grants. He has published journals and international conference papers. until now, he is still participating in intensive Scopus indexed journal writing training which is fostered by Prof. Irwan Abdullah from UGM. His research interests include the fields of religion and character building in social sciences.