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# Students' Epistemic Game according to SOLO Taxonomy in Completing Fluid Mechanics Problem

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to describe the students' epistemic game of high physics-capable. This study is qualitative. The participants are students taking fluid mechanics courses. The collect data of this study use fluid mechanics test, physics understanding test and interview. The understanding test determine the students' understanding level, while the determining students' epistemic game by SOLO taxonomy use the fluid mechanics test. The students complete the first test by using mapping mathematics to meaning in a relational level and transliteration to mathematics in a multistructural level. Pictorial analysis in level extended abstract and transliteration to mathematics in level relational are used by the students in completing problem of the second test. Meanwhile, this study result showed that mapping mathematics to meaning and recursive plug and chug in a relational level are used the students for completing the third test. Furthermore, the students completing the fourth test used transliteration to mathematics and recursive plug and chug in a relational level The students' epistemic game by SOLO taxonomy of this study can be used to develop physics learning.

**Keywords:** epistemic game, SOLO taxonomy, fluid mechanics

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#### INTRODUCTION

The educational orientation has shifted preparing students to be ready to face and overcome cognitive challenges. This is due to the increasingly diverse needs of the world of work in requiring people who are able to solve problems. In facing the world of work in the future, students are not only equipped with concept understanding but also the ability to think in using their knowledge in solving problems. This also happens to the concept of fluid. The fluid learning process is still informative and lacks real experience for students. One of the results of a study shows that physics learning tends to be informative and does not facilitate students in connecting concepts learned with related phenomena (Fathiah et al., 2015). Students have the direct learning experience and affect the student's understanding.

An appropriate strategy focused on teaching fluid mechanics to further motivate students. This strategy must take into account the activeness of students in participing, where they are not only passive recipients of information. Student knowledge with a fundamental theoretical structure fails to develop the skills and practical abilities that are needed by the job market. Problem solving is an inherent part of engineering. The fluid mechanics teaching and learning process has difficult characteristics and does not attract many engineering students. Some very interesting experinces have been introduced to overcome this, such as project based learning. Educators should reflect on the potential lack of interest or participation by students in class and the difficulty understanding concepts or verbal and written expressions in their teaching methodology. It is also assumed that it is possible that the instructor's teaching strategy is incompatible with the learning styles of most students, which does not promote a positive climate of motivation and assimilation for students.

Productive learning from fluid mechanics, with activities that appeal to all learning styles. At the same time, this methodology should motivate students in highlighting important concepts, using simple examples while leaving aside outdated methods and procedures that are no longer used. In the opinion of many scientists, individual work forms in students required volume and level of knowledge, skills and abilities to complete cognitive tasks at each training step and develop mental sets into systematic knowledge and skills acquisition (Guseinova, 2018).

The effectiveness of the educational process depends on the involvement of students in active learning activities, as someone who develops and presents himself in activities. The development of practical work (PW) and several assessment moments have had a positive impact on the way they focus on content and follow the cources being taught, provide knowledge of the field under study, encourage collaborative work and stimulate students' intellectual curiosity (Sena-Esteves et al., 2019). The assessment moments help provide knowledge of the area under study, encourage collaborative work and stimulate theor intellectual curiosity, but they still have difficulty linking the acquired concepts to other chapters. The findings of Suarez's study (Suarez et al., 2017) suggest that the most critical difficulties arise from the inability of students to establishthe relationship between kinematics and fluid dynamics in motion, and from a lack of understanding of how different regions of the system interact. This ensures that understanding student misunderstandings and difficulties is a step that needs to be corrected in the field of science and engineering. Not only that, the quality of students' thinking determines the quality of what they design, produce or make in understanding the concept (Adair & Jaeger, 2016). This thinking considers and

articulates assumption in problem solving. The learning model also plays a role when students solve the problems. However, this is constrained if it is done online as found in Aunillah' study (Niswatun Aunillah et al., 2018), some student are late in submitting their assignments. In addition, students can easily practice solving different problem with online learning.

Epistemic game is inseparable from the students' thought process in solving problems. SOLO taxonomy is a tool used to categorize student thinking. This is based on research which showed that the thinking framework is characterized by the SOLO taxonomy (Kamol & Har, 2010). The SOLO taxonomy framework classifies the ability of thought process of an issue. This classifies the level of response for the development of thought processes.

#### **METHOD**

This study is qualitative research (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The students' epistemic game of high physics-capable are determined by solving fluid mechanics test and interview.

## **Participants**

The participant of this study consisted of 73 Mechanical Engineering students, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri. Based on students' result of physics understanding test, there were 67 out of 73 high physics-capable students.

#### **Data Collection and Instrument**

#### 1. Test

The physics understanding test and the fluid mechanics test are used to collect the data. The physics understanding test consists of 7 questions on physics problem to determine physics-capable students. While the fluid mechanics test consisted of 4 measuring and fluid questions for determining students' epistemic game.

#### 2. Interview

The interviews were used to complement and reinforce the findings of this study. The result of fluid mechanics test was used to interview the students.

#### **Data Analysis**

The analysis of this study was carried out in three stages as follows:

#### 1. The data reduction

The process of selecting epistemic game data according to SOLO taxonomy based on the level of relevance and its relationship with each data of epistemic game in data reduction. Other than that, it is also focused on data entry and simplification of raw epistemic game data according to SOLO taxonomy in the field in the form of game data. Extracted and transformed data obtained into general epistemic game data according to SOLO taxonomy. Activity of data reduction begin with reading, studying and understanding all the data obtained.

### 2. The data presentation

The data presentation consists of activities grouping by ability grouping criteria physics students and the identification data is done by writing the data collection on the

regular basic and categorized so that it can be deduced. The data presentation activity aims to make conclusions easily.

#### 3. The conclusion

The conclusion was to provide an explanation of the meaning and results of presenting the data. Futhermore, conclusion was shown to formulate the students' fluid mechanics problem solving strategies. Conslusions obtained based on data presentation.

#### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

High physics-capable students include 67 students. Epistemic game SOLO taxonomy according to the distribution of high physics-capable students in solving fluid mechanics are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Epistemic Game by SOLO Taxonomy Distribution of High Physics-Capable Students in Solving Fluid Mechanics

in Solving Fluid Mechanics										
No.	Kode	Epistemic Game				Level Taksonomi Solo				
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
1	M001	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
2	M002	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
3	M005	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
4	M006	TM	TM	MMM2	RPC	M	R	R	R	
5	M007	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
6	M008	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
7	M010	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
8	M011	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
9	M016	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
10	M018	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
11	M019	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
12	M020	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
13	M021	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
14	M022	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
15	M028	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
16	M029	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
17	M030	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
18	M031	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
19	M032	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
20	M034	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
21	M035	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
22	M036	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
23	M037	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
24	M038	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
25	M039	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
26	M040	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
27	M042	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
28	M043	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
29	M044	MMM2	TM	RPC	RPC	R	R	R	R	
30	M047	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
31	M050	MMM2	PA	RPC	RPC	R	EA	R	R	
32	M053	TM	TM	RPC	RPC	M	R	R	R	
33	M054	TM	TM	MMM2	RPC	M	R	R	R	

34 M055 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   35 M056 TM TM RPC RPC M R R R R   36 M058 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R	
36 M058 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   37 M059 MMM2 TM RPC TM R R R R   38 M060 TM TM RPC RPC M R R R   39 M062 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   40 M063 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R   41 M064 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	_
37 M059 MMM2 TM RPC TM R <t< th=""><th></th></t<>	
38 M060 TM TM RPC RPC M R R R   39 M062 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   40 M063 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R   41 M064 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	
39 M062 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   40 M063 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R   41 M064 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	
40 M063 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R   41 M064 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	
41 M064 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R   42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
42 M070 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
43 M071 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
44 M072 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
45 M073 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
46 M076 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
47 M077 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
48 M078 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
49 M080 TM TM RPC RPC M R R	
50 M081 TM TM MMM2 RPC M R R	
51 M082 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
52 M083 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
53 M084 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
54 M085 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
55 M087 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
56 M089 MMM2 TM RPC TM R R R	
57 M091 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
58 M092 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
59 M093 MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
60 M095 TM TM RPC RPC M R R	
61 M097 MMM2 TM RPC TM R R R	
<b>62 M99</b> MMM2 PA RPC RPC R EA R R	
63 M100 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	
64 M101 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
65 M102 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R	
66 M107 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	
67 M112 MMM2 TM RPC RPC R R R R	

Table 1 showed that students' epistemic game by SOLO taxonomy distribution of high physics-capable to complete fluid mechanics test. M087 was code of students whereas numeral showed that the student' characteristic. Meantime, epistemic game of high physics-capable students were mapping mathematics to meaning (MMM2), transliteration to mathematics (TM), recursive plug and chug (RPC) and pictorial analysis (PA). And SOLO taxonomy level of student of this study showed that students used relational (R), multistructural (M) and extended abstract (EA) in completing fluid mechanics problems.

Epistemic games are used by students with high physics capability according to SOLO taxonomy in solving fluid mechanics problems and are described as follows: in the first test, students use mathematics to meaning mapping in a relational level and transliteration to mathematics in a multistructural level. Mapping mathematics to meaning in a relational level is used by students in identifying and combining fluid

concepts, finding equations in solving problems and evaluating fluid problems. In this case, students use and combine all the concepts and data contained in the first test. Meanwhile, students who use transliteration to mathematics in a multistructural level identify the quantities, find the solution pattern of the first test, map the quantities and evaluate the mapping of the first test problem. This shows that students use and respond to some data and cannot connect the concepts or data contained in the first test.

The cognitive process is used by students in completing the fluid mechanics problem. Students' information understanding and providing in completing the problems is very dependent on educational goals to articulate the selection and design of problem (Teodorescu et al., 2013). They identify and combine fluid concepts, finding equations in solving problems and evaluating fluid problems. They develop the conceptual stories to be realted to physics equations in mapping mathematics to meaning (Tuminaro & Redish, 2007). They use and respond to some data and cannot connect the concepts or data contained in the first test (Lian & Yew, 2012).

Pictorial analysis in an extended abstract level and transliteration to mathematics in a relational level are used students to solve the second test. Pictorial analysis in an extended abstract level is used by students in determining concepts, describing the processes that occur in the flow of a tangka, explaining the problem conceptually and representing the problem. This shows that students apply equations related to problems, find general principles from data and apply them in solving problems, and provide responses by connecting the concepts or data contained in the second test. Meanwhile, students use transliteration to mathematics in a relational level to identify quantities, find the second test solution pattern, map the quantities and evaluate the mapping of the second fluid mechanics problem test. This shows that students use and combine all the concepts and data contained in the second test.

Analyzing qualitatively analysis and design used organized understanding possible solution for monitoring the students' capability progress (Ogilvie, 2009). It showed that transliteration to mathematics use worksheet to generate solution without developing fluid mechanics understanding. The students identify quantities, find the second test solution pattern, map the quantities and evaluate the mapping of the second fluid mechanics problem test (Tuminaro & Redish, 2007). They used a relational level too based on their response. The information aspect provided to one another are integrated into a coherent stucture (Jamil, 2017). They can connect between a fact and principles or theories in completing problems given at a hort time (Appulembang, 2017).

Epistemic games according to the SOLO taxonomy used by students in the third test include recursive plug and chug in a relational level and mapping mathematics to meaning in a relational level. Mapping mathematics to meaning was used students in a relational level in identifying and combining fluid concepts, finding equations in solving problems and evaluating fluid problems. In this case students use and combine all the concepts and data contained in the third test. Meanwhile, students who use recursive plug and chug in a relational level identify and calculate quantities, find equations related to problems, identify and determine new quantities in solving fluid mechanics problems. It shows using and combining all concepts and data.

The findings explained that students use several games to complete the fluid mechanics problem. Consistency suggests that certain resources and games are not only

way students use or play (Tuminaro & Redish, 2007). Epistemic game increases the students' physics understanding based on this study (Tuminaro & Redish, 2007).

Recursive plug and chug and transliteration to mathematics have used by students to solve the fourth test in a relational level. Recursive plug and chug in a relational level is used by students in identifying and calculating quantities, finding equations related to problems, identifying and determining new quantities in solving fluid mechanics problems. In this case, students use and combine all concepts and data. Meanwhile, transliteration to mathematics in a relational level used by students to identify quantities, find the first solution pattern test, map the quantities and evaluate the mapping of fluid mechanics test problems. This shows that students use and combine all concepts and data in the fourth test.

Students use recursive plug and chug to identify and calculate quantities, find equations related to problems, identify and determine new quantities in solving fluid mechanics problems.this epistemic game is identical to mapping meaning to mathematics (Tuminaro & Redish, 2007). It relies on understanding the physics symbols syntax without understanding the concept symbols. Students can easily solve the physics problem if it is to understand the concept with a variety representations (Khoirurrohmah et al., 2018). It shows the students' efforts involved in problem solving tasks.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This study result showed that students use used mathematics to meaning mapping in a relational level and transliteration to mathematics in a multistructural level in completing the first test. Pictorial analysis in an extended abstract level and transliteration to mathematics in a relational level are used students to complete the second test. Epistemic games according to the SOLO taxonomy used by students in the third test in a relational level include recursive plug and chug and mapping mathematics to meaning. Meantime, the fourth test that has been completed by the students in a relational level use transliteration to mathematics and recursive plug and chug.

The study focus was students' epistemic game of high physics-capable in completing the problem of fluid mechanics. Epistemic game of this study can be used as a reference in determining the appropriate fluid mechanics learning. Not only that, this epistemic game can be used as material for consideration in developing worksheets, modules, and fluid mechanics teaching materials.

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