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Mathematical Connection Ability : Impact of Contextual Teaching And Learning Approaches in Flat Side Space Lesson

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the students' mathematical connection ability before and after getting Contextual Teaching and Learning. The subjects were the 26 students of class VIII-A at SMI 1 MANIIS, Purwakarta Regency. The research used the descriptive method with the qualitative approach. The data for the analysis were from the test to student consist of 5 questions with 4 different indicators. The results shows that all students have moderate in mathematical connection ability with the overall results of 65.83%. For the results of each indicator, there is one indicator that has not been met, understanding the equivalent representation from one procedure to another one, or from one concept to another concept. So it can be concluded that the mathematical connection ability in terms of the Contextual Teaching and Learning approach has a significant effect.

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INTRODUCTION

In teaching and learning activities, mathematics is introduced starting from childhood students up to the college level (Yanti, Fauziyah, & Friansyah, 2017), because learning mathematics is very important in the world of education and everyday life. Learning mathematics not understands the concept only or procedure, but many things can emerge from the results of the mathematics learning process (Putra, 2017). The improvement of mathematics learning, depend on the ability of mathematical connections. Connection is a relationship or linkage of several elements. In learning mathematics, these elements include the concepts, principles or procedures (Badjeber, 2017). The ability of mathematical connections is the ability to link concepts, principles or procedures contained with other fields of science and everyday life (Badjeber & Fatimah, 2015). Meanwhile, according to NCTM (Nurfauziah, Adni, & Rohaeti, 2018) if students are able to connect mathematical ideas, their mathematical understanding will deepen and last longer because students are able to see the relationships between topics in mathematics, with contexts outside mathematics, and with everyday life experiences.

The concepts in learning mathematics are interconnected with each other. When students learn a concept, they need to learn another. This situation is called mathematical connection, the ability of students to connect a concept with other concepts (Kenedi, Helsa, Ariani, Zainil, & Hendri, 2019). In the process of learning mathematics. mathematical connections need to be made at all levels of the class so that students can build a complete knowledge of mathematics (Fatimah, Effendi, & Amam, 2018). Students 'mathematical connection skills play an important role in solving problems, so this has a positive impact on students' independent learning (Yaniawati, Indrawan, & Setiawan, 2019). Through mathematical connections, students can develop conceptual understanding to use interconnected mathematical concepts in solving problems (Tasni & Susanti, 2017). indicators mathematical The of connection ability include looking for the relationship of various representations of concepts and procedures, understanding the relationship between mathematical topics, applying mathematics in other fields of study or everyday life, understanding the equivalent representation of a concept, looking for the relationship of one procedure with procedures in equivalent other representation, applying the relationship mathematical between topics and between mathematical topics with topics outside mathematics (Yuliani, Praja, & Noto, 2018).

There are many issues arise in mathematical problem, one of them is the lesson about build a flat-sided space taught at the seventh grade of junior high school even semester. The scope of the lesson includes Beams, Cubes, Pyramid and Prism. The geometrical shape is important to learn because of it had many applications evervdav in life (Indraningtias & Wijaya, 2017). Student competence in understanding the construction of flat side spaces is a prerequisite for students to be competent in understanding the next subsequent lessons (Sari, Amilda, & Syutaridho, 2017). In an effort to improve students' mathematical connection skills. an approach that can facilitate and develop mathematical connection skills is needed. One of them is the Contextual Teaching Learning (CTL) approach. CTL and approach is a learning system based on the philosophy that a learner will be willing and able to absorb the subject lesson by the meaning (Karim, 2017). The CTL approach is a learning concept that helps teacher link subject content with realworld situations and motivates students to make connections between knowledge and its application for their lives as family members, communities, workers and hard work that requires learning (Khamid & 2016). The CTL learning Santosa. approach is a learning approach that emphasizes the process of full student involvement, seems like students work and experience for themselves what they learn by bringing the real world into the classroom (Fadhilaturrahmi, 2017) so that it encourages students to apply it in their lives (Siamy, Farida, & Syazali, 2018). Learning with this method requires students for not just listening and taking notes, but they are encouraged to experience the process directly. Through the experience process, it is hoped that student development will occur in its entirety, which not only develops in cognitive aspects, but also affective and psychomotor (Lestari, Amelia, & Marianingsih, 2017). CTL-based learning according to Sanjaya (Bernard, 2015), involves seven main components of learning, namely constructivism, asking questions, discovering, learning

communities, modeling, reflection and actual assessment.

The essence of CTL learning is transfer of learning, where students learn in life, both skills and expanded knowledge (Khoiriyah, Laili, & Mahmudah, 2018). CTL provides a fresh experience that will stimulate the brain to make new connections to find new goals (Susialita, 2016).

Thus learning in schools is not only focused on providing theoretical abilities, but how to make student learning experiences related to actual problems in their environment (Setyowati & Purba, 2017). Contextual learning can be considered as an approach that shows the natural condition of knowledge. Through relationships inside and outside the classroom. contextual learning approaches make the experience more relevant and meaningful for students who are building the knowledge they will apply in lifelong learning (Surya, Putri, & Mukhtar, 2017).

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in studying the Contextual Teaching and Learning approach. Learning objectives achieved are to describe the ability of mathematical connections in terms of the contextual teaching and learning approach to the material Build Flat Side Space.

METHOD

This type of research is a descriptive study using a quantitative approach. Descriptive research aims to describe precisely the nature, circumstances, and symptoms of an individual or group. (S, Parta, & Rahardjo, 2016). The purpose of this research is to analyze and describe the ability of mathematical connections in terms of the contextual teaching and learning approach to the material Build Flat Side Space. In this research, there are two variables, namely the independent variable and the dependent variable, which become the independent variable, namely the Contextual Teaching and Learning approach and which become the charged variable. the students' mathematical connection ability. This research was conducted at SMP in Purwakarta Regency. The subjects were 26 students of class VIII-B at SMI 1 Maniis. The instrument used an essay consisting of 5 items about mathematical connection capability with 4 different indicators that have been tested for validity, reliability, distinguishing power, and difficulty index. To analyze student answers, researcher assessing the test questions according to the scoring rubric provided.

For scoring student answers, a rubric for assessing students' mathematical connection ability assessments was adopted and modified (Hendriana, Rohaeti, & Sumarmo, 2017). Based on the rubric scoring in Table 1, researchers can determine whether students can meet each of the mathematical connection indicators or not. The data obtained is then adjusted with the scoring rubric, then processed with a percentage for each student's mathematical connection indicator.

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Mathematical Connection Indicator	Student Responses	Score
Apply and connect various concepts of building flat side spaces in other fields of study	 Apply relationships between procedures contained in other fields of study. Resolve problems in other fields of study 	5
Linking and connecting mathematical concepts with other concepts	 Linking and connecting between mathematical procedures, understanding the problems presented 	7
Understand the equivalent representation from one procedure to another or from one concept to another	 Identifying the relationship of an equivalent representation of a mathematical concept Identify the name of the relationship 	8
Link and connect the concept of building a flat side room in everyday life	 Resolving problems everyday Explain and identify the names of mathematical concepts contained in the problems of everyday life 	9

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of learning to build a flat side space with the CTL approach has been running in accordance with the specified learning activities. The following are the results of a written test of 26 students at SMAN 1Maniis based on the results of the percentage score of each indicator for each item. The percentage is in Table 2.

Table 2 Devesters	- f Ll L' l				in diantan
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Indicators	Number of question	Percentage of mathematical connection capabilities
 Apply and connect various concepts of building flat side spaces in other fields of study 	3	64.62%
• Linking and connecting mathematical concepts with other concepts	2	89.06%
• Understand the equivalent representation from one procedure to another or from one concept to another	1	51.44%
• Understand the equivalent representation from one procedure to another or from one concept to another	5	54.81%
• Link and connect the concept of building a flat side room in everyday life	4	69.23%
Average		03.83%

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that for each indicator has different results and abilities. Can be sorted from highest to lowest.

- 1) Linking and connecting mathematical concepts with other concepts that is equal to 89.06%;
- Linking and connecting the concept of building flat side space in daily life that is 69.23%;

3) Applying and connecting various concepts of building flat side spaces in other fields of study, as many as 64.62%.

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4) For the results of the indicators understanding the equitable representation from one procedure to another or from one concept to another there are two questions so get a value of 51.44% and 54.81%;

Furthermore, the average percentage results for students' mathematical connection skills in terms of the Contextual Teaching and Learning approach score 65.83%.

This proves that the mathematical connection ability of students at SMPN 1 Maniis is fulfilled. In accordance with Purwanto's opinion that the mathematical connection indicator is said to be fulfilled if the percentage is at least 55% in each

question. For the highest results found in indicator number 2 namely Linking and connecting mathematical concepts with other concepts the percentage is 89.06%. From the results of the indicators on question number 2, students better understand questions related to other concepts to be transformed into mathematical connection abilities. Whereas the lowest indicator is found in questions no. 1 and 5, why is that because students lack understanding of concepts related to images and must relate them to the other. Examples of student questions and answers are found in Figure 1 and Figure 2 (indicators linking and linking mathematical concepts with other concepts).

Examples of questions and answers for indicators Link and connect mathematical concepts with other concepts Cika has 8 boxes of different sizes. Cika's boxes are cubes. Cika must fill each box with small cubes with the size 1 cm^2 . Cika has filled 3 boxes with small cubes, with boxes 8 = 512, box 7 = 343, box 6 = 216, Complete the number of small cubes needed for the next 5 boxes?



Figure 1. Student response

Examples of questions and answers for indicators understand an equivalent representation from one procedure to another or from one concept to another.

In a Cartesian coordinate the base will be made of a triangular prism which has three points, point coordinates A (6.6) and point B (7, 4). If the distance from point A to B is 2 units, and point B to C is 4 units to the left and point C to A is 3 units. Make a sketch in the printed paper provided and what flat shape is visible?



From the two answers above clearly seen that students better understand material related to one another without having to have pictures. As for the material that has to make a picture students are still lacking in sketching pictures and questions in the form of stories. This is in line with the results of Uncarno's research (Warih S, Parta, & Rahardjo, 2016) that students have difficulty understanding story problems, because students are not careful in reading and understanding sentence by sentence, about things that are known, asked, and how to solve questions appropriately.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the ability of mathematical connections on the Contextual Teaching and Learning approach is better than learning that uses conventional methods. Students' mathematical connection ability after being applied by the CTL method obtained a percentage above the average of 65.83%.

Future studies that use a contextual teaching learning model must be further investigated at various levels of education and material. In addition, this research will be better if it is complemented by observing other factors which can have different effects on the research results.

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