ANALYSIS OF THE SITE LEARNGERMAN.DW.COM AS A LEARNING MEDIA IN MASTERING *ADJEKTIVDEKLINATION* MATERIAL AT LEVEL A1

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Abstract

Internet-based learning (e-learning) is a form of information technology that is applied in education, usually in the form of a website and has a flexible nature because it can be accessed anywhere. In the process of learning German, there are obstacles that can be encountered, one of which is the ability about Adjective declinations. Adjective declination is a part of German grammar. To overcome these obstacles, the site learngeman.dw.com was chosen for this research. The site learngerman.dw.com is a site that can be used to learn German, especially Adjective declination, through the various exercises available there. On the website there are also various themes and for users who want to learn German, they can access them freely and for free. The purpose of this research is to find out what material is available on the site, the suitability of the material with the Netzwerk A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks, and the suitability of the site with the criteria for online learning materials. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis which consists of the process of collecting, compiling, and describing the data used as a reference to draw conclusions from the formulation of the research problem. The results of this research indicate that there are 3 Adjective declination materials or themes on the learngerman.dw.com site, and based on these 3 themes, there is a match of 1 theme with the Netzwerk A1 textbook and 2 themes with the Studio D A1 textbook. It can be said that this site almost meets all the criteria for online learning materials based on the Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache. A1-level German learners who want to learn or improve their skills in Adjective declination can practice using this site through the various exercises there.

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1. INTRODUCTION

So far, there have been many developments in various fields, such as social, cultural, political, economic, and educational, not to mention information and communication technology. These developments certainly have an impact, which can help in everyday life. Everything will feel more manageable when they are done.

Today's technological advancements are inseparable from people's lives. Information from all parts of the world, which used to be difficult, is now easier to access. Therefore, the information obtained can also be used as a reference source for learning.

Internet-based learning (e-learning) influences the internet, which is familiar to today's society. E-learning is a form of information technology applied in the field of education, usually in the form of a website. It is flexible because it can be accessed anywhere. Thus, e-learning can be one of the most effective learning methods nowadays.

Several difficulties can be encountered in learning German, including understanding *Adjektivdeklination*. *Adjektivdeklination* itself is one part of German Grammar. Therefore, this ability will be readily obtained if it is supported by sound knowledge of grammar. In terms of grammar, German is unique compared to Indonesian and other foreign languages, namely the differences in cases found when declaring adjectives, such as *Nominativ*, *Akkusativ*, and *Dativ*. This can contribute to the difficulty of learning German and affect the ability to master *Adjektivdeklination*. The lack of motivation to memorize the articles of German nouns is also suspected to be the cause because adjective declination is closely related to the article of the noun described by the adjective. In addition, using less appropriate, engaging, and varied learning media that do not meet the criteria can also affect the mastery of *Adjektivdeklination*.

In the learning process, a teaching material is needed to support the process, and the teaching material is a book. German language textbooks are generally used in Indonesia, especially at the secondary level and universities, including Studio D, *Netzwerk*, *Aspekte*, and *Deutsch Echt Einfach*. The UPI German Language Education Department used Studio D as a textbook and now uses *Netzwerk* and *Aspekte*. Studio D and *Netzwerk* textbooks each have three types: Studio D A1, A2, B1 and *Netzwerk* A1, A2, B1. Both books consist of a *Kurs-* and *Arbeitsbuch* and are complemented by a DVD-ROM containing various audio and video materials. The Studio D book was published in 2005 by Cornelsen Verlag GmbH, Berlin, and written by Funk, Kuhn, and Demme, while the *Netzwerk* book was published in 2017 by Ernst Klett Sprachen GmbH, Stuttgart, and written by Dengler, Rusch, Schmitz, Sieber.

When learning German, other learning media are also needed apart from textbooks that are already commonly used because to improve the ability to speak German that is already owned, especially *Adjektivdeklination*, an independent learning process is needed, for example, by using learning media accessed online such as websites. Some websites that can be used include www.learngerman.dw.com, www.seedlang.com, and www.easy-online-german.com. The site learngerman.dw.com was chosen in this study because this site is considered to be able to help the process of learning German independently, especially in *Adjektivdeklination*, through various

forms of exercises available. The exercises comprise sentences, listening, pronunciation, matching pictures, and filling in the blanks with the correct answers. This site can be accessed in 11 different languages. There are 18 themes on this site, with 4 sub-themes for each. With various exercises and features available, users can use this site for free to make learning easier.

Previously, there was research relevant to this research written by Macherie in 2020 regarding sites that can be used to learn German. The site is www.internet-polyglot.com. The results showed that the site www.internet-polyglot.com almost fulfills all the criteria for suitable sites and learning materials according to the *Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. If the research discusses the site www.internet-polyglot.com, this research will discuss the site learngerman.dw.com, which will then be compared with the material contained in the Studio D A1 and *Netzwerk* A1 books. Then, this research will be packaged with the title "Analysis of the Site learngerman.dw.com as a Learning Media in Mastering *Adjektivdeklination* Material at Level A1".

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The word media is the plural form of "medium" which comes from the Latin "medius" and can be interpreted as a form and channel that can be used in a process of presenting information. In general, learning media is a tool for the teaching and learning process. Everything that can be used to stimulate thoughts, feelings, attention, and abilities or skills of learners, so as to encourage the learning process. Learning media can also be said to be a means or device that functions as an intermediary or channel in a communication process between communicators and communicants (Asyar, 2011). According to Briggs (1977), "Learning media is a physical suggestion to convey learning content/materials such as: books, films, videos and so on".

The following opinion is in line with the above theory, quoted from the page https://www.hrm-akademie.de, "*Medien sind allgemein Vermittler von Informationen. Bei den Lernmedien handelt es sich speziell um Kommunikationsmittel, die zur Vermittlung von Lerninhalten verwendet werden*". The quote can be interpreted as follows, in general the media is an intermediary to convey information. Learning media is a tool that can convey the content of learning.

In the above explanation, it can be concluded that the attitude of the majority of teachers and teaching students towards the use of new media in the classroom is conservative. They are generally not against the use of media for educational purposes, but they do use media within the prevalent methodological and didactic patterns of teaching.

Rayanda Asyar (2012) revealed that learning media can be understood as anything that can convey or distribute messages from a planned source, so that a conducive learning environment occurs where the recipient can carry out the learning process efficiently and effectively.

According to Chandrawati (2010), *e-learning* is a distance learning process by combining the principles of learning with technology. Seufert (in Kreidl, 2011, p. 10) argues that *"Instrumente wie klassisches E-Learning, Lernplattformen und Webbased Trainings haben sich bereits als Methoden etabliert"* [Instruments such as classic e-learning, learning platforms and web-based training have stabilized as a method]. Then, UNESCO (in Permana, 2014, p. 4) defines *e-learning* as follows "...*learning through available in the computers. Thus, E-Learning or online learning is always connected to a computer or having information available through the use of computers*".

The meaning of the definition is 'e- learning or online learning is always connected to a computer or having information available through the use of a computer.'

LearnGerman.dw.com is a website used to learn German. The website provides a wide range of learning materials, from level A1 to level B2. There are also other features such as a placement test section and features for learning the alphabet and pronunciation. The first thing that is usually done when accessing this website is to take a placement test in the section provided, with the aim of measuring the extent of German language skills one has already owned and also helping to direct one to choose which level is most appropriate to learn in the future. Then, after the results of the placement test are out, users can immediately work on exercises that are suitable with their respective abilities that have been obtained. This site can be accessed for free anytime and anywhere.

Adjective declination is a change that occurs in adjective endings. The change occurs when the adjective is located before the noun or adjective as a complement to the noun (*Adjectiv als Attribute zu einem Nomen*). Jósef Darski (1984) argues that "*Ein Adjectiv besieht sich auf ein Substantiv entweder direkt oder indirekt*". The meaning of the opinion is 'the adjective refers to the noun either directly or indirectly.' *Adjectivdeklination* is influenced by several factors experienced by nouns, namely Genus *(*Masculine, Feminine, Neutral*)*, Numerus *(*Singular, Plural), Article *(Bestimmter Artikel, Unbestimmter Artikel, Nullartikel),* and Fall *(Nominativ, Akkusativ, Dativ, Genitiv).* Then, *Adjectivdeklination* also depends on the type of noun, the position of the noun in the sentence, and the type of article. To make it easier to understand the factors that affect changes in adjective endings, they can be classified into *Adjektivdeklination nach bestimmten Artikeln, Adjektivdeklination nach unbetimmten Artikeln,* and *Adjektivdeklination nach dem Nullartikel*. It can be concluded that *Adjektivdeklination* is a declination in adjectives that occurs due to changes in adjective endings caused by several factors and refers to nouns either directly or indirectly.

Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache is a catalog, which is the result of a seminar on learning German on the internet, and was conducted by Dietmar Rösler in 2002 at Justus-Liebig University, Gießen. Chauduri (2002, 8) describes the criteria for *Grammatik* online learning materials as follows:

a   *Grammatik*
    (1) *Is die Übung situativ eingebettet?*
    (2) *Kriterien zu grammatischen Übungen s. u. Übungen und Aufgaben*
        2.1   *Is die Präsentation übersichtlich, sachlich und gleichzeitig motivierend?*
        2.2   *Ist die Anweisung zur Übung deutlich formuliert?*
        2.3   *Is there any question about the severity of the test?*
        2.4   *Weiß der Lerner gleich zu Beginn, was er bei der Bearbeitung einer bestimmten Aufgabe lernen bzw. üben wird?*
        2.5   *Wird der Benutzer gezielt durch die Aufgaben geführt oder landet er zufällig bei bestimmten Beiträgen?*
        2.6   *Besteht die Möglichkeit, frei zu entscheiden, welche Übung jetzt gemacht wird?*
        2.7   *Werden verschiedene Übungsformen und -typen angeboten?*
        2.8   *Can man per Mausklick von der Übung zur nötigen Textstelle gelangen?*
        2.9   *Entspricht die Anzahl der Übungen dem Materialumfang/der Textlänge?*

    2.10　　Can Art und Weise as well as der Umfang der Hilfestellung und der Lösungspräsentation individuell gesteuert werden?

    2.11　　Sindichwörter und Links aussagekräftig oder irreführend?

    2.12　　Sind die Materialien authentisch?

The criteria above are the criteria that will be used to assess the learngerman.dw.com website. The grammar material and of course the criteria for grammar exercises based on exercises and tasks will be assessed using these criteria, whether or not they are in accordance with the criteria for online learning media.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research using descriptive analysis method, which aims to get an objective picture of the learning materials, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the learngerman.dw.com site as a medium for learning German *Adjektivdeklination*. This method consists of several research steps, such as problem formulation, data collection, data identification, data analysis, and conclusion drawing related to the available learning materials, the suitability of *Adjektivdeklination* material on the learngerman.dw.com site with the material in the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 books, and finally the suitability of the learngerman.dw.com site with the criteria for online learning materials.

The instrument used to analyze each learning media must be ensured according to the type of learning media itself. Therefore, in analyzing the *Adjectivdeklination* material and the criteria for online learning materials on the learngerman.dw.com site, an analysis table will be used.

There are two analysis tables, the first is the analysis table of *Adjektivdeklination* material on the learngerman.dw.com website with *Adjektivdeklination* material in *Netzwerk* A1 book and Studio D A1 book. In the first table, there are 1 *Adjektivdeklination* theme in *Netzwerk* A1 book and 2 *Adjektivdeklination* themes in Studio D A1 book which will be adjusted to the *Adjektivdeklination* theme on the site. The last table is the analysis table of *Adjektivdeklination* learning material criteria on the learngerman.dw.com site based on *Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. This catalog is the result of a seminar on German language learning on the internet held on May 24, 2002 at Liebig University, Giessen and chaired by Prof. Dr. Dietmar Rösler.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis that has been done, there are 3 materials about *Adjektivdeklination* on the site learngerman.dw.com in the A1 level. These themes have different forms of exercises and also the number of exercises. The types of exercises are in the form of filling in the blanks with the right answers, composing sentences, and for the total number of all exercises on each theme ranges from 13-14 pieces.

Then, the *Adjektivdeklination* materials or themes on the site are analyzed, and the *Adjektivdeklination* themes on this site are also compared with the *Adjektivdeklination* themes in the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks. In the *Netzwerk* A1 textbook there is 1 *Adjektivdeklination* material or theme and in the Studio D A1 textbook there are 2 *Adjektivdeklination* materials or themes that must be learned. Based on the analysis that has been done, 3 materials or themes are found on the site. Of all these themes, 1 theme is appropriate and

2 themes are not following the *Netzwerk* A1 textbook and in the Studio D A1 textbook there are 2 appropriate themes and 1 theme that is not appropriate. For further explanation of what themes that are not appropriate at the A1 level, please refer to the table provided. In addition to the themes found in one of the textbooks, there are also themes that are compatible with both textbooks, namely 2 themes and 1 theme that is not compatible with both textbooks. The *Adjectivdeklination* themes that correspond to the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks are themes related to clothing, family, and home.

In addition to being in accordance with the themes in the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks, the learngerman.dw.com site also has compatibility with the criteria for learning materials on the internet in the *Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. In these criteria there are various kinds of criteria regarding learning materials on the internet, and one of them is for *Grammatik* material, ranging from criteria about the material itself to its technical aspects. Of the total of 12 criteria, 9 criteria are met and 3 criteria are not met. With the existence of several criteria that are not fulfilled, it does not make this site less good, but can complement each other with other criteria so that it can be used as a reference for further development. Specifically, these criteria can also help in making materials, developing features for site creators, and also helping users both teachers and learners to be able to estimate which criteria will be useful in the learning process based on the learning situation experienced.

5. CONCLUSION

From the results of the analysis that has been carried out and also described based on the findings and discussion in chapter IV regarding *Adjektivdeklination* material on the learngerman.dw.com site, the suitability of the material on the site with the material in the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks, and the suitability of the site with the criteria for online learning materials based on *Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache, the* following conclusions, implications, and recommendations are obtained:

1. The *Adjectivdeklination* material on this site is divided into 3 themes. The complete data of the *Adjectivdeklination* material on the site is contained in appendix 1. The themes are:
   a. *Kleidung (Das ist jetzt modern)* - Clothes (That is now modern)
   b. *Familie (Meine Familie)* - Family (My family)
   c. *Eine neue Heimat (Meine Heimat)* - A New Place (Where I Come From)
2. *Adjketivdeklination* material on learngerman.dw.com can be said to be almost in accordance with the *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks. There is one *Adjectivdeklination* material or 33.3% on the site which is also in the *Netzwerk* A1 book, namely *Eine neue Heimat (Meine Heimat)*. Then, there are two *Adjektivdeklination* materials that match the Studio D A1 textbook or 66.6%, the themes are *Kleidung (Das ist jetzt modern)* and *Eine neue Heimat (Meine Heimat).*
3. Based on the criteria contained in the *Kriterienkatalog für Internet-Lernmaterial Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, *Adjektivdeklination* material on the site learngerman.dw.com fulfills almost all criteria, namely 75%. The criteria that are met are as follows:
   a. The presentation is clear, realistic and motivating
   b. The exercise instructions are clearly outlined
   c. Learners know from the start what they will learn

d. Mentoring through practice
e. Various forms and types of exercises are provided
f. The number of exercises is appropriate to the scope of the material/length of the text
g. Help and solution presentation can be controlled individually
h. Key words and links help

This research is expected to provide benefits to help German learners in mastering *Adjektivdeklination* such as declination of adjectives and determining the right suffix for adjectives, especially learners who use *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks, because there is a suitability of *Adjektivdeklination* material or themes that can be trained regularly. Having a good mastery of *Adjektivdeklination* is one of the important things in the field of language, especially German.

Based on the research results, there are several recommendations as follows: First, German learners can use learngerman.dw.com to improve their skills from the earliest level. Second, through the various exercises available, A1 level German learners can practice *Adjectivdeklination* using this site. Third, learners who use *Netzwerk* A1 and Studio D A1 textbooks can use this site because there is compatibility with the materials also contained in the books. Fourth, this website can be used as an alternative media to help the learners' independent learning process to improve their mastery of *Adjectivdeklination*. Fifth, for further research, it can be developed by analyzing other *Grammatik* materials on this site, such as *Konjugation* materials, *Präteritum*, *Präposition*, *Lokalepräpositionen*, and so on.

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