

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW ON LEARNING STYLES

3.0 Introduction

Learning is an integral part of everyday life. A learner with a compatible learning style could learn best in a new knowledge. A well understanding of learning styles is a must before developing Learning Objects that is suited for all types of learning styles learner to use it in learning. There are four types of learning styles defined in VARK. VARK is a popular topology for learning styles and stand for visual learning, auditory learning, read-write learning and kinesthetic learning.

3.1 Definitions Of Learning Styles

According to Vermunt & Van Rijswijk, a learning style is referred as the activities, study orientations and conceptions of learning (Vermunt, 1988).

Besides, learning styles are also defined as a predisposition on the part of some students to adopt a particular learning strategy regardless of the specific demands of the learning task (Jos, 1999).

Learning styles are also defined as the ways of learning or how people concentrate, process and memorize new information (Cuesta, 2003).

Kolb describes learning styles are the categories developed by educational researchers to classify learners based on their customary approach to perceiving and processing information (Kim, 2002).

Thus, Hulya also described learning styles as a learner's pattern of behaviour in approaching a learning experience, included taking in new information, developing new skills, retaining new information and applying new skills to life situations (Hulya, 2005)

In conclusion, learning styles could conclude as a learner's behavior in gaining new knowledge and the compatible ways for learners to learn more efficiently.

3.2 Types Of Learning Styles

The types of learning styles that are viewed on the point of physiological dimension of the study of learning styles and e-learning. VARK is a popular typology for this dimension. VARK is defined as visual, aural/ auditory, read-write and kinesthetic (William, 2004).

Visual learners learned best when information was presented visually and in a written language, picture or designs format. This type of learners preferred learning from demonstration.

Auditory learners learned best when information was presented auditory in an oral language format. This type of learners learned by listening and preferred to solve problems by talking in discussions and dialogues.

Read-write learners learned best when notes were taken. This type of learners learned best when taking notes during a lecture or reading difficult material. Read-write learner preferred to draw things to remember.

Kinesthetic learners learned best when a learner physically involved in an activity. This type of learners preferred hands-on experience. Kinesthetic learners learned best when they are able to touch, move and interact with the learning environment.

3.3 The Relationships Between Learning Styles And Learning Objects

With the widespread use of computers for the past few years, integration of learning process and ICT give a big impact to education system and students respectively. Students can learn more easily through any combination of learning styles in e-learning that include hearing, seeing, writing, reading and illustration. This can ensure students of the next generation to be ready to compete in global and challenging world.

To link a relationship within the learning styles and the Learning Objects, the VARK typology, the definition of Learning Objects and the types of Learning Objects are reviewed again. Practice Learning Objects are type of resources that provide learner learning or study by repetition, rehearsal or carry out of exercises and is suited for tactile or kinesthetic learning style learners. Informational Learning Objects are type of resources that provide learner learning or study from a collection of fact, data and knowledge derived by study, experience and instruction and suited for visual and auditory learning style learners. Finally, Integrated Learning Objects are type of Learning Objects that provide learners to study not only by exercises, but also knowledge. This type of Learning Objects is suited for all types of learning style learners, which includes visual, auditory, read-write and tactile/ kinesthetic.

3.4 Summary

With a well understanding on learning styles, that include the definitions, types and relationship within Learning Objects, a basic framework on what types of Learning Objects can be created and to be illustrated and designed. Based on the definitions, learning styles are learner's behavior in gaining new knowledge and the compatible ways for learners to learn more efficiently. There are four compatible ways that are defined in VARK, including visually learning, auditory learning, read-write learning and kinesthetic learning.