

# Teachers' Creativity in Creating Songs in Increasing Students' Knowledge in Learning the History of Islam

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## Abstract

*Teachers are an important aspect in learning, as facilitators in learning teachers are required to be creative in developing methods and media used in learning so that the results achieved by students from their learning activities taken to gain knowledge of history of Islam (Sejarah Kebudayaan Islam) that can be realized by changes in attitudes and behaviour. The purpose of this research is to describe the creativity of teachers in creating songs in improving student knowledge, especially in the subject of Islamic Cultural History. This research uses a qualitative approach based on literature study. The results indicate that teacher creativity in creating songs is able to increase student knowledge, especially in the subject of Islamic Cultural History. The implication of this writing is to add insight for readers regarding the importance of learning media in the world of education.*

**Keywords:** Teacher creativity, song composition, Islamic Cultural History

## A. Introduction

Creativity is the key to successful teaching oriented towards the effectiveness of the learning process, the achievement of learning objectives, and optimal education. Therefore, a teacher needs to develop his creativity as an effort to renew the learning process at school, so a teacher is required to have a positive view or opinion on how to create the expected learning situation and conditions, because operationally it is the teacher who is directly involved in the learning process at school.

In classical learning methods, there are often various obstacles from students who do not listen either because they are busy playing alone or talking to their friends. For this reason, in applying this method, teachers are required to have creativity in delivering learning orally so that students are interested and atusias in following the learning process and learning objectives are achieved, namely increasing student knowledge.

Creating composed songs is a form of teacher creativity to deliver learning materials so that students are always remembered regarding lesson lessons that require memory and memorization such as historical material. The process of creating composed songs with material requires teacher creativity and special teacher attention to effective and efficient learning outcomes. Serna attracts students to follow the learning.

History of Islamic culture is one of the main subjects in the PAI curriculum given to students in MI, MTS, and MA. The Islamic Cultural History lesson emphasizes the ability of students to take ibrah from islamic historical

events, emulate outstanding figures and relate social, cultural, political, economic, science and technology phenomena and others to float present and future Islamic culture and civilization.

In a study, it was stated that students had difficulty in understanding the material on the History of Islamic Culture. In addition, he also stated that the lessons of Islamic Cultural History have been boring and less interesting because of the lack of media in delivering the subject matter. From this information, this greatly affects less effective learning.

This happens because of the lack of media in the delivery of learning materials so that the classroom atmosphere during learning tends to be passive, student activity is low, students get bored quickly in following learning. This passive student attitude is what results in a lack of enthusiasm for learning as long as it affects learning outcomes or the level of knowledge absorbed by students in Islamic religious subjects, especially Islamic Cultural History.

From the explanation above, the researcher concluded that learning the History of Islamic Culture really requires the existence of the right media, methods and strategies and to strengthen the creativity of teachers in learning so that it can produce and increase student knowledge or student understanding of the material presented.

## **B. Literature Review**

### ***Teacher Creativity***

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the word creative means: 1) Having creativity, having the ability to create and 2) Being creative. According to the term creativity implies: 1) The ability to create, creativity and 2) Regarding being creative. So that creativity is an ability to bring up or cause something. Meanwhile, in English, the term creativity comes from the word to create, which means to create. Creativity is a process that demands balance and application of the three essential aspects of analytical, creative and practical intelligence, several aspects which when used in a combined and balanced manner will give birth to success intelligence.

Creativity is a potential that every human being has and not that is accepted from outside the individual. The creativity that humans have, is born with the birth of the human being. Since birth, individuals have shown a tendency to actualize themselves. In the development of life today creativity is an important factor, because creativity is an ability that is very meaningful in the life process of human beings.<sup>1</sup>

Awadi argues that creativity is essentially a person's ability to give birth to something new, in the form of ideas or other concrete works, both in the form of aptitude and non-aptitude characteristics, both in new creations and in combination with existing things, all of which are relatively different from what existed before. Its relation to teacher creativity means that the teacher tries and wants to develop a new teaching strategy for his own thoughts or it can also be in

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<sup>1</sup> Temiks Merpati, Apeles Lexi Lonto, and Julien Biringan, "Kreativitas Guru Dalam Meningkatkan Hasil Belajar Siswa Di Smp Katolik Santa Rosa Siau Timur Kabupaten Sitaro," *Jurnal Civic Education: Media Kajian Pancasila Dan Kewarganegaraan* 2, no. 2 (2018): 56.

the form of a modification of various existing strategies so as to produce a more varied form of learning.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, creativity is a combination of abilities consisting of several aspects of intelligence that produce success. Creative thinking as a system can be baked from various disciplines. Thinking is the actualization of how the brain works, in this case knowledge of brain anatomy is needed, so physiology is created. Creativity is the product of a good and correct way of thinking, so philosophy as a scientific discipline about how to think is born.<sup>3</sup>

From some of the opinions expressed by the experts above, it can be concluded that creativity is a new invention that is raised, in order to fix problems that occur in something that often happens in the world of education, by involving changes in technology and science that are currently developing to achieve desired destination. Some experts, although put forward a slightly different formula, but the essence is the same. David in Nana Syaodah Sukmadinata emphasizes that creativity is an ability to create results that are new, innovative, unprecedented, interesting, unique and useful for society.

Based on the treasures of Islamic thought, the term teacher has several terms, such as "ustad", "muallim", "muaddib", and "murabbi".<sup>13</sup> The term convert emphasizes the teacher as a teacher and conveyer of knowledge and science; the term muaddib emphasizes more on the teacher as a coach of morality and student morals by exemplary; while the term murabbi emphasizes the development and maintenance of both physical and spiritual aspects. Meanwhile, the term that is commonly used and has a broad and neutral meaning is ustad which in Indonesian is translated as teacher. Another term put forward by Kelvin Seifert that a teacher is someone who is willing to devote most of his time to teaching and educating students.<sup>4</sup>

Teachers as a tauladan in various ways must be able to show various creativity in teaching their knowledge to their students. Creative learning will make students more interested and explore the knowledge taught by their teachers.<sup>5</sup>

- 1) Teacher To be called a creative person, it is necessary to know about the characteristics or characteristics of creative people. According to Williams, the characteristics of creativity are as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> Murdiana Murdiana, Rahmat Jumri, and Boby Engga Putra Damara, "Pengembangan Kreativitas Guru Dalam Pembelajaran Matematika," *Jurnal Pendidikan Matematika Raflesia* 5, no. 2 (2020): 154–55.

<sup>3</sup> Abdul Kadir, "Peningkatan Kreativitas Guru Dalam Mengajar Melalui Pelatihan Model Assure Dengan Pendekatan Scientific Pada Mgmt Pendidikan Agama Islam Di Sekolah Menengah Atas Kabupaten Indragiri Hulu Tahun 2017," *Akademika: Jurnal Keagamaan Dan Pendidikan* 14, no. 1 (2018): 6.

<sup>4</sup> Kelvin Seifert, "Pedoman Pembelajaran & Instruksi Pendidikan," *Yogyakarta: IRCiSoD*, 2012, 1.

<sup>5</sup> Dudun Supriadi, "Implementasi Manajemen Inovasi Dan Kreatifitas Guru Dalam Meningkatkan Mutu Pembelajaran," *Indonesian Journal of Education Management & Administration Review* 1, no. 2 (2018): 128.

- 2) Fluency, namely sparking many ideas, answers, problem solving, that come out of one's mind, giving many ways or suggestions for doing various things.
- 3) Flexibility, namely the ability to use a variety of approaches in solving problems, looking for many different alternatives/directions and being able to change the approach/way of thinking. Orisinalitas (keaslian), yaitu mampu melahirkan ungkapan yang baru dan unik, memikirkan cara yang tidak lazim untuk mengungkapkan diri dan mampu membuat kombinasi-kombinasi dari bagian-bagian atau unsur-unsur.
- 4) Elaboration or detailing, namely the ability to develop an idea or product and add or detail an object, idea, situation so that it becomes more interesting.
- 5) Evaluation or assessing, namely determining the benchmark for self-assessment and determining whether a question is correct, a sound plan/a wise action, being able to make decisions in open situations, and not only sparking ideas but also implementing them.<sup>6</sup>
  - 1) The description of a creative teacher having nine teaching skills  
Rusman said that a creative teacher can be described through nine teaching skills, namely:
  - 2) Skills to open the lesson.
  - 3) Questioning skills.
  - 4) Skills give reinforcement.
  - 5) Skills in holding variations.
  - 6) Skills in explaining (Explaining the history of Islamic culture).
  - 7) Skills for Leading Small Group Discussions.
  - 8) Class management skills.
  - 9) Individual learning skills.
  - 10) Skills close learning<sup>7</sup>

From the opinion above, the authors conclude that teacher creativity is someone who is willing to devote most of his time to teaching and educating students by finding the right way or method to transfer knowledge so that learning objectives are achieved.

### ***Composed song***

Songs or music in law number 28 of 2014 concerning Copyright. Song or music in this law is defined as a work that is intact even though it consists of songs and melodies, poetry, lyrics, and their arrangements including the notation, in the sense that the song or music is a unity of copyrighted work.

In creating a song, in this case the material for the history of Islamic culture, there are several criteria for creating a model song using the term music put forward by Purwanto as follows:<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Monawati Monawati and Fauzi Fauzi, "Hubungan Kreativitas Mengajar Guru Dengan Prestasi Belajar Siswa," *Jurnal Pesona Dasar* 6, no. 2 (2018): 36–37.

<sup>7</sup> Kadir, "Peningkatan Kreativitas Guru Dalam Mengajar Melalui Pelatihan Model Assure Dengan Pendekatan Scientific Pada Mgmp Pendidikan Agama Islam Di Sekolah Menengah Atas Kabupaten Indragiri Hulu Tahun 2017," 8.

- a. It is easy, has ambitus and tone intervals that are affordable for children, the orientation of model song creation is the world of children (students) which is unique, unique, and full of challenges.
- b. Simple, seen in the choice of words for the lyrics
- c. Beautiful meaning and language. Model songs are a means for children to develop and enrich their chosen vocabulary.
- d. The bag of knowledge, the essence of the model song is the message or content that is carried in the poetry.

Creativity can be done in two ways, namely improvisational activities and compositional activities. In improvisational activities, this is related to the spontaneity in making a song. The teacher actually has to be able to make a song spontaneously that encourages students to understand the experiences that occur in learning activities. For example, by compiling a question and answer poem to students, so that students can get direct learning experience. Improvisation here can also be related to changing existing song lyrics into other lyrics that fit the theme.

Zamrud and Famala in their research suggested that the internal factors that influence the formation of students' knowledge with songs are because students listen to popular songs a lot because today's popular songs are packaged with unique and varied videos, even the advertisements they usually hear are composed of many lyrics from popular songs at this time, so that children are more interested and interested in listening to songs. The findings of further research, that when students do gymnastic activities together, the songs played are today's popular dangdut songs such as the Syantik song popularized by Siti Badriah and similar songs.

According to Rasyid, songs that are good for children are songs that pay attention to the following criteria:

- a. The poems and sentences are not too long
- b. Easy for children to memorize
- c. There is an educational mission
- d. According to the character and the world of children
- e. The tones taught are easy for children to master.

According to Matodang, songs that are good and suitable for children include:

- a. Singing can help the growth and development of children (physical, intelligence, emotional, and social aspects).
- b. Singing that departs from the abilities that children already have.
- c. Fill in the songs according to the world of children.
- d. The language used is simple.
- e. The width of the tonal area is commensurate with the ability of the child's vocal organs and pronunciation.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Purwanto S., "Pengembangan Lagu Model Sebagai Media Peandidikan Karakter Bagi Anak Usia Dini" (Tesis, Yogyakarta, UIN sunan Kalijaga, 2002).

<sup>9</sup> Itot Bian Raharjo and Veny Iswantinegtyas, "Strategi Menciptakan Lagu Komersil Untuk Pembelajaran Anak Usia Dini," 2016, 92.

By using songs that are trending or popular with students, then the lyrics are replaced with lesson material, and happiness in learning is created. In the history of Islamic culture, today's children prefer adult songs that are not appropriate for their age, but in this case the most important thing is the rhythm, not the meaning of the lyrics.

One way to bring students to a fun, interesting, and positive energy atmosphere is to learn in song packaging. Sing to your heart's content, even if you need to sing in response to the subject matter. The brain will feel light without a burden, even though they are trying to include subject matter, but the brain is in a relaxed state.

In principle, rhythm/music is universal. Everyone can enjoy without any restrictions on age, gender, language and nation. Children who are accustomed to enjoying the rhythm of music are much more sensitive in their hearts to give advice, instill good character values in students, and instill understanding of a material through songs.<sup>10</sup>

The rhythm of the music that is played or a song that is rhythmic as a beautiful string of tones can also improve brain function. The flowing rhythm of a song makes the nerves of the brain work and gives a feeling of comfort and calm which makes our brain function work optimally. If it is often done, the brain's work function will be more primed so that our thinking ability will be clear and sharp, and prevent senility (*al-heimer's*).

The benefits of using songs for learning are described as follows:

- 1) Creating relaxed learning and reducing stress which can hinder the learning process.
- 2) Stimulate the creativity and thinking skills of students so they can get better results.
- 3) Harmonize and balance the left and right brain.
- 4) Helping students' understanding of the material in a fun way.
- 5) Makes it easier to remember subject matter, but not like memorizing. If the child has memorized the song, they can sing it without realizing it.
- 6) It is very effective for learning processes that involve the conscious mind or subconscious mind, because children sometimes, if they have memorized a song, they will hum along without realizing it.

Utilizing songs with certain rhythms that students are familiar with as learning media can make the learning process fun and not boring. Songs that are sung can balance intellectual and emotional intelligence, so that it will provide good results for students.

The social environment or classroom atmosphere is a major psychological determinant that influences academic learning. Teachers can create an ordinary learning atmosphere or a class that becomes an extraordinary discovery experience. To build a good atmosphere, a teacher must be able to build a lively and relaxed classroom atmosphere, so that students can receive the material well.

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<sup>10</sup> Das Salirawati, *Smart Teaching Solusi Menjadi Guru Profesional* (Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 2018), 107.

By using familiar song rhythms, students can work on tiring and heavy lesson assignments to be relaxed and light, but still concentrate so that their assignments can be completed as expected.

### ***History of Islamic Culture***

The definition of history is "stories and past events of mankind". This definition contains two meanings at once, namely history as a story or story is history in a subjective sense, because past events become human knowledge, while the history of events is objective history, because past events are a reality that is still beyond human knowledge. The field of history includes all human experiences and historical paintings are the disclosure of facts about what, who, when, where, how something happened.<sup>11</sup>

The subject of Islamic cultural history aims to make students have the following abilities.<sup>12</sup>

- a. Build awareness of students about the importance of learning the basic teachings, values and Islamic norms that have been built by the Prophet Muhammad. In order to develop the culture of Islamic civilization.
- b. Build students' awareness of the importance of time and place which is a process of the past, present and future.
- c. Train students' critical power to understand historical facts correctly based on a scientific approach.
- d. Growing student appreciation and respect for Islamic historical heritage as evidence of Islamic civilization in the past.
- e. Develop students' ability to take compassion from historical events (Islam). Imitating outstanding figures, and relating them to social, cultural, political, economic, science and technology and art phenomena and others to develop Islamic culture and civilization.

According to M, hanafi Sejarah Budaya Islam stands for the history of Islamic culture which is a subject of Islamic religious education that is directed to know, understand, live, the history of Islam. Which then becomes the basis of his way of life through guidance, teaching, practice, exemplary, experiential use and habituation activities.

### **C. Methods**

This study uses a qualitative approach, which describes and describes the influence of the use of instructional media in the world of education. The way to describe and describe the data is through several expert opinions. So by using a qualitative approach this research is expected to be able to provide comprehensive facts about teachers creating songs in order to increase students' knowledge in learning Islamic cultural history.

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<sup>11</sup> Abdurrahman Dudung, *Metodologi Penelitian Sejarah Islam* (Yogyakarta: Penerbit Ombak, 2011), 1.

<sup>12</sup> "Peraturan Menteri Agama RI No. 165 Tahun 2014 Tentang Kurikulum Madrasah 2013 Matapelajaran PAI Dan Bahasa Arab," n.d., 44–47.

#### **D. Discussions**

In the learning process teachers are required to think and act creatively. so-called creative teachers according to Williams have one of the characteristics of fluency, namely sparking many ideas, answers, solving problems, that come out of one's mind, giving many ways or suggestions for doing various things.

Creative teachers are able to come up with ideas in solving problems faced, one of the problems in the learning process of Islamic Cultural History is that students often feel bored, less active and interactive and have difficulty understanding the material. Awadi argues that creativity is essentially a person's ability to give birth to something new, in the form of ideas or other concrete works, both in the form of aptitude and non-aptitude characteristics, both in new creations and in combination with existing things, all of which are relatively different from what existed before

Its relation to teacher creativity means that teachers try and want to develop a new teaching strategy on their own thoughts or it can also be a modification of various existing strategies so as to produce a more varied form of learning. This is in line with the creation of composition songs which are part of the teacher's creativity in creating something new in the form of new works or combinations with existing things.

In creating songs, there are several things that need to be considered by the teacher, including selecting songs that are trending or popular with students, then the lyrics are replaced with lesson material, so that happiness in learning is created. In the history of Islamic culture, today's children prefer adult songs that are not appropriate for their age, but in this case the most important thing is the rhythm, not the meaning of the lyrics. besides that the lyrics and sentences are not too long so that they are easy to remember, attention is also paid to the suitability of the lyrics with the tone.

History of Islamic Culture is an abbreviation of the history of Islamic culture which is an Islamic religious education subject that is directed to know, understand, live, Islamic history. By using songs composed, the students' brains will feel lighter without the burden of receiving Islamic Cultural History material in the form of historical knowledge that needs understanding and appreciation, students are required to try to include subject matter, but with a learning style using songs composed at that time, students' brains will relax and reduce stress. which can hinder the learning process.

Then the use of composed songs can stimulate the creativity and thinking skills of students so they can get better results. Harmonize and balance the left and right brains Help students understand the material in a fun way Make it easier to remember subject matter, but not like memorizing . If the child has memorized the song, they can sing it unknowingly. It is very effective for learning processes that involve the conscious mind or subconscious mind, because children sometimes, if they have memorized a song, will unknowingly hum along with the song. Evidenced by the existence of "Raukhatil" whose poetry is based on the history of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. So it is undeniable that many students memorize the names of their fathers and mothers and the history

of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad through this song. This proves that the use of composed songs can help shape students' knowledge in Islamic Cultural History lessons.

### **E. Conclusion**

Creative teachers are able to come up with ideas in solving problems faced, one of the problems in the learning process of Islamic Cultural History is that students often feel bored, less active and interactive and have difficulty understanding the material. by the creation of a composition song which is part of the teacher's creativity in giving birth to something new in the form of a work or a combination with existing things. By using songs composed by the brain, students will feel light without the burden of receiving Islamic Cultural History material in the form of knowing, understanding, living Islamic history. student. trying to include the subject matter lightly and students' brains will relax and reduce stress which can hinder the learning process. One example is the song "Raukhatil" whose poetry contains the history of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. So it is undeniable that many students memorize the names of their fathers and mothers and the history of the birth of the Prophet through this song. This proves that the use of composed songs can help shape students' knowledge in Islamic Cultural History lessons.

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