

## Outdoor Activity: Fun Learning to Build Creative Thinking

Nur Rokhmah Fitriyati<sup>1</sup>, Nur Himah<sup>2</sup>, Rosi Rohadi<sup>3</sup>

English Department, Tidar University, Magelang, Indonesia

nurrokhmahfi@gmail.com<sup>1</sup>; himahnur1@gmail.com<sup>2</sup>;  
rosirohadi@gmail.com<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

Becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> century English learners, it requires complexity of skills. The very big number of students who are different each other, does influence the way they are thinking. That difference may build a good creative thinking skills. The teachers as the facilitators should provide the most appropriate way on guiding their skill so that it can develop well. In this study, the researchers propose a fun strategy of learning to support their creative thinking that is outdoor class activity. It provides free space and different atmosphere for students during the learning process, so the students can explore and learn many things from the environment. This study aims to get the students and teachers' perspective about the influence of outdoor class to develop creative thinking. Through qualitative way, the data from questionnaire were analyzed. There are 20 participants who are from English Department in Tidar University, consists of students and teachers. Most of them gave the positive opinion about outdoor class activity. It can be concluded that outdoor activity gives good impact in teaching process in order to increase students' creativity. The benefits will go to both teachers and students in developing the creative thinking skill.

*Keywords: outdoor class, creative thinking, 21st century*

### 1. Introduction

In this era, thinking skill and creativity becomes important thing especially in education. However, some students have problem in their thinking skill since each student have their own characteristic that effected their thinking. Sometimes, the learners cannot solve their problem when they study in classroom. They also cannot understand about the material that given by teacher. Moreover, the learners will be confuse how to explore their mind and their creativity when they are in a new environment and face a new situation of the environment. Based on Elif journal (Oncu, 2016), creative thinking includes problem solving, generate and producing ideas. Therefore, the learners in 21st century should be more creative not only in learning process but also in facing the social issue. Nowadays,

this world need people who have the opportunities to develop and express their creativity, solving problem, and communicate effectively with the others especially when they are in the different environment (Kiewra, 2016). Furthermore, 21st century learning requires the students' active learning, so the student should be more active and creative in every situation. Therefore, the educators should help their students to increase their creative thinking. The educators might provide a place that can make the students more interesting. In education there are some variations of learning situation which teachers use to create an effective class (Gary L. Geissler, 2012). One of them is outdoor class that common being applied in teaching process. Outdoor education gives opportunity for students to know about their environment and real life, so they can raise their knowledge and creative thinking skill (Ozyilmaz, 2017). A comfortable environment helps the student to be more open minded related to creative thinking.

## **2. Review of literature**

### ***2.1 Creative thinking***

Creativity has an important role in everywhere especially in school environment. Creativity gives motivation for students to learn more and gives the opportunities to do everything that they want to do for supporting them to develop their skill. Students who have creativity will create a good plan about their future, so they can be more confident in facing every situation (Kiewra, 2016).

Actually, creativity has various definition. Some experts define creativity as an generating ideas, analyze problems and get the solution for every problems. Combining old ideas and new ideas also can be defined as creativity. There are three kinds of creativity to create new ideas. First, combinational creativity that using ideas that have known before to create new idea. Second, exploratory creativity which exploring the concept of the ideas to make new idea. Last, transformational creativity that transform the structure to create new structure of the idea (Keh, 2017).

Creativity also can be defined as an activity in making something new. Applying of creativity in lesson material may give impact in classroom activity. Open-ended of problem solving gives opportunities to develop students' fluency and flexibility in making solution to solve problem (Sriwongchai, 2015). Creativity need to be developed in 21st century since it has chance to create generation who has potential to solve environmental problems (Yusnaeni, 2017). As the students they need to be more

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innovative and having high level of creativity to survive in the future life after graduate since nowadays most of companies need people who have good work and also can thinking creatively (Keh, 2017).

Creativity is a thinking skill to create innovation. Moreover, innovation need to be kept everytime in learning activity for helping the students to get new knowledge and create new products or result in education (Seechaliao, 2017).

An expert said that creativity is a mental process that consist of divergent and convergent thinking. The divergent thinking consist of four elements in production, number of ideas, kinds of ideas, uniqueness of the ideas and also development of ideas. Creativity allows people in creating idea to get solutions in complex situation using new strategies and new knowledge to solve the problem (Ayllón, 2015).

### ***2.2 21<sup>st</sup> century***

According to Carroll (2007) in journal of Brown (2017) 21st century learning includes creative thinking, elaboration an innovation. 21st century learning method is aimed to engage students in cognitive learning to increase thinking skill (Lopez Brown, 2017). As the result of 21st century learning which requires students' active learning, there will be many ways to learn. The students are free to learn something from other environments, which means they are not limited by room. Students are expected to have a lot of inspiration rather than being stuck in a classroom.

Inspiration guides the students to build creative thinking. Creative thinking does impact on the students' mindset. It grows their ability to maximize their potencial and develop their skill. Students who have creativity tend to be wise on handling stress and more optimist (Kiewra, 2016).

### ***2.3 Outdoor class***

Outdoor activity gives opportunity for the students to know some things which have not given by teacher in the classroom (Mardis, 2009). It is important for students to be in outdoor learning process, since it can help the students to explore their knowledge through their environments. Their views about surrounding will build their curiosity. Their curiosity can support them to build their creative thinking (Kubat, 2017).

Another relation of outdoor class and creative thinking is requiring the high expectation of the students. They will be confident to give opinion as the form of their creativity (Muirhead, 2011).

Outdoor class involves physical activities. They can do whatever things to support their ideas. Based on the journal of San Rafael, it is very interesting and give no boredom (Rafael, 2011). They can search the things on the real environment. Each student may have different look on the same thing. This is what can trigger their creative thinking.

### **3. Method**

#### ***3.1 Participants***

In order to examine this research, the qualitative research was used to collect data by using questionnaire design. This research took place at English Department in Tidar University with respondent of some students and lecturers. The research group consisted of 20 respondents. Six respondents from lecturer and fourteen from students.

#### ***3.2 Instrument***

In this study, the writer used questionnaire design to collect the data. The questionnaire was adapted from journal entitle “Effect Of Outdoor Education Methods And Strategies On Student Engagement In Science: A Descriptive Study” by Daniel William Rudolf that published in 2012. Second journal entitle “Ways Of Promoting Creativity In Efl Classroom” by Travanj Zagreb. It published in 2016. The questions were about how environment or outdoor activity influence the learning process and the result of the learning.

#### ***3.3 Procedures***

The process of this research was completed through some steps. Firsrt, the writer make questionnaire that be adapted from journals that have mentioned above. Second, spread the questionnaire to the respondents. Then, that questionnaire was collected to be analyzed.

### **4. Finding and discussion**

***Creativity plays an important role in language learning***

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The result showed that 95% respondents agreed that creativity plays an important role in language learning.

Lecturer : “Creativity can be a tool for the learner to transform thoughts into act in language learning. Creativity also can improve self-esteem. Thus, it has an important role in language learning.”

Student A : “21st century learning need creativity to support language learning.”

While 5% other disagreed. Student C said that creativity was not related with language learning since the important thing in language learning are vocabulary grammar.

It shows that most of respondents agreed with the statement since creativity can be a tool and support the learning process in 21st century learning. Although there was a respondent who disagreed because he thought that creativity was not related with language learning.

***Outdoor class have interaction with creative thinking***

80% respondents gave positive responses to this question.

Lecturer A : “Outdoor class provides a different ambience and opportunity learning. It also can boost students’ curiosity which may push them to develop their creativity to deal with problems in outdoor class.”

Lecturer B : “By outdoor we can create many kinds of activity that has no boundaries. It means as a teacher we can make my students have / improve creativity skill.”

Student A : “Outdoor class has something to do with creative thinking because when teachers do outdoor classroom activity it can involve many things to do.”

Then 20% respondents gave negative responses.

Student B : “Outdoor class is not effective because it is crowded.”

Student C : “Sometimes it do not have good interaction because outdoor class is noisy and make student do not concentrate.”

Take a look of the responses, it shows that some lecturers and students have good response since it can help them to create many kinds activity to improve students’ creativity. While some respondents thought that outdoor class sometimes cannot be effective. Sometimes it is too noisy and may annoy the students’ concentration in learning process.

***Environment (classroom) important for developing creativity***

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The result of this question showed that 90% respondents agreed.

Lecturer : “An environment (school) is one that can expose students psychologically and socially to facilitate creativity in which students are motivated to discover things.”

Student A : “Environment gives different view and condition that will give students space to get more inspiration.”

Moreover, 10% respondent did not agree with the statement.

Student B : “Sometimes outdoor too noisy, therefore student can’t have creativity neither concentration in learning something.”

From that result can be concluded that most of respondents agree with statement since environment gives new more space and different atmosphere to facilitate students’ creativity. However, some students thought that outdoor was too noisy and cannot help students to improve their creativity

***Outdoor learning involve more “exploration”***

The result showed 90% respondents agreed that outdoor learning involve more exploration.

Lecturer A : “Outdoor means boardless so the students and teacher ca have more experience in learning.”

Lecturer B : “Outdoor learning is quite different from classroom which ask students to explore more.”

Student A : “Actually I think exploration can be done everywhere, but I think when it comes to outdoor classroom activity it would be more interesting.”

Then, 10% respondents gave negative responses.

Lecturer C : “Sometimes. It depends on the students.”

Student B : “Sometimes students cannot explore their creativity.”

From the result, we can take a look that most of the students and lecturer agree that outdoor learning involve more eploration because outdoor learning is boardless and different with classroom so they can get more experience in learning. While some others said that sometimes outdoor learning cannot help students to get more exploration.

***Outdoor learning more interesting (less boring)***

In this question, 65% of the respondents gave good response.

Lecturer A : “Interesting since the students have different environment.”

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Student A : “Interesting because it’s different learning atmosphere in which it helps them to fresh their mind.”

While 35% respondents did not agree with the statement.

Student B : “It depends on the activity that will be held in the outdoor classroom activity. If the activity is just the same as the indoor classroom activity, it will be boring.”

Student C : “I don’t think so, because sometimes outdoor class is useless in some fields.”

Based on that comments, it can be concluded that some respondents agree if outdoor learning more interesting since it gives new atmosphere which make the students can refresh their mind. Eventhough, some others thought that outdoor learning sometimes useless. It depends on the activity that be held at outdoor class.

***There are more learning opportunities in the outdoor***

Based on this question, 70% of the respondents agreed that outdoor gives more opportunities in learning.

Lecturer A : “Since it has different ambience and condition from classroom, there must be many new things which lead to many opportunities for students.”

Student A : “They will learn by using everything around them.”

Then, 30% of them did not agree with the statement.

Student B : “Most of students are busy with their activities that unrelation with the learning and it is not effective and efficient to do.”

From that comments, we can take a look that some respondent did not agree because sometimes students cannot keep their concentration and busy with their own activity. However, some of them thought that outdoor has different condition which gives many opportunities to create some activities.

***Outdoor learning have more open air / “free-space”***

The result of this question showed that 95% agree.

Lecturer A : “Outdoor learning will give freedom to student to share their thoughts freely.”

Student A : “Because the space is larger.”

Then 5% other did not agree with that statement.

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Student B : “Because not every outdoor class have the good air circulation. For example, if the school is near highway, the outdoor will be crowded and it is not effective to conduct an outdoor class there.”

Take a look of the result, it can be concluded that most of respondents agree that outdoor learning have more open air / free-space since it has no barrier like indoor. Outdoor learning will give freedom for students to move and share their thought freely because outdoor learning provides larger space. However, One of the respondents answers no, because he thought that not every outdoor class have good condition.

***Learning outdoor give you a big chance to have inspiration***

95% respondents agreed that outdoor gives big chance to have inspiration.

Lecturer A : “It gives me as lecturer / teacher to get teaching ideas as additional teaching material.”

Student A : “Sure. A lot of things in the outdoor class give more inspiration.”

While 5% other did not agree with the statement.

Student B : “That outdoor not always give a big chance to have inspiration, because it depends on the condition of the environment and also the students itself. Sometimes, some students may cannot openminded or explore their mind to get the inspiration.”

From that reasons, it can be concluded that most of respondents agree that outdoor gives chance to the lecturer and also students to get more inspiration from surrounding to support the teaching process. Eventhough, one respondent said that sometimes outdoor cannot give chance to the students to get inspiration because some students may cannot explore their mind.

**5. Conclusion**

Based on this study, it can be concluded that it is appropriate to conduct outdoor activity in order to build students' creative thinking. As the 21st century learners, the media to learns are various, not only being limited by the classroom. It also provides the real environment that they learn. New environment gives them different atmosphere and larger space, so the students more interesting and enjoy the learning process. By environment, students have more opportunities to get more inspiration and explore their mind. Therefore, the students can be more creative have their own perspective on seeing something as the result of creative thinking.



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