Exploring Japanese Cultural Values through Digital Media in the Course The Japanese Way of Thinking

No. Abstract: ABS-ICOLLITE-24201

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INTRODUCTION

The intracurricular course "The Japanese Way of Thinking" (Pola Pikir Masyarakat Jepang) aims to provide students with knowledge about the value of Japanese culture.

Understanding the Japanese culture is beneficial for students to be able to communicate with Japanese people, and when they are living in Japan.

The teaching materials used in this course includes: 1) A book titled *The Japanese Mind*, which contains information about cultural values, attitudes, behavior patterns, and communication styles in modern Japan; and 2) Digital media in the form of manga, anime, or Japanese drama series and films.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Teacher Centered Learning (TCL)

A method of acquiring knowledge through the process of transferring knowledge from teacher to student.

This method ensures students are actively engaged according to the context and understand the learning material.

Student Centered Learing (SCL)

A learning model that is able to encourage students to actively participate,construct understanding, solve problems, and develop critical thinking skills

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING METHOD IN THE COURSE

We used TCL method until mid-semester, and after that we used SCL method

TCL

- Teaching the Japanese way of thinking from the book "The Japanese Mind" to learn about Japanese cultural value

SCL

- Student group formation
- Selecting digital media by students
- Discussing topic from digital media
- Student presentation
- Evaluation

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Japanese Cultural Values

Social Relation

- Uchi – Soto (dual meanings in japanese human relations)
- Giri (Japanese Social Obligations)
- Zoto (The Japanese Custom Of Gift Giving)
- Amae (The Concept of Japanese Dependence)

Communication Style

- Aimai (Ambiguity And The Japanese)
- Haragei (An implicit way of communicating in Japan)
- Kenkyo (The Japanese Virtue of Modesty)
- Honne to Tatemae (private vs. public stance in Japan)

Life Philosophy

- Wabi – Sabi (simplicity and elegance as japanese ideals of beauty)
- Bushido (The Way Of The Warrior)
- Dou (Spirit of Japan)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Digital Media selected by students

These is the example of students' presentation. They discussed the depiction of Japanese culture values in Japanese film, drama series, anime, and manga.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- At the end of the semester, the student wrote paper about Japanese cultural values, and we conducted survey to students.

- The purpose of this survey is to determine the effectiveness of collaborative learning in understanding the Japanese way of thinking.

- We divided the questions in the survey into two sections.

- In the first section, the questions are about students' understanding of Japanese cultural values when using TCL in class. And then, in the second section, the questions are about students' understanding after using SCL in class.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Tabel 3.1 Hasil Angket Mata Kuliah Pola Pikir Masyarakat Jepang

No.	Pertanyaan	SCL (%)					TCL (%)				
		SB	B	CB	KB	TB	SB	B	CB	KB	TB
1	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Uchi-Soto (dalam-luar)?	71,4	28,6	-	-	-	78,6	14,3	7,1	-	-
2	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Giri dan Zoto (kewajiban sosial dan balas budi)?	42,9	57,1	-	-	-	64,3	21,4	14,3	-	-
3	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Aimai (ambiguitas)?	57,1	36,7	7,1	-	-	57,1	42,9	-	-	-
4	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Haragei (seni komunikasi tanpa kata)?	42,9	28,6	28,6	-	-	50	28,5	7,2	14,3	-
5	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Kenkyo (kerendahan hati)?	42,9	50	7,1	-	-	50	35,7	14,3	-	-
6	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Honne to Tatemae (niat asli dan penampilan luar)?	78,6	14,3	7,1	-	-	71,4	21,4	7,2	-	-
7	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Amae (ketergantungan)?	57,1	35,7	7,1	-	-	50	35,7	14,3	-	-
8	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Wabi-Sabi (keindahan dalam ketidaksempurnaan)?	42,9	35,7	21,4	-	-	50	21,4	28,6	-	-
9	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep Bushido (kode etik samurai)?	42,9	35,7	21,4	-	-	42,9	35,7	14,3	7,1	-
10	Seberapa baik Anda memahami konsep The Dou Spirit of Japan (jalan spiritual Jepang)?	57,1	28,6	14,3	-	-	42,9	42,9	14,3	-	-

Keterangan:
SB : Sangat Baik
B : Baik
CB : Cukup Baik
KB : Kurang Baik
TB : Tidak Baik

- The percentage of students' understanding of Japanese cultural values related to social relations and communication styles topics received the "Good" and "Excellent" categories, and the points in SCL method higher than in TCL method.

- Meanwhile, the percentage of students' understanding of Japanese cultural values related to life philosophy received the "Good" and "Excellent" categories that were almost the same for both methods.

CONCLUSION

Based on the survey results, in general, students have a better understanding of the Japanese cultural values when participating in learning with the Student-Centered Learning (SCL) method compared to when participating with the Teacher-Centered Learning (TCL) method.

This indicates that the SCL method is more effective than the TCL method. Therefore, it can be concluded that collaborative learning using digital media is quite effective for learning Japanese culture. Thus, it is recommended that the SCL method should be used more in class so that students can better internalize knowledge of Japanese cultural values.

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