

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW ON LEARNING STYLES

3.0 Introduction

Learning is an integral part of everyday life. A learner with a compatible learning style can learn best of a new knowledge. A good understanding of learning styles is a must before developing Learning Objects that is suitable for all types of learning styles learner. 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 and Van Rijswijk (1988), a learning style is referred as the activities, study orientations and conceptions of learning.

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 & Evelien, 1999).

Learning styles are also defined as the ways of learning or how do 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 (Buch & Bartley, 2002).

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

In conclusion, learning styles can be concluded 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 & Richard, 2004).

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

Auditory learners learn best when information is presented auditory in an oral language format. This type of learners learns by listening and prefers to solve problems by talking in discussions and dialogues.

Read-write learners learn best when notes are taken. This type of learners learns best when taking notes during a lecture or reading difficult material. Read-write learner prefers to draw things to remember.

Kinesthetic learners learn best when a learner is physically involved in an activity. This type of learners prefer hands-on experience. Kinesthetic learners learn 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 has a big impact on the 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 the 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 is a type of resource that provides learner learning or studying by repetition, rehearsal or carrying out exercises and is suitable for tactile or kinesthetic learning style learners. Informational Learning Objects is a type of resource that provides learner learning or studying from a collection of fact, data and knowledge that is derived by study, experience and instruction. This type of Learning Objects is suitable for visual and auditory learning style learners. Finally, Integrated Learning Objects is a type of Learning Objects that provides learners to study not only by exercises, but also knowledge. This type of Learning Objects is suitable for all types of learning style learners, which includes visual, auditory, read-write and tactile/ kinesthetic.

3.4 Summary

With a good understanding on learning styles, that includes the definitions, types and relationship within Learning Objects, a basic framework on what types of Learning Objects can be created 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.