

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARD AMERICAN CORNER FACILITIES in  
SUPPORTING LEARNING PROCESS at UMY**

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**ABSTRACT:** Facilities contribute to make students have maximum objectives in learning.

Based on that, this study wanted to see students' perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting learning process at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. The research question of this study are *what are the benefits of American Corner facilities in supporting learning process? and what aspects need to be improved in American Corner Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta?* This research adopted a qualitative approach that took a place at American Corner and took four students as the participants of this study. The participants were chosen through purposive sampling in which students who have been frequently joined the programs which hold by American Corner inside of American Corner area. This study resulted two findings; first, the benefits of American corner facilities in supporting learning process; and second, the aspects that need to be improved in American Corner. Meanwhile, the study on the benefits of American corner facilities in supporting learning process found that; first, the benefits of American Corner facilities for academic purposes; and second, the benefits of American Corner facilities for non-Academic purposes. The last finding is the aspects that need to be improved in American Corner. In conclusion, this study can state American Corner facilities have some benefits in supporting students learning process. American Corner facilities helpful for students learning process.

*Keywords:* Perception, American Corner, learning process.

## **Background of the Study**

Facilities as a tool in supporting the learning process for students can be access in many places including at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta provides some facilities such as the library, laboratory, digital repository, mini hospital, Self-Access Center (SAC), Waroeng Perancis, and American Corner. Those facilities that have been mentioned earlier, especially American Corner will benefit in learning process. Based on researcher experience as a student of English Education Department, the researcher felt the facilities in the American Corner are useful in education. All of the facilities in American Corner can help to finish the assignment, find information, and get relaxed through the games.

Based on the data monthly statistics report of American Corner on June 2017, the number of visitor American Corner is very a lot. Nearly 100 students visited the American Corner. Even though on June 2017, most of students have not been active in classroom learning because it is the end of the semester and time to start the holiday before Eid Al-Fitr. Most of the students are not only students of English Education Department. On a list of American Corner visitors, it has been recorded that the visitors were from various majors although most were students of English Education Department. Even they come to American Corner not for a moment. They often use American Corner facilities for a long time, whether it is resources facilities or equipment facilities. American Corner has many facilities that are useful for learning. However, students do not maximally utilize those facilities. Even, many students did not know about American Corner facilities. Unfortunately, the useful facilities are unknown to students. Even though these facilities can help them in learning.

Based on some issues that have been mentioned, the researcher was curious to reveal students' perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting learning. So far, the

Researcher has not been found the similar research, so the researcher wanted to do this research under the title “Students perception toward American Corner facilities in supporting learning process at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta”. From the explanation above, the researcher interest to know “What are the benefit of American Corner facilities in supporting learning process?”, and “What aspects need to be improved in American Corner Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta?”.

### **Research Design**

This study used the qualitative approach as research design. Qualitative research was actually used by the researcher to seek students’ opinion. Creswell (2012) said that a qualitative research study is needed to explore this phenomenon from the perspective of distance education students. It helped the researcher to reach his aim for the study, which was to find out student’ perception toward American Corner facilities to support the learning process at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Therefore, qualitative research design was chosen as the way to reach that aim.

### **Setting and Participants of the Study**

The setting place of this study was in American Corner Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. The reasons were that only Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta has American Corner in Yogyakarta and near with the researcher. The participants for this study were four students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. The participants were the students who visit American Corner frequently.

### **Finding and Discussion**

## **The benefits of American corner facilities in supporting learning process**

**The benefits of American Corner facilities for academic purposes.** The benefits of American Corner facilities in supporting their learning process are American Corner provides a supportive atmosphere for the learning process and learning resources. According to Halimah (2011), facilities contribute to making student to have maximum objectives in learning. “it is emphasized that both teachers and students need places to search, read, write, confer, interact, view, listen, think, experiment, and record.

***Supportive atmosphere for learning process.*** Based on the result of the interview, the researcher obtained the data that American Corner provides a supportive atmosphere for the learning process such as doing task, discussing, and learning English. Wicaksono (2012) who mentioned that successful students influence by many factors, there are student skill, motivation, environment, and facilities. In this case, it means that environment can affect successfully students in learning process. From the statements from the participants, the researcher found that the benefits of American Corner is American Corner provide a supportive atmosphere for the learning process such as doing task, discussing, and learning English.

***Learning resources.*** The result of the interview in this research, three participants said that American Corner is used to support their learning process. Since American Corner provided resources. They felt that American Corner resources such as journals and articles can help them. Based on that statements, the researcher could conclude the statement in line with US Embassy mentioned that American Corner provides some facilities in supporting students’ learning process such as a collection of books, magazines, journals, CD-ROMs and DVDs, internet access, online databases, and through local programming to the general public. Based on the

findings above, it means that resources can be found in American Corner (U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia, 2017).

**The benefits of American Corner facilities for non- Academic purposes.** The second was the benefits of American Corner facilities for non- Academic purposes. The researcher found activities and facilities such as novel collections, playing games, accessing internet, and using Personal Computers free of charge.

*Novel Collections.* There were three Participants who said providing novel collections as one of the benefits of American Corner facilities. The similar statements explained that most of the students spent the time to read a novel to fill their free time. Based on the statements above, the collections of the novel that provided by American Corner was aspects that make the facilities in American Corner are complete enough. The researcher concluded that novel collections in American Corner is the most frequently used by students.

*Playing Games.* In another finding of this research, the researcher found two playing games as the benefit of American Corner. It can be seen from two participants statement. For some students, games that provided by American Corner can make them familiar with English. Besides, the other students said that games in American Corner just for spending her time when she is not busy.

*Accessing internet.* When the researcher asked about what the benefits of American Corner facilities that often used by students, the researcher got another finding that is access internet freely. From that statements, the researcher noticed that the most facilities which students always used when they come are access internet. American Corner provided some

facilities like internet access. Users also can bring their own laptop to access internet service in the Hot spot area.

*Using Personal Computers free of charge.* The last finding of the benefits of American Corner facilities was Personal Computer. American Corner had some Personal Computers that are provided for the students. It can be used freely. The researcher could conclude that PCs is one of the benefits of American Corner to support students learning process, but sometimes PCs just for their needs.

### **The aspects that need to be improved in American Corner**

Based on the data obtained from the interview, there were some facilities of American Corner that should be improved by the American Corner. Students also gave a suggestion to improve the quality of American Corner to support their learning process. American Corner facilities that need to be improved in supporting learning process that are size of room, malfunction facilities, and less friendly services.

*Size of room.* In this case, the researcher found the aspects that should be improved by American Corner related room according to Ziza and Ayim. Wilson and Petri (2007) mentioned that, "There is no doubt that facility conditions directly affect teaching and learning." That means the learning process can succeed if the learner feels comfortable about facilities. In this case, the researcher can conclude that the American Corner capacity is inadequate for the many visitors. Unfortunately, if the potential of American Corner facilities is good, but it was quite small room.

*Malfunction facilities.* Second finding about need to be improved of American Corner facilities that need to improve is facilities that does not work properly. The researcher found a

statement from Anilrez. She mentioned that sometimes Personal Computer does not work. Then, she clearly continues her statement. “There was some Personal Computer does not work properly. The Network connection sometimes was bad. Air Conditioner sometimes was turned off.” (RQ2.P3.5). The existence of malfunction facilities reduced students need to visit American Corner. Wicaksono (2012) stated that Environment including facilities has many important roles to support the learning process. It means that the malfunction will hinder students in learning. In this case, only a participant shows the statements above.

*Less friendly services.* The last findings to answer research question related to what aspects need to be improved by American Corner was about should be more friendly. There is a statement from a participant. He argued that volunteer in American Corner was less friendly. He argued that “I felt the volunteer give less friendly service.” (RQ2.P2.5.3). From that statements the researcher can conclude that Naras want to get the best services from the volunteer. However, the researcher only found those statement from a participant. The conclusion of that statement is not relevant.

## **Conclusion**

The conclusion of this research was to answer the research question. The research questions were ‘what are the benefits of American Corner facilities in supporting learning process and what aspects need to be improved in facilities of American Corner. For the conclusion, this research has summarized all the findings to explore the benefits and the aspects should be improved of American Corner facilities from the students’ perception. American Corner had many facilities that support learning. Based on this research, students' perception toward American Corner was a place to learn in which provide facilities to support their

learning process. However, American Corner also had some weakness in its facilities. However, it did not lessen the students' intention to visit American Corner.

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