

## SCHOOLGY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION IN ENGLISH LEARNING

**Epata Puji Astuti**

English Department, Sanata Dharma University  
Yogyakarta - Indonesia  
[evelove602@gmail.com](mailto:evelove602@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education in Industrial Revolution 4.0 increases the demand of online learning. In this era almost all aspects of human's life change into digital. Education tries to find the alternative of traditional teaching and tries to more engage with digital world. Education needs a tool that can connect teacher and students inside and outside the class, a tool which is more familiar with the student's life. Schoology is a kind of social networking Learning Management System that offers the easy access for student to connect with their lecturer and vice versa. They can learn the material from lecturer everywhere just by clicking on their mobile phone. The use of Schoology supports not only students but also the teacher in English learning. By the Schoology teacher can create paperless culture in education, give online assignments and online assessments to the students even connect in discussion with other lecture about certain topic.

**Keywords:** schoology, learning management system, online learning

### Introduction

In Industrial Revolution 4.0, everything turn into digital. Online transportation, online payment and online shopping offer the new way of life. Almost every aspect of human's life go online and so does education. Nowadays, students are more engage to their gadget rather than to the conventional book. That's why we should think about how to combine learning resources and the gadget in order to improve the quality of education in Indonesia. Education should go online in order to accomodate the easy access for the students. By easy access to the material, student can learn any time and anywhere. Teachers need to engage with IT and involve it in teaching learning activity as stated in The Rule of National Education System (SISDIKNAS) No. 20 Year 2003 and The National Education Minister Regulation No 16 Year 2007. One of the ways is by creating e-learning. Online learning method believed can answer learning issues that are difficult to be addressed by a traditional face-to-face learning method. One tool that famous to connect education with information technology (IT) is Learning Management System (LMS). A learning management system (LMS) is an infrastructure that help to

build and deliver e-learning.

The education technologies offer many advantages to students and teachers by helping them to learn using interactive and collaborative techniques (Concannon, Flynn & Campbell, 2005). An LMS provides the virtual platform for the e-learning by enabling the management, monitoring student, delivery, tracking of learning, testing, communication, registration process and scheduling. There are many choices of Learning Management System (LMS) that we can use. We can use Exelsa, Edmodo or Schoology. Each LMS of course has their own special features. Teachers should choose which LMS is easier to use by students because most of them also just adapt themselves to this new style of learning. This article suggests Schoology as one of Learning Management System (LMS) which can accommodate teacher and student's need. Education engages with technology, of course it is something new for everyone. Teacher and student should prepare themselves to learn how to use Learning Management System in the teaching-learning process. For the new user, Schoology offers an easy applying LMS. In English Learning, the use of Schoology itself accommodates a lot of need such as

Grammar correction by highlighting grammar mistakes, online quizzes and online assignments.

Students have different styles of learning, different preference of learning strategies, and different response to certain teaching method. Schoology offers a new learning environment for students. By adding the new learning environment, they have more options for gaining good results of teaching and learning. They can choose the tool which help them to improve their study. By combining online learning with face-to-face learning can improve the teaching-learning process itself.. Such combination of learning methods is called blended learning. Garrison and Vaughan (2008) defined blended learning as “a design approach whereby both face-to-face and online learning are made better by the presence of the other” (p. 5).

### Methodology

This study uses data from the case study of the contributions of Schoology in teaching-learning process. It also involves a literature study as the method of collecting data. The method aims at getting the knowledge of English lectures regarding the implementation of Schoology as Learning Management System in the class. The case studies use multiple methods, such as interviews, observation, and archives, to gather data. Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2000) defines case studies can establish cause and effect, indeed one of their strengths is that they observe effects in real contexts, recognizing that context is a powerful determinant of both causes and effects. To get the result, the researcher does observation, questionnaires, and interview to the lecturers and students. First, the researcher observes the use of Schoology in some courses like English Drama, Composition, Conversation and History of English Literature. The researcher observes how the students as a new user adapt themselves in applying Schoology, do they get some difficulties, do they get motivation by online learning and does Schoology improve

their knowledge and score. The researcher is observed the class during two semesters. There are about 14 meetings in each semester average. Then, the researcher also spread out the questionnaires to the students to investigate their perception toward the implementation of Schoology in class. The questionnaires ask student’s opinion about the impact of Schoology in their learning process. By spreading out the questionnaires, the researcher can get feedback from the students about how effective and efficient Schoology in class.

The researcher also interviewed some students about the contributions of Schoology in English learning. The interview is aimed at confirming their opinion and get more feedback relates with the implementation of Schoology. The researcher also interviewed other lectures who also use Schoology as online platform to support their course. The opinion from lecturer is also important to share their experience in implementing Schoology in their class. The researcher took one class and one lecture as respondents for this research. They are the second semester student. Besides, the researcher also gains information from several resources such as research papers, articles and books studying the use of *Schoology* in English teaching and learning. Then, the researcher classified the data based on the contributions of Schoology for teachers and students.

### Discussion

#### 1. The Implementation of Schoology in Learning

Schoology is a social networking service and virtual learning environment for K-12 school and higher education institutions that allows users to create, manage, and share academic content. Designed by Jeremy Friedman, Ryan Hwang and Tim Trinidad. Originally, Schoology is designed for sharing notes, but then it was released commercially in August 2009 and additional features and functionality continue to be added. Schoology is also known as a learning management system (LMS) or course management system (CMS), the cloud-based platform provides

tools needed to manage an online classroom. This platform facilitate collaboration among a class, a group, or a school. Byrd (2013) listed the advantages of *Schoology* including the easiness of use, the security for student safety, and the efficient tools and resources for teachers. Students are easy to adapt themselves with this platform because it is visually and functionally similar to Facebook.

Features provided by Schoology are:

- a. Attendance records
- b. Facebook-like interface
- c. Online Gradebook
- d. Tests and quizzes
- e. Homework dropboxes
- f. Accessible through mobile phone

Teachers can use this Schoology to do the five teachers tasks namely: a) Planning, b) Teaching, c) Evaluating, d) Reporting.

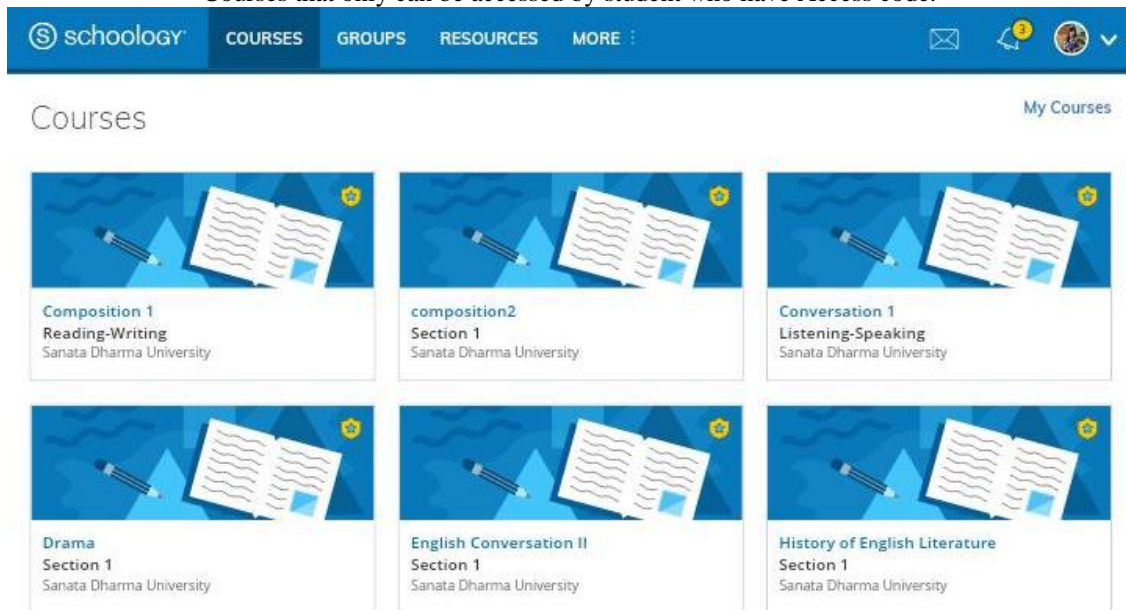
a. Planning

Teaching and learning process will run well if teachers do their best in preparing the material. Preparation is the key of the success. Schoology accommodates teacher in planning their teaching material in the coming year. Teacher can start it by creating a course and name it based on the name of the lesson. In each course, teacher can upload the syllabus, lesson plan and material for each meeting.

Each course only can be accessed by student who have access code. The access code will appear in the teacher’s account. So, only the teacher who can give the code to the member of the class.

Figure 1.

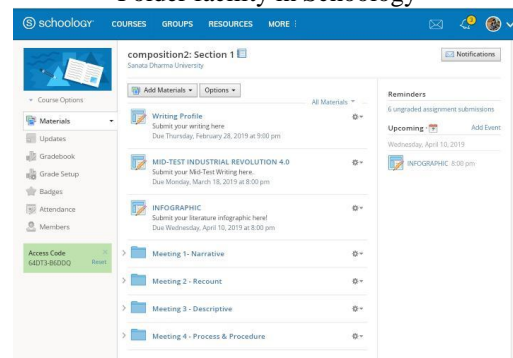
Courses that only can be accessed by student who have Access code.



The material which is uploaded by the teacher can be an online textbooks or worksheet. Of course, it is not just help the teacher to plan about what they want to do in the class for one semester but also help student to prepare for the class well. At least, they can read the material at home so that they will be ready to join the activity in class. The teacher can arrange classroom activity by making a folder for each meeting.

Figure 2.

Folder facility in Schoology

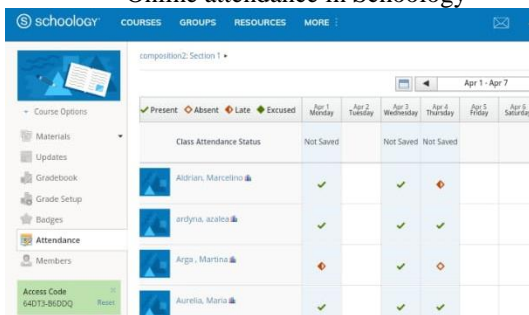


In the traditional learning method, students mostly come to the class without any preparation since they do not know about the material that the teacher wants to discuss. That's why, they are more passive in class. Planning the material and giving it to the students before the class is important to increase student participation in class activity and discussion. It also increases student's confidence. Schoology also makes student can access the teacher's material everywhere. They can read the material while waiting in the bus stop or waiting in the queue. They also can read it in the coffee shop or café while relaxing with their friends. Whenever they have spare time, they can use it efficiently to read the material. They do not need to bring a very thick book or many books in their bag, what they do is just login their Schoology account through their gadget and get the material. Hopefully, by creating an easy-access for student to the material, it will improve their knowledge and ability in English Learning.

### b. Teaching

Schoology as Learning Management System (LMS) helps teacher to create flipped classroom where students study and prepare their understanding in home and come to the class to do activity such as group discussion and fulfil worksheet. They come to the class with knowledge about the material, so it can increase classroom participation. Schoology also helps teacher to create paperless culture. First, Schoology provides online student's attendance with four category: present, absent, late, excused. It makes us easier to notice about student's attendance just by clicking the sign.

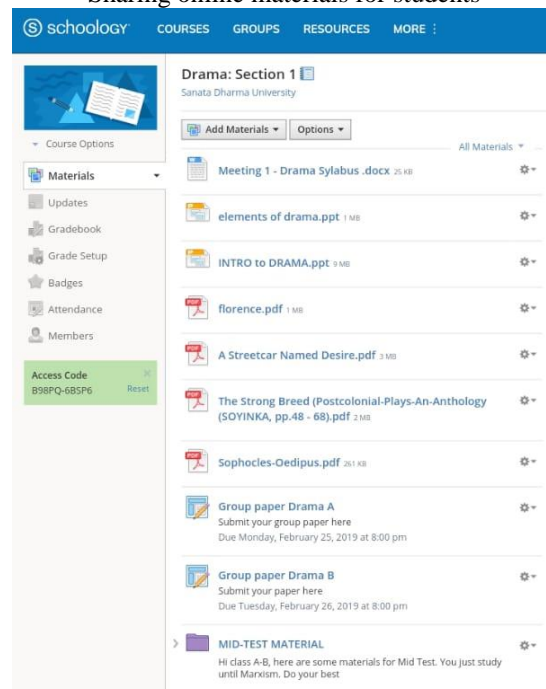
Figure 3.  
 Online attendance in Schoology



	Present	Absent	Late	Excused	Apr 1 Monday	Apr 2 Tuesday	Apr 3 Wednesday	Apr 4 Thursday	Apr 5 Friday	Apr 6 Saturday
Class Attendance Status					Not Saved	Not Saved	Not Saved			
Aldrian, Marcelino	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
erdya, azalia	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Arge, Martina	✓				✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Aurelia, Maria	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		

Second, teacher does not need to copy the material on the paper for the student like what the traditional teaching do. In English literature for example, the material can be novel, short stories or plays which has hundreds pages. If we use traditional learning, it will spend a lot of cost to copy the book. But by sharing the material online, it can reduce the cost for the students. Teacher shares the material online such as e-book, journal, ppt, and etc. Student can access and read it by their gadget without print it. Students in this era are engage more with their gadget, so it is something familiar to them.

Figure 4.  
 Sharing online materials for students



### c. Evaluating

Schoology provides some tools for teacher to evaluate the teaching-learning process. First, teacher can give online assignment through Schoology. By this online assignment, students do not need to print their assignment, what they need to do is just submit their document online. They can submit their file in the form of doc, jpg, ppt, pdf and other extension of file. They can submit their assignment easily, they do not need to go to the campus and meet the teacher. What they should do is just upload their file in the assignment's folder that the teacher already



created. It makes us use the time efficiently. Teacher can see the progress of submission in Update menu. There will be an explanation about the number of students who already send their assignment. The other advantage for the teacher in this online submission is there will be a sign about the due date. So, while the teacher creates assignment folder, teacher can input the due date of the assignment. It will help the teacher to identify which student submit on time and which one submit the assignment late.

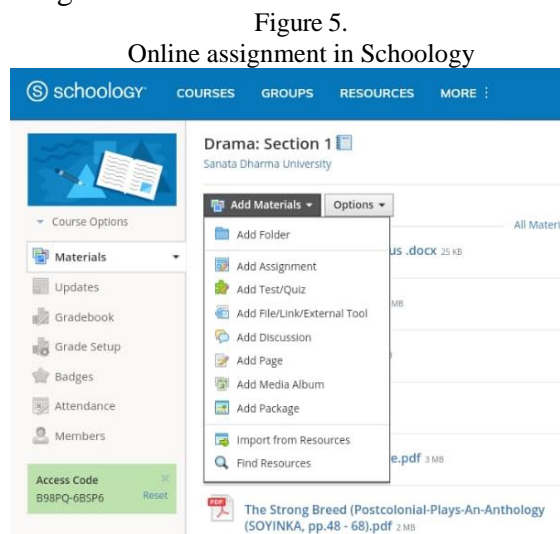


Figure 5.  
 Online assignment in Schoology

Second, teacher also can evaluate the students through quiz and test. Schoology helps the teacher to create an online quiz or test with certain period of time and the students can join to the quiz by answer it online. The evaluation is more flexible because it can be done inside or outside of the class. From their room or while in the cafe, students can do the test online. Teacher can input the question and decide the limitation of time for the student to finish the test. The other advantage for the teacher is the assessment. Teacher can check the student's work everywhere, in home or while waiting in the queue just by clicking the mobile phone. Teachers do not need to bring a lot of paper as the work of student on the bag. Of course, it is more convenient. Then, the score also can be done online.

Beside that, teacher also can give comment about student's assignment and test. Teacher's feedback is an important thing to improve student's ability. It is usually difficult

to give feedback for each students in class, Schoology provides comment column below the assignment's score, so teacher can leave their comment about the work there. For English Learning, the assessment offered by Schoology is very helpful because it has a tool to highlight the grammar mistakes, so students can know the mistakes and revise it.

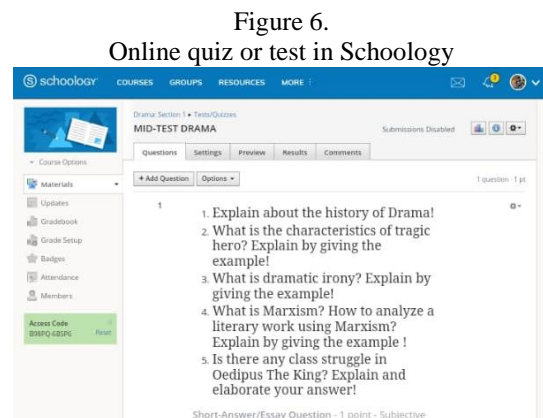


Figure 6.  
 Online quiz or test in Schoology

#### d. Analysis

After evaluating student's understanding about the lesson, teachers need to analyze the result. The analysis of the result is important to find out the percentage of students mastering the materials. Schoology provides the information about it by showing the statistic of the course.

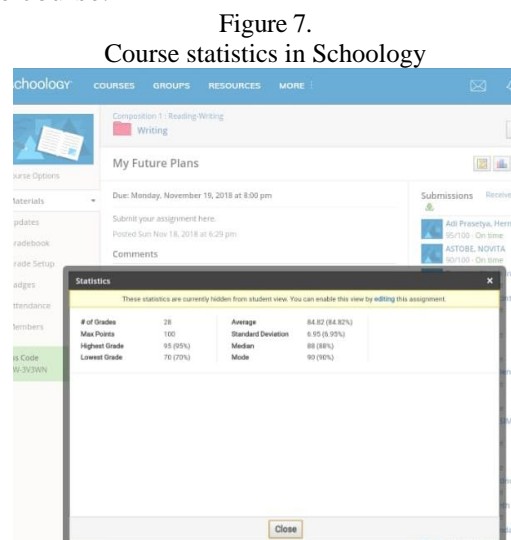


Figure 7.  
 Course statistics in Schoology

From the statistic, we get information about maximum points, highest grade, lowest grade, average, standard deviation, median and mode. This statistic will help teacher to improve the course performance.

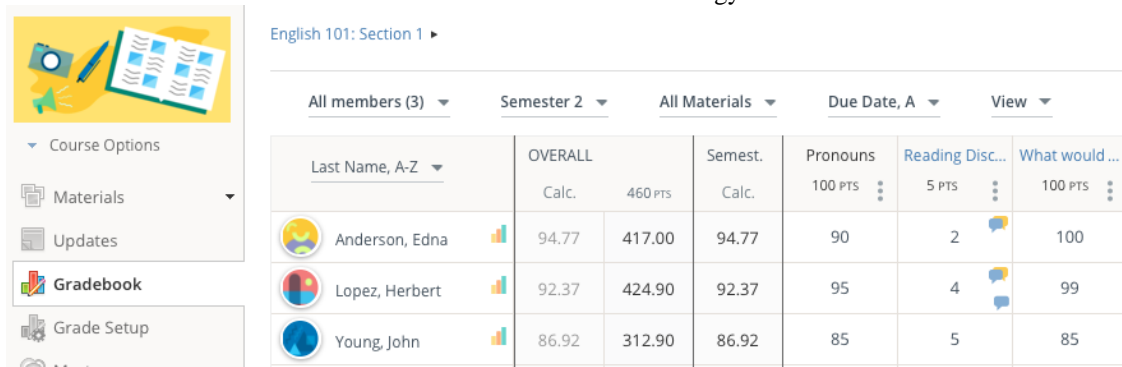
e. Reporting

Schoology has a menu called Course Gradebook. By this menu teachers can grade assignments, test/quizzes, assessments, and discussions directly in the Gradebook, and the

students can view these grades under their Grades tab as you post them.

By clicking this menu, students can know about all their score during a semester. They can know their progress in studying the material.

Figure 8.  
 Course Gradebook in Schoology

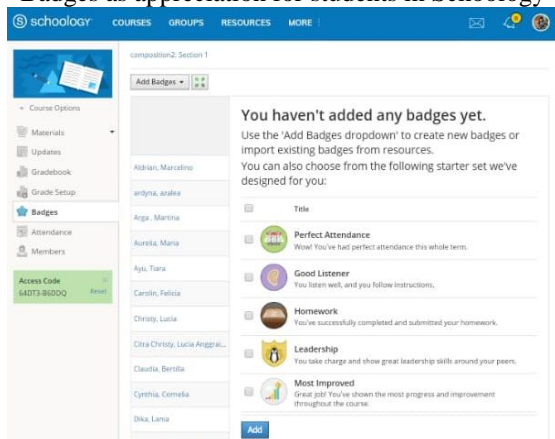


Schoology also motivates teachers to give appreciation for the student's progress by providing Badge menu. By this menu, teacher can give appreciation for some categories such as perfect attendance, good listener, homework, leadership, most improved, etc. Appreciation for the students is an important thing to motivate student to improve their study. They give their best effort to master the material, that's why they deserve for appreciation.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, Schoology can be a good choice to support face-to-face teaching-learning process. It helps teachers in all aspects; Planning, Teaching, Evaluating, Analysis and Reporting. Besides, Schoology also helps students to more engage with IT in the learning process. This Learning Management System (LMS) is not difficult to adapt by the new user; teachers and students, since it has an easy menu and tool. The involvement of Schoology in teaching-learning process is depend on teachers's preference whether the teacher wants to involve it as a tool to support the course in certain process only or the whole learning process. Schoology is also very helpful in order to create Flipped classroom and Blended learning. Schoology makes the course more accessible, effective and efficient for the teachers and students. The use of Schoology itself also has its own challenge and problem such as poor access to internet, unstable connections, inadequate computer knowledge and skills, and personal issues such as less motivation and responsibility. There are also some possibility to face technical problems like the trouble in submitting answers to quizzes and the failure in recording the scores. Students need more

Figure 9.  
 Badges as appreciation for students in Schoology



practice to master Schoology and to solve this technical problem. It is suggested that *Schoology* as a learning management system should be utilized only as the supplement to the traditional teaching method.

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