

EDMODO AS A MEDIA TO TEACH VOCABULARY

Sutrisno Sadjie Evenddy
Faculty of Education, UNTIRTA
ssadjievenddy@gmail.com

Welliam Hamer
Faculty of Education, UNTIRTA

Abstract

This article aims at introducing how to use Edmodo to teach vocabulary. Vocabulary is a component of English language. When we are speaking and writing, we need to master vocabulary related to certain topic. Therefore vocabulary is important thing in learning language. But, mastering English vocabularies is not easy. Teacher needs a media to make an interesting teaching-learning process. One of the most accepted trends in the field of teaching vocabulary in a foreign language teaching is Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). CALL has several applications that can be used by the teachers in teaching vocabulary. Computer and mobile telephone internet allow immediate connection to a server. In the internet browser the teachers and students can browse Edmodo. One of media is Edmodo. Edmodo is one of social media which can be operated by students, teachers or lecturers, and parents. It is able to be used to post various assignments and students' learning achievement, actual discussion topics, video, appointments, and to facilitate students' polls which are related to teaching learning process.

Keywords: *edmodo, media, teaching vocabulary*

INTRODUCTION

Teaching vocabulary needs media which are appropriate to be applied depending on the students' age, characteristics, need, and interest. Learners will understand what the teacher says if they know about meaning of the vocabulary itself. However, the learners still get confused to learn English vocabulary. Based on writers' experiences, it was difficult for learners to understand what the teacher says in the class. They had limited vocabulary to comprehend the meaning of the text. They did not know the context of words used in text. They could not recognize the meaning of each word, they could not compose their writing task successfully, and they got difficulties to communicate in English. In this situation, the students seem not interested in learning English vocabulary that can make them confused. Therefore, a media is needed to motivate the students in learning English vocabulary so that the students enjoy the lesson and finally they are interested in learning vocabulary. By using media such as computer, laptop, hand phone, and I-pod, teacher can stimulate the students' motivation in teaching-learning process.

One of the most accepted trends in the field of teaching vocabulary in a foreign language teaching is Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). CALL has several applications that can be used by the teachers in teaching vocabulary. It is supported by Beatty (2010). She states that there are eight generic CALL applications. One of them is mobile telephone. Mobile telephone is one technology that has started to attract particular attention from educators. Both

Computer and mobile telephone internet allow immediate connection to a server. In the internet browser the teachers and students can browse Edmodo. Edmodo is the private social learning platform for teachers and learners. In Edmodo the teachers can create the private group to share ideas, files, events, and assignments in a virtual setting. It is supported by Ulmer (2013) cited in Janpho (2014). He assumed Edmodo uses include posting assignment creating polls for student response, embedding video clips, create learning groups, post a quiz for students to take, and create a calendar of events and assignment. This media can be used as a tool to develop students' vocabulary competence.

Edmodo

According to Mevenez (2010), Edmodo is a free site similar to twitter or facebook, created for educational purposes. With Edmodo, it is possible to create the group of students where the teachers can monitor messages. It is strengthened by Edsurge (2013) cited in Komara (2014: 1016). He said that Edmodo is a social network for students, teachers, parents, and schools. It can be used to share assignments and grades, host discussions and post videos, schedule appointments, and create and take polls". It means that Edmodo is one of social media which can be operated by students, teachers or lecturers, and parents. It is able to be used to post various assignments and students' learning achievement, actual discussion topics, video, appointments, and to facilitate students' polls which are related to teaching learning process. According to Contee (2012), he added Edmodo gives teacher access to a variety of wonderful features that make a teacher's day runs smoothly.

Furthermore, Cauley (2012) states that there are some features available on Edmodo that can be used by the teachers:

1. The Creation of Polls: Maximize teachers' understanding of the students' thoughts and opinions through the creation of anonymous polls.
2. The Assignment Feature: Give a writing assignment online. Teacher makes the post the question online, they answer online, teacher grades it online.
3. The Calendar: Post important dates on the class calendar. The due dates and a short description of all assignments post to the teacher's calendar automatically.
4. The Message Feature: Forget to say something in the class before the bell rang? Post a note to the whole class, or send a private note to a single student. The students can post notes to help each other in an online setting where teacher can moderate.
5. The Alert Feature: A lot like a note except in a bold, large font. Need to remind students clearly that they only have two more days to turn in their research paper. Send an Alert!
6. The Grade book: Students can access the grades they have received on an Edmodo

assignment at any time. All of the activities in the class are posted into the teacher's grade book, which totals all points earned through Edmodo assignments. The teacher can print out every grade as a spreadsheet to be included with teacher's grade book.

7. The Library: Both teachers and students can post multimedia to the teacher's Edmodo Library. Every file uploaded in any assignment is stored for the class here.
8. Teacher Collaboration: The teachers can talk and share documents and multimedia with any teacher that is already using Edmodo.
9. Parent Communication: By distributing a code that is unique to their child, a parent can track their student's assignments, grades, due dates, and read any dialogue between the student and the teacher.

From the explanation above, the writers conclude that Edmodo is a facility for the teachers to make their teaching-learning process more interesting. By using Edmodo's features the teacher can give assignments, quizzes, share the materials, and give feedback for students' work directly. Therefore, social media is not only as the place to share the opinions but also it can be useful in teaching-learning process. The students can access their work in and/or out of the class easily. Besides, by the interesting learning the students will get more understanding what they have learned, because they learn enjoyably. In other words, Edmodo gives benefits for teachers to organize quality resources for students.

Vocabulary

Language consists of words. According to Thorbury (2002: 255), vocabulary is core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read, and write. It is strengthened by Tambun (2014). He added vocabulary is one of the important elements in language. It means that students' vocabulary is generally considered as an important part, both in the process of language learning or developing their abilities in language. Not only knowing the vocabulary for having good skills but also understanding the meaning of vocabulary should be mastered by a person. It is supported by Hackman (2008: 3). He said that vocabulary is more than a list of words, although the size of one's vocabulary matters, that is know how to use it which matters most. Vocabulary is not only about remembering a list of words but also knowing the whole meaning and how to use it.

From the definition above, the writers conclude that vocabulary is the first thing that people should learn. Besides, knowing the whole meaning of words also make them easier to read, listen, write, speak, and listen. From vocabulary, they will be organized and arranged by grammatical, it will create a good sentence.

How to Use Edmodo

In this session, the writers explain the steps of using Edmodo. According to Thompson (2013), these are steps to create Edmodo's account. It is supported by Cauley (2012). He added the steps to use Edmodo as follows:

1) Teacher Sign Up

The first is Browse to <http://susd.edmodo.com>. At the homepage, simply click I'm a Teacher and a new dialogue box will open up. Simply fill out that information based on teachers' identity and click Sign up. Once teachers sign-up form is submitted never have to click 'I'm a Teacher' again at the Edmodo portal. The teachers just login and go. The second step is creating a class or group. In the groups block on the left sidebar, click 'create'. Then, enter or select the group information make it descriptive to include teacher's name, subject, and class period. When the Group is created, the system will generate a group code. This is what the teacher will issue to students for enrollment into the group. The third step is the teacher share group code to their students. Then, the students should be created their Edmodo's account and join the group with that code.

2) Students Sign Up

First, the students have to go to www.edmodo.com and click on I'm a Student. They will need the Group Code you received when you signed up. The students will see the box of identity. Please note that e-mail is optional and the students will not receive any junk mail or e-mail from Edmodo (unless they set up e-mail notifications). Fill the group code with the code of the teacher had given before. If students are already signed up and using Edmodo. They do not need to join the group again. After they sign into Edmodo, they have joined in the group directly. So, the teachers can more explore in Edmodo after all the students have already joined the group. The teachers can make another activities in Edmodo based on the teacher's plan and the students wants.

3) Basic Posting

Now the groups are created, let's take a look at some of the basic features that Edmodo has to offer. Most are obvious and straight forward, and nearly all of them are meant to help increase communication and make the class a better place. This is the main feature of what makes Edmodo great. The teachers and the students can post and respond to other posts easily and in real time. It is very easy to do and very helpful. Let's take a look at the Comment Box found at the top of Edmodo's homepage. It is pretty easy to see what you

need to do. Type the message in the larger blank box. Then where it says Send to type in which group or person (people) that members want to send the message. The last is Click Send and done!

4) *Posting Alert*

Alerts are used to send important messages to people or groups. It is done the same way but will appear in larger font and in bold. It will also show up in the Notifications. To create an Alert, just click on Alert at the top of the Comment Box and the rest is the same as creating a note. The members only have 140 characters to type what they will share. It purposes to remind the students that they only have two or more days to turn in their assignments or quizzes.

5) *Posting Polls*

The teachers can create questions related to the material taught with multiple choices and the students in the group vote on it. Click on Poll at the top of the Comment Bubble to get started. Then write the question and the different choices. At first the teachers only have two choices, but the teachers can add plenty more (I've added up to nine before). Pick the group that the teachers want to send it to and click Send. Finally, the teachers will see the result in percentage from the students' vote or answer. It purposes to know how far the students' understand about the material that they have learned.

6) *Working with Assignments*

Like writing a Note, Alert, or Poll Question, creating an Assignment is very easy. Click on Assignment in the top bar. Then filling in the necessary fields is self-explanatory. What is great about creating an assignment in Edmodo is the teachers can attach just about any type of file that teachers' want to the assignment. The teachers can add as many files as you want to an assignment but the teachers must add them individually. In other words you cannot select ten files and upload them simultaneously. Send it to the appropriate group(s) and done.

7) *Creating a Quiz*

Edmodo offers a way to create and give online quizzes. Just like an assignment, once the teachers create a quiz, it is saved and the teachers can give it again at a later date. So let's get started on making a quiz. First the teachers click on quiz. It will ask the teachers if they want to create a quiz or load a previously created quiz. If the teachers chose create a quiz,

they have to choose one of the types of quiz. Then select a type of question and create it a new page. Here the teachers have a lot of options like how many points each question is worth and will there be a time limit. Obviously you must type the question and the choices. They can add as many responses as they want to the question, but the teachers can only have one correct answer. A really nice feature is that the teachers can load a file (image, file, etc.) to the question. They can upload them to the teachers' library and then insert them into the quiz. They can also add a link to a webpage as well.

8) *Assigning Quiz*

To assign the quiz just select assign quiz in the right hand column. Once the teachers do this it will take them back to their Edmodo home page. At the top the quiz will be loaded in and waiting for they to assign to the appropriate group(s), give it a date that it will be taken by and they have the option to add the quiz score to grade book.

9) *Taking the Quiz*

When a student will take the test or quiz on their Edmodo homepage. All they need to do is click take quiz. When click on that, Edmodo will take them to a new page that gives them information about the quiz. When the student is ready they simply click start quiz and they're off.

10) *Grades*

The Grade feature is something Edmodo has been working hard on. It is quick, easy to look at, and easy to get there. The teachers have to do is click on grades at the top of the page. A drop down menu will appear and the teachers pick the class that they wish to view. Once that is done, they can quickly see who has turned in what, what the results are, their total percentages (the teachers can weight grades in Edmodo), or if it still needs to be graded. From this view, the teachers can do many things. If the teachers click the assignment name at the top, they can view the average or view the assignment or quickly input grades for assignments.

11) *Calendar and Library*

The calendar is very versatile. Every assignment you post on Edmodo will automatically be added to the calendar and the calendar of each student in that group. To add an event, just click on a date, type in the description, and then click on which group(s) or person (people) you would like to send it to. Upcoming events will show up in the

Notifications as well as the calendar to help the teachers and their students keep up with everything that is going on. If the teachers want to move an item, simply click and drag it to the new date. Even if it is an assignment, the due date will automatically be updated as well. Students can also add their own events to their own calendar. Only they will see the events though.

The library can be a handy tool. Every file (document, picture, video, hyperlink, etc.) that gets uploaded on Edmodo will end up in the library. There is no limit to how many files can be added to the library. To add something to the library, the members can attach it to a regular post or click on add to library in the Library window.

12) Feeds

Clicking on the Feeds option will allow the members to add an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds to your group. So, if the members follow: itbabbie.com. They can add all their new articles to your group. That way when there is new post, it will show up in Edmodo for all to enjoy.

Teaching Using Edmodo

According to Yusop (2011), many social networking tools such as facebook, twitter and Edmodo are built with micro-blogging technology. Micro-blogging is simply the activity of blogging but within smaller size. It means that people can use the social media such as Edmodo, facebook, and twitter to communicate with other person in everywhere easily. In teaching-learning process, it also can be useful tool to deliver materials although in out of the class. It is strengthened by Turkmen (2012) in Belle (2013). He concludes that combining the internet social networking like Edmodo with the curriculum helps the students learning vocabulary a second language in various ways, including increasing participation and motivation. It is supported by Arroyo (2011) cited in Al-Khatiri (2015: 191). He sees Edmodo as an excellent communication tool for knowledge construction based on social networking and collaboration providing a more secure learning platform for students and teachers. Through Edmodo, a great amount of authentic material, which is readily applicable, and free, can be used for language skills.

The students can use mobile phones to browse Edmodo for learning vocabulary, which creates more opportunities for helping their language skills and encourages them to actively participate in learning. Edmodo also can be used to facilitate vocabulary instruction, which research shows, has resulted in teachers' and learners' positive attitudes towards social media. It is supported by Enriquez (2014). Based on the result of his research, Edmodo is indeed a great

platform as a supplementary tool for learning because of its features and benefits such as active participation in online class activities, easy to use features in submitting online tasks, easy to access reference materials and increase of student motivation because of online activities and discussions.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Edmodo is a media that can be used by teachers when teaching vocabulary. Edmodo is easily installed on computers, laptops and android. There are benefits by using Edmodo. They are easy to use features in submitting online tasks, easy to access reference materials and increase of students' motivation because of online activities and discussions. But there are some things teacher should consider in applying Edmodo. Firstly, when teaching, teacher must ensure the availability of internet connection. Secondly, the number of computers should correspond with the number of students in the class.

REFERENCES

- Al-Kathiri, F. (2015). *Beyond the Classroom Walls: Edmodo in Saudi Secondary School EFL Instruction, Attitudes and Challenges*. Canadian Center of Science and Education.
- Beatty, K. (2010). *Teaching and Researching Computer-Assisted Language Learning*. Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited.
- Belle, M. B. (2013). *The Use of Internet-Based Social Media as a Tool in Enhancing Student's Learning in Biological Science*. Higher Learning Research Communication.
- Cauley, P. (2012). *A guide to explain it all*. IT Babble.com.
- Contee, M. (2012). *Edmodo*. Technology Spotlight, 2-6.
- Hackman, S. (2008). *Teaching Effective Vocabulary*. Department for Children, Schools and Families.
- Janpho, J. (2014). *Enhancing English Writing Skill by Using Online Social Network Edmodo*. Journal of Education. Mahasarakham University.
- Komara, J. M. (2014). *Motivating Students through EDMODO (A Blended Learning in Grammar Class)*. International Conference, 10-16.
- Mevenez, A. M. (2010). *Web tools applied to teaching*. Befunky.com.
- Tambun, R. A. (2014). *The Influence of Using Crosswords Puzzle towards Students' Vocabulary Mastery*. The Second International Conference on Education (ICEL).
- Thompson, H. (2013). *The Edmodo Quick Start Guide*.
- Thorbury, S. (2002). *How to Teach Vocabulary*. England: Pearson Education Limited.

Yusop, C. Y. (2011). Potential Use of Social Networking Tool to Assist Reading Comprehension: Implications for Practice and Future Research. *Jurnal Pendidikan*.