

# USING “EDMODO” EDUCATIONAL SOCIAL NETWORK IN TEACHING ENGLISH FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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## Abstrak

Makalah ini bertujuan untuk membahas tentang penggunaan Edmodo sebagai alat bantu pengajaran Bahasa Inggris bagi siswa SMU.. Edmodo adalah salah satu media jejaring sosial yang dapat diaplikasikan dalam pengajaran Bahasa Inggris untuk siswa SMU. Karena tampilan *Edmodo* ini mirip dengan jejaring sosial *Facebook*, penggunaan *Edmodo* akan sangat menarik bagi siswa yang senang menggunakan jejaring sosial. Sepintas *Edmodo* mirip dengan *Facebook*, tetapi *Edmodo* ini adalah *micro blog* untuk menghubungkan guru dan siswa dalam berinteraksi di luar pertemuan di kelas formal. Sebagai generasi yang sangat menyukai teknologi internet dan media jejaring sosial, penggunaan *Edmodo* dapat menarik minat siswa untuk belajar dan menggunakan Bahasa Inggris berupa *posting* status pada media ini yang biasa mereka lakukan pada website jejaring sosial, *Facebook*. *Edmodo* ini dapat digunakan sebagai media tambahan untuk belajar mandiri bagi para siswa. Penugasan berupa Tugas Rumah (PR) dapat dilakukan melalui media ini. Selain itu, siswa dapat ditugaskan untuk saling menyapa dan bercerita dalam bahasa Inggris di luar jam belajar di kelas. Untuk menggunakan Edmodo, baik guru maupun siswa mesti memiliki akun di website pendidikan ini. Cara menggunakan website ini akan dijabarkan lebih lengkap pada isi makalah ini. Diharapkan, dengan memanfaatkan ”educational micro blogging” ini akan semakin meningkatkan minat siswa terhadap Bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci : Social media, Edmodo, educational micro blogging.

## A. Introduction

Indonesian curriculum (as seen in KTSP 2006) states that English as a foreign language should be mastered by students as one of the compulsory

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subjects It is expected that students have to be able to understand English and use it actively. In relation to this, Indonesian curriculum (as seen in KTSP. 2006) administered that the purpose of learning English is to develop students' competence to communicate in English and also to apply it in daily life.

However, in the process of teaching and learning activities, many teachers feel disappointed because they have tried hard to teach the students but the students still cannot use the language actively in real communication. This phenomenon commonly happens in countries where English is taught as a foreign language like in Indonesia, even the students are afraid to use English.

Edmodo is very useful in facilitating teaching – learning activities, because it can encourage social interaction, whereas student can interact directly with teacher through “wall” Edmodo, so that they are not afraid to express even to share their ideas, opinion without being blaming. Teacher as an educational practitioner should not judge students in true – false opinion, but she/he has to open direct discussion forum in Edmodo. Instead the fascinating layout itself, Edmodo has file storage for teacher and also student (see “library”), they do not need to be afraid if their document are seen by other students. All assignment and examination can not be accessed by those students who are not register in Edmodo.

Based on that condition, this paper is aimed at discussing about how to help teacher integrate the four language skills into their teaching and to provide better English learning process for High School students by using Edmodo.

Edmodo is a kind of educational social network that can be connected through online service, platform, or site that focuses on facilitating the building of social relations among people to share interest, activities, background or real life connections. A social network service consists of a representation of each user social links, and a variety of additional services. Most social network services are web based and provide means for users to interact each other over the Internet, such as e-mail and instant messaging. Moreover, social network allows the users to share ideas, activities, events, and interests within their individual networks. (Wikipedia, 2012).

There are so many types of social networks for example: blog, website, twitter, facebook , blogspot and so forth. Through this content, these social media can connect people each other even though they are bordered by places even regions. Popular social network like “Facebook” has many users all over the world, and people can use it free of charge. Some social networks have additional features, such as the ability to create groups that share common interests or affiliations whereas people can share their videos, and make discussion through social media.

Cauley (2013) from “A Guide to Explain it all” (IT Babble.com) explain that Edmodo is an educational website that takes the ideas of a social network and refines them and makes it appropriate for a classroom. Using Edmodo, students and teacher can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems,

and helpful tips. A teacher can assign and grade work on Edmodo, students can get help from the entire class on Edmodo. Edmodo is very safe from spam and inappropriate content, because the teacher can see everything that is posted on Edmodo. And parents can join Edmodo in order to check what their children do and how their progress in study.

Teachers can give the assignment and students submit them on time virtually. Teachers can record students' scores, which is accessible for students and their parents at home, who also have the code for viewing their students' progress. Not only assignment, Edmodo provides possibility for teachers to give quiz, polling, and post topic for discussion among the students.

Students can also present their assignment and posts their presentation through Edmodo sheet, because it has space for place student works. By using Edmodo, all grades and badges that the students get can be accessed by either the teacher, students themselves, and parents.

### **How to use Edmodo**

First, user type [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) in a browser or search Edmodo in Google to sign up for free account. Second, click "sign up" and fill in the form provide for teacher and for students. The teacher and the students have to provide their password to be registered as users. In teacher account, users select "I am a Teacher" button to create free account. Then, fill out the registration form and select the "sign up" button to complete the sign up process. After that, checking personal e mail for a confirmation is needed to view the next steps for setting up your Edmodo account. In students account, do the same process. Here, teacher give group code to students in order they can join her class. Parent can also access Edmodo by following the same step that the students go through. Group code for students is available from the teacher's account while the parents' account is provided on the right side of the students' class account.

The most important function that teachers have to master as their class administrator, first, creating a class. Teachers as administrator can create a class by clicking on the "create" on the left and fill in the class details. Second, teacher can store the data by uploading them to "library". Data stored on library can be set public, limited for certain class or for teacher only. Third the function available for both teacher and students. There are post, folder, members, and small members. Teachers can also give students assignment through their "backpack" or through "assignment".

### **Teacher Planning.**

In teacher planning, after assign students task, teacher mention the due date or deadline when students should collect the assignment. Teacher just click on the date in calendar as mention before, then give the notification when students submit the assignment. If student are late or over due date, they lose any grade and their assignment before will be lost.

### **Rewarding students' achievement.**

Every teacher and students who are active in Edmodo, they get badges. Teacher can create badges to students and award them based on their achievements. Facilities provided for the students are home, calendar, and task. Home function as posting wall, calendar for classroom announcement, and task functions to receive assignment from the teacher and in return to submit it to the teacher.

### **How to use Edmodo**

Edmodo can be accessed by typing [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) on the browser URL. To make a clear understanding, the figure of Edmodo and how to use it will be presented as the following. It as seen in Edmodo tutorial. Based Mr. Bullock explanation at edmodo.com, Edmodo is the way that teachers and students connect, engage, and learn both inside and outside the classroom.

Type [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) in a browser or search Edmodo in Google to sign up for a free account.

2. Click “sign up now”, after that fill in the form provided for teacher and for students. The teacher and the students have to provide their password to be registered as users. The registration for teacher and student is slightly different.

#### **a. Teacher Account**

For teachers, the first step to do after visiting [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com), they have to select the “**I’m a Teacher**” button to create free account. Then, fill out the registration form and select the “**Sign Up**” button to complete the signup process. After that, checking personal **e-mail** for a **confirmation** is needed to view the next steps for setting up your Edmodo account.

#### **b. Student Account**

A students need to click the part “I am a Student” in order to fill in the form for getting a new account.

Complete the registration form by choosing a username and password. Here, students have to fill in group code that was provided by the teacher in order to join her/his class. Teachers are suggested to inform the students to sign up for Edmodo account by using their real name, not the nicknames or alias. In addition, it is also recommended for the students to upload their pictures on their profile picture in order to ease teacher to notice the students.

Other students may register themselves by following the same steps. At this time, the students have to make sure to give certain code that is located upright side to the teacher. Therefore, the student can access their own accounts. They can also access the teachers' account. This way enables the teacher – students and students – students to interact directly. The same way may be done



by parents as a result, teacher, students, and parents can be connected.

As been mentioned previously that one student can join more than one class and the process of joining a new class is a bit different from this process. The next step for students is that joining a group by logging in on their existing account. After that, click on the “join” link in the left hand navigation bar, and key in the designated group code.

Students must key in another group code for the desired class to join another class on the same Edmodo’s account. After joining another class success, a new class name will appear under “groups” on the left. In conclusion, students can join many classes by 1 account.

c. Parent’s Account

parent can also access Edmodo by following the same step that the student go through. Group code for students is available from the teacher’s account while the parent’s account is provided on the right side of the student’s class account.

3. Registration for new account for teacher, student and parent is successful. Then they can log in into their Edmodo account directly and use the four functions provided: home, calendar, progress, and backpack.

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