# Synchronous and Asynchronous-based Arabic Teaching and Learning in Building Student Well-being during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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# Synchronous and Asynchronous-based Arabic Teaching and Learning in Building Student Well-being during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Providing student well-being in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic is very important to achieve the objectives of teaching and learning Arabic. Lecturers as one component of education are required to have competence in managing teaching and learning processes and pleasant teaching and learning interactions with the students. Therefore, the aim of this study was to explore the processes of teaching and learning Arabic in private Islamic universities based on synchronous and asynchronous basis in building student well-being. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach with three data collection techniques, namely observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study showed that synchronous and asynchronous-based teaching and learning in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic was able to build student well-being. It was confirmed by the number of 25 students who took part in Arabic teaching and learning processes, 80% of students were very happy and excited about the approach and method used by the lecturer in teaching and learning Arabic. The results of the study are expected to be an alternative consideration for Arabic language lecturers at the university level in dealing with online lectures in the midst of the covid 19 pandemic. **Keywords:** 

Asyncronous; Arabic Teaching and Learning; Student well-being; Syncronous

#### Abstrak

Abstract:

Menghadirkan student well-being di tengah pandem i covid-19 merupakan ihwal penting untuk mencapai tujuan yang ingin dicapai dalam pembelajaran bahasa Arab. Dosen sebagai salah satu komponen pendidikan dituntut untuk memiliki kompetensi dalam mengelola proses pembelajaran dan interaksi pembelajaran yang menyenangkan dengan peserta didik. Oleh karena itu, tujuan dalam penelitian ini adalah mengeksplorasi proses perkuliahan bahasa Arab di Peguruan Tinggi Keagamaan Islam Swasta berbasis synchronous dan asynchronous dalam membangun student well-being. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan tiga teknik pengumpulan data yaitu observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pembelajaran berbasis synchronous dan asynchronous di tengah pandemi covid-19 mampu membangun student well-being. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan jumlah 25 mahasiswa yang mengikuti pembelajaran bahasa Arab, 80% mahasiswa sangat senang dan gembira terhadap pendekatan dan metode yang dilakukan oleh dosen dalam pembelajaran bahasa Arab. Hasil penelitian diharapkan menjadi pertimbangan alternatif untuk Dosen bahasa Arab di jenjang perguruan tinggi dalam menghadapi perkuliahan secara online di tengah pandemi covid-19.

Asyncronous; Pembejalaran bahasa Arab; Student well-being; Syncronous

#### INTRODUCTION

Kata kunci:

1

The goal of national education based on Law 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System is to develop the students' potential. Schools are educational institutions to achieve national education goals. According to Wikel & Astuti (2007), schools basically function as a special servant to students in various fields that support student well-being. Thus, schools

are expected to be able to carry out educational goals so that they succeed in providing the best experience for the students which in turn makes the students feel prosperous in learning.

One of the factors that influence the success of teaching and learning is the welfare of students. The students' welfare in question is the student well-being. It relates to psychological aspects; the emotional state of students who show a positive mood and positive attitude in the relationship between peers and teachers so that they can foster an optimistic attitude (Grant et al., 2007; Noble & McGrath, 2015). Student well-being is also closely related to teaching and learning conditions. The level of student well-being is indicated by their satisfaction with life while in school including their involvement in teaching and learning processes, and their socio-emotional behavior (Costigan & Donahue, 2009; Noble et al., 2008). Therefore, student well-being needs to be considered because it is an important indicator to reflect student development (Elmore, 2010).

Given the importance of improving student well-being in schools, teachers as one of the schools' components are required to have competence in managing teaching and learning processes or teaching and learning interaction with students so that they are able to achieve the specified learning objectives, especially in teaching and learning Arabic (Sanusi et al., 2020; Sauri et al., 2021).

During the Corona Virus Disease-19 (COVID-19) pandemic, the implementation of teaching and learning in higher education in the 2021/2022 academic year in the West Java region was mostly carried out online, including teaching and learning Arabic at Private Islamic Universities (PIU) in West Bandung Regency. It is carried out as an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in private Islamic universities environment.

However, teaching and learning Arabic online is not an easy task for teachers because the obstacles that hinder teaching and learning processes are often found so that the planned learning objectives are not optimally achieved.

It is in accordance with the results of studies from previous researchers showing that teaching and learning Arabic online poses obstacles both psychologically and technically. The psychological obstacles are in the form of boredom in learning, and low interest and motivation. Further, the results of a study conducted by Watnaya et al. (2020) show that online teaching and learning shows the potential for increasing student mental stress.

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Meanwhile, technical obstacles in teaching and learning Arabic include teaching and learning language skills that is less optimum, signal barriers and internet packages, not optimal assistance from teachers and parents, teaching and learning media used and a less supportive learning environment (Mustaufy, 2020; Syarif, 2020).

However, the most dominating obstacle in teaching and learning processes in the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic is that students feel bored, uncomfortable, and less motivated in learning (Lukita & Sudibjo, 2021). This is partly due to the lack of communication between teachers and students, and teaching methods that only fulfill attendance, give assignments, and collect assignments without giving positive feedback to the students.

Thus, when teachers are not able to build a positive online learning atmosphere, students tend to be lazy, bored and less motivated due to the lack of emotional touch from the teachers (Hidayat & Noeraida, 2020) so that student well-being in class cannot be built (Muhid & Ferdiyanto, 2020).

Therefore, it is necessary to have a solution in the form of teaching methods from teachers that are innovative and creative and make it easier for students to learn Arabic in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic so that they are able to manifest student well-being.

One of the lecturers at Private Islamic Universities (PIU) in West Bandung Regency has provided a solution by recommending online Arabic teaching and learning through integrating synchronous and asynchronous methods. From the results of the interview, he revealed that synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning is very good to be used in teaching and learning Arabic. According to him, synchronous teaching and learning or direct online communication includes discussions, presentations, demonstrations, questions and answers with teachers/lecturers through technology such as zoom meetings, video teleconferences and interactive chats on WhatsApp, Telegram, and Google Classroom.

Meanwhile, asynchronous teaching and learning or online communication is indirectly carried out in working on assignments independently which are sent via email and learning videos that have been provided for students to study outside of lecture hours. He also added that asynchronous-based teaching and learning is more flexible and relaxed. Thus, the difference between synchronous and asynchronous lies in the execution time.

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Synchronous and asynchronous teaching learning is considered more efficient during the COVID-19 pandemic (Guo, 2021). It is in line with a study conducted by Amadea & Ayuningtyas (2020) showing that in online learning with the asynchronous method, students can browse subject matter more easily or be flexible and can complete the tasks given according to the time limit given by the teachers. The result of the study is also supported by Perveen (2016) stating that the asynchronous teaching and learning model has become the most common form of online teaching so far because of its flexible modus operandi.

Therefore, in this study, the researchers are interested in exploring more deeply about the synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning in building student well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. The researchers hope that the results of this study provide a solution in the form of an academic horizon for lecturers, especially those who teach Arabic courses at the Higher Education level regarding synchronous and asynchronous-based teaching and learning processes.

## METHODS

In this study, a descriptive qualitative approach was used. The data collected in this study were all data related to synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning in building student well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic.

From several private Islamic universities in West Bandung Regency under the auspices of the Ministry of Religion, the researchers chose a private Islamic university in West Bandung Regency. The purposive sampling technique was used by the resarchers to choose the sample of the study. Then, the selection of research location was based on the research objectives and determined based on certain criteria.

This study used three data collection techniques, namely observation, interviews, and documentation. Observations were carried out to explore the stages of implementing synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning in building student wellbeing. There were several parties that the researchers interviewed including lecturers and students as research informants. The documentation from this research was in the form of documents related to synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning activities in building student well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Then, to test the credibility of the data to the same source using different techniques, in this study, the researchers used triangulation techniques. This is illustrated in the following image.

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Figure 1. Triangulation of Data Collection Techniques

Further, in this study, the researchers presented the data based on the issue under study that is synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning in building student well-being. The researchers also drew conclusions on the results of the reduction of the research data and the presentation of the research results

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In every Islamic university, both Private Islamic Universities (PIU) and State Islamic Universities (SIU), Arabic courses are included in the category of Basic Courses (BC) that must be taught in all majors, both in language and non-language major, because Arabic is the main tool to be able to dissect and understand the teachings of Islam and various kinds of knowledge developed by previous Muslim scientists through several literature books ranging from classical to modern. Based on the reason, Arabic courses must be taught to all Islamic universities students (Rusyadi & Fahmi, 2020).

# The Implementation of Synchronous and Asynchronous-Based Arabic Teaching and Learning

Arabic teaching and learning activities cannot be separated from pre-learning, learning implementation, and learning evaluation carried out by teachers in achieving the expected goals (Mahfuz et al.; Sanusi & Haq, 2021). In this regard, the researchers collected data from the observation, interview, and documentation process in the synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning processes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, the researchers formulated several stages as follows:

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# Pre-Lecture

Table 1. The Semester Lesson Plan

Course Name :	Basic Arabic
Code/Credit/SMT :	/ 2 Credits / I
Study Program/Level :	Islamic Economics/S1
Course Objectives	After attending this course, the students of the Islamic Economics Study Program and the first semester of the STEBI Islamic Banking Study Program have two basic skills in Arabic, namely listening and speaking in basic Arabic.
Content Description	The students will be given an understanding of basic Arabic and it is expected that after attending this course the students will have two basic skills in Arabic, namely listening and speaking in basic Arabic
Lecture Materials	Fi'il Muļāri (progressive verbs)
Teaching and Learning Method	Synchronous & Asynchronous
Learning Media	WAG, PPT, Zoom Meeting, Quizizz, email, youtube
Learning Resources	Al-Arabiyah Al-Asasiyah
Teaching and Learning Stages	<ol> <li>Opening (10 Minutes) (Synchronous)         <ul> <li>Greetings, and giving motivation through WAG to condition teaching and learning through Zoom Meetings</li> <li>The lecturer provides Zoom Meeting links to the students</li> <li>The lecturer relates the teaching and learning material of the meeting to the previous meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>Core Activities (70 Minutes) Synchronous &amp; Asynchronous</li> <li>The lecturer explains the materials related to <i>Fi'il Mudāri</i> (verbs in progress) through Zoom Meeting</li> <li>After the lecturer explains the lecture materials, the lecturer allows students to ask questions related to the material delivered (Synchronous)</li> <li>The lecturer gives tasks related to <i>Fi'il Mudāri</i>,</li> <li>The students submit assignments related to <i>Fi'il Mudāri</i> via email (Asynchronous)</li> <li>The lecturer and the students reflect on the teaching and learning process that has been carried out through Zoom Meetings</li> <li>The lecturer informs about the next lesson plan</li> <li>The lecturer closes teaching and learning activities</li> </ol>
Assessment	Attitude: 4 Through observations carried out by the leacturer during the teaching and learning process: discipline, responsibility,
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Skills: Students can understand *Fi'il Mudāri* (verbs that are being and will be done) and are able to make simple sentences both orally and in writing.

Regarding asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning, before the lecture was carried out, the lecturer first had informed the theme of the material discussed in the lecture according to the semester lesson plan using WhatsApp application. In addition, a week before the lecture was carried out, the lecturer had also discussed and determined the applications that could be used in lectures or could be reached by the students in carrying out teaching and learning processes. The theme that would be discussed in this basic Arabic lecture was about (*fi'il muḍāri*) future verbs. In addition, the lecturer explained the objectives to be achieved in the course. In short, the objectives to be achieved in the theme are as described in table 1, namely that students understand and comprehend *fi'il muḍāri*, and are able to make simple sentences both orally and in writing.

Then, in pre-lecture, the lecturer allowed the students to download an e-book entitled *al-arabiyah al-asasiyah* written by Abdurahman & Sofyan on the web that had been provided by the lecturer, and then they opened the file as a book of Arabic teaching and learning materials. In addition, to assist in understanding the materials used, the lecturer recommended students to download the electronic dictionary application, namely the *al-Ma'any* dictionary.

Furthermore, the lecturer asked the students to have the Zoom Cloud Meeting application as a learning medium. The application is available on PC/Laptops, and smartphones that already operate using Android and IOS technology.

The detailed synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic lectures are described in the following semester lesson plan prepared by the lecturer;

#### The Implementation of Synchronous-Based Teaching and Learning

In the implementation of synchronous online teaching and learning or, in other words, a learning model in which lecturers and students learn at the same time was carried out virtually through a zoom meeting application.

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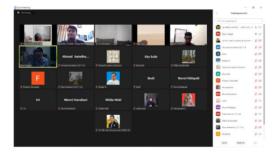


Figure. 1

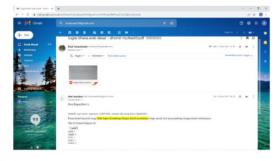
# Asynchronous-Based Arabic Teaching and Learning

In asynchronous teaching and learning, the students learnt at different times with their lecturers. Based on the data from interviews with the lecturer of the private Islamic university, before the students attended lectures, four days earlier the lecturer had uploaded teaching materials to the e-learning application. The students could access it at any time, provided they had to be connected to the internet. Thus, the students could learnt the material before being conveyed by the lecturer. The researchers' application is depicted below;

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Figure. 2

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#### Figure. 3

Moreover, asynchronous teaching and learning is described in the figure above. The students were given assignments from their lecturer. Then after those assignments had been completed, a student sent the assignments via email to the lecturer. The lecturer checked the student's assignment. Then, he gave feedback regarding the student's assignments. There should be corrected in the assignments.

In addition, the lecturer always motivate students to keep enthusiastic in learning, especially learning Arabic. Motivation is important for students. It is because, as stated by Maulana (2018), motivation is a significant factor in encouraging a person to mobilize all existing potential, generate high desires and increase enthusiasm so that what is desired can be achieved. Moreover, motivation is a driving force that converts energy in a person into the form of real activities to achieve certain goals. In other words, motivation is a psychological condition that encourages someone to do something. It is because motivation has a major contribution to learning, especially learning languages (Manizar, 2015; Mansfield, 2010; Rahman, 2018; Shah, 2016).

Without realizing it, there is a more flexible asynchronous teaching and learning atmosphere. It is as emphasized by Divayana (2020) stating that asynchronous teaching and learning is teaching and learning activities carried out by teachers and students at different times, in which teaching and learning materials that have been distributed by the teachers can be accessed by the students anytime and anywhere.

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#### Learning Evaluation

The lecturer is able to build student engagement in which the students are actively involved in online Arabic teaching and learning processes. In creating the milieu of student well-being, the lecturers provide an Arabic quiz which is administered using the Quiziz application (Munawaroh, 2021).

The Arabic quiz using the Quiziz application, as an evaluation instrument, is actually an evaluation of determining the goal orientation of learning outcomes. In other words, evaluation can be said as a very important element in education. In addition, it can be used as a reference for instruments to measure the level of understanding, the success of a person, especially students, in studying Arabic teaching and learning materials. In short, the success of teaching and learning processes in the classroom can be seen from the extent to which all students in the class master the competencies (Maulana & Sanusi, 2020; Sanusi et al, 2021).



### Figure.5

In carrying out the evaluation using quiziz, the lecturer provided information to all the students through the WhatsApp Group. First, for the students who use electronics, both cellphones and laptops, they should measure that their cellphones or laptops must be connected to the internet. It is because if they are not connected to the internet, they cannot join quiziz. Then, the lecturer gave the quiziz link to the students so that they could directly visit www.quiziz.com/join and typed the code that had been determined to join the live quiz or complete homework in quiziz.

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After completing the Arabic language quiz using Quiziz, there are a lot of mixed responses from the students. There are the students who expressed about the advantages and disadvantages of using Quiziz to carry out the quizzes. The advantages include that it is very fun to feel like playing a game, motivating, up-to-date, accurate, interactive, focused, and practicing accuracy in answering

Then, the disadvantages of using Quiziz to carry out quizzes are that it cannot correct the answers, it depends on the internet connection, the time allocation to answer the questions is too fast depending on cellphone and laptop devices. Furthermore, other disadvatanges are that the students have to wait for all the students to join before they can start, it makes the students nervous, the display on the cellphone is easy to close, it is needed several steps to move from a question to another question, and answering must be done sequentially.

# Advantages and Disadvantages of Synchronous and Asynchronous Teaching and Learning

Synchronous & asynchronous methods certainly have advantages and disadvantages. Synchronous teaching and learning occurs when the students and teachers exchange information and interact simultaneously in an online learning community using a predetermined time using learning technologies including internet conference, satellite, video teleconferencing and chat. In the process of implementing it, there are advantages and disadvantages described as follows;

- a. Advantages
- The presence of lectures makes teaching and learning processes guaranteed
- There is interaction between lectures and students.
- There is immediate learning interaction, so that it can increase the closeness between lectures and students or between the students, and avoid feeling isolated.
- Minimize the occurrence of misunderstandings by using direct communication
- The students can ask questions directly and can be answered directly by the lecturers.
- The activeness in an online teaching and learning process is the same as in a face-toface teaching and learning process.
- In the classroom, students and lecturers can communicate better, and the awkwardness of students in the class will not be seen.

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- b. Disadvantages
- It is difficult to make schedule because it requires lecturers and students to be present at the same time.
- It must use high speed internet access.
- It is real time so that participants cannot access it at a later time, unless it is scheduled.
- It does not provide enough time for students to think for a long time.

Meanwhile, asynchronous teaching and learning is a teaching and learning process freely carried out meaning that it is not bound by time, in which students can interact with specific materials and with each other at the time they choose. Something that can be done is when the students post their thoughts, on a day that is determined by themselves and other students comment on posts such as in discussion forums. In implementing asynchronous teaching and learning method, there are advantages and disadvantages described as follows;

#### a. Advantages

- The students become independent and accustomed to seeking information from various sources.
- It saves time because it does not need to devote special time to learning.
- Flexibility of time for lecturers and students, so that the teaching and learning process can be adjusted to the pace and conditions of each.
- More flexible time encourages students and lecturers to think more deeply before expressing their opinions through discussion forums, so as to increase cognitive engagement of the students.
- Very high dialogue quality can be achieved using a discussion structure and gives
  participants more time to think about what to post.
- Students who take the lessons can choose the time at any time which the time they
  choose is the right time.
- Space commitment is irrelevant and students can freely study whenever they have time.
- b. Disadvantages
- The delays in interactions can make the students feel less close to lecturers or fellow students.

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- There is a difference in understanding of the material due to the lack of direct interaction.
- There is a lack of interaction between lecturers and students and even between students themselves.
- There is a lack of communication in language or writing that is not simply accepted by the readers.
- It requires an internet connection (Narayana, 2016).

# Students' Perception in Synchronous and Asynchronous Arabic Teaching and Learning

The researchers also collected the results of the questionnaire distributed via questionnaire to collect the students' responses. The questionnaire distributed to the students relates to the achievement of student well-being in teaching and learning Arabic. In addition, the questionnaire also has four levels of scale regarding the achievement, namely 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good. The researchers collected the responses of 25 respondents (students who attended lectures). These are listed in the following table.

# Table 2. The Achievement of Student Well-being in Teaching and Learning Arabic

No	Indiantana		Achievement			
	Indicators			3	4	
1	The approach and method of teaching and learning Arabic used by the lecturer make it easier for me to understand teaching and learning materials		4%	18%	78%	
2	Teaching and learning carried out by the lecturer allow me to learn Arabic anywhere		5%	20%	75%	
3	The approach and method of teaching and learning Arabic used by the lecturer make me happier in learning		4%	16%	80%	
4	The Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer make me more active and creative		7%	21%	72%	
5	The Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer do not make me bored		2%	19%	79%	

From the table above, the researchers found that 78% of students who understand Arabic teaching and learning materials through the approach and method used by the lecturer are very good, 18% is good and 4% is fair. Furthermore, the Arabic teaching and learning processes carried out makes them able to study anywhere as much as 75% is very good, 20% is good, and

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5% is fair. In addition, the students are more happy and excited about the approach and method used by the lecturer in teaching and learning Arabic as much as 80% is very good, 16% is good, and 4% is fair. The students become more active and creative in Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer as much as 72% is very good, 21% is good, and 7% is fair. Then, the Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer do not make the students feel bored as much as 79% is very good, 19% is good, and 2% is fair.

The researchers concluded that several benefits were obtained through synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning, namely that first, it increases students' understanding of the Arabic teaching and learning materials being taught; second, it makes the students happy and excited in participating in Arabic teaching and learning processes; third, it makes it easier for the students to learn Arabic under any conditions, because teaching and learning methods used by the lecturer are flexible.

#### CONCLUSIONS

It could be concluded that building student well-being in the Arabic teaching and learning processes is very necessary during the current Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to motivate students in participating in online teaching and learning processes. Online synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning can answer the need for emotional touch between students and teachers/lecturers and can build a pleasant atmosphere in online teaching and learning at the higher education level

The stages of synchronous and asynchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning carried out by the lecturer in building student well-being were pre-lecture, lecture implementation, and lecture evaluation. However, despite all the advantages and disadvantages that exist in synchronous and asynchronous-based teaching and learning, it has been proven to be able to build student well-being. It is supported by the achievement of student well-being in the very good category in which 78% of students who understand Arabic teaching learning materials through the approach and method used by the lecturer are very good. Arabic teaching and learning carried out makes the students able to study anywhere as much as 75%. The students are more happy and excited about the approach and method used by the lecturer in teaching and learning. Arabic as much as 80% is very good. The students become more active and creative in Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer as much as 72% is very good. Moreover, the Arabic teaching and learning activities provided by the lecturer do not make the students feel bored as much as 79% is very good. This study is still limited to the

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minimal use of methods, so that further studies are still needed to test the effectiveness of synchronous and synchronous-based Arabic teaching and learning in other higher education institutions.

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