

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Improving academic quality has become one of the main goals in today's education, especially in institutions that combine traditional and modern teaching methods. Modern Islamic boarding schools, such as Pondok Pesantren Darul Hijrah Putra, aim to balance classical education with more innovative approaches to meet the needs of contemporary learning. In this context, teaching methods play an important role in shaping students' learning experiences and academic outcomes. Teaching methods can be understood as the strategies used by teachers to deliver material, engage students in the learning process, and help them achieve learning objectives. Choosing appropriate teaching methods is important because it directly affects students' engagement, motivation, and understanding.

Interactive teaching methods are one approach that involves students actively in the learning process, such as through discussions, presentations, and group work. These methods encourage students to take part in learning rather than just listening. Meanwhile, flexible teaching methods refer to the ability of teachers to adjust their teaching strategies based on students' conditions and classroom situations. This flexibility is important because each student has different levels of understanding, energy, and learning needs. By combining these two approaches, teachers can create a more engaging and supportive learning environment.

On the other hand, the learning environment in pesantren has its own challenges. Students usually follow a very busy daily schedule, including religious activities, general subjects, personal development programs, and dormitory routines. This condition requires teachers to use teaching methods that not only deliver knowledge but also maintain students' motivation and focus. Lecture-based methods that are used too often can make students feel bored, especially when they are already tired from their daily activities. Therefore, interactive and flexible teaching methods may be a more suitable alternative to support the learning process in pesantren.

Although these methods are believed to be beneficial, there are still limited studies that specifically examine their impact on students' academic achievement in pesantren settings. Most previous studies focus on public schools or other modern educational institutions. This shows that there is still a gap in understanding how these methods are applied in pesantren, which have different systems and learning cultures. In addition, teachers in pesantren come from diverse educational backgrounds, which leads to differences in teaching styles. This raises an important question: do interactive and flexible teaching methods really contribute to improving students' learning outcomes in this context?

Another reason this study is conducted is the noticeable difference in students' academic performance within the same class. Some students show high achievement and active participation, while others struggle to understand the lessons or lack motivation. Based on initial observations, teaching methods are assumed to be one of the factors influencing this condition. Students tend

to respond more positively when teachers involve them directly in learning activities, such as discussions, group work, or allowing them to express their ideas and move during the lesson. However, these observations still need to be studied more systematically to understand their actual impact.

Based on these considerations, this study is conducted to explore how students experience and perceive interactive and flexible teaching methods, and whether these methods influence their academic achievement. This study uses a qualitative approach to explore students' experiences directly, as they are the ones who experience the teaching process. Through this study, it is expected to identify which aspects of these methods are most helpful for students, as well as the challenges they still face. In the end, this study is expected to contribute to improving teaching practices in pesantren, both in theory and in practice.

In addition, learning English in the pesantren context presents its own challenges and importance. As a foreign language, English requires students to actively participate, practice regularly, and engage in meaningful interaction to develop their language skills. Therefore, interactive teaching methods are highly relevant in English learning because they encourage students to speak, discuss, and express their ideas more confidently. At the same time, flexible teaching methods allow teachers to adjust their instruction based on students' different levels of language proficiency, learning pace, and classroom conditions. This is particularly important in pesantren, where students come from diverse educational backgrounds and must balance multiple academic and religious responsibilities. This study gains relevance from the Quranic

principle regarding the importance of seeking knowledge, as stated in Surah Al Mujadilah (58:11):

ذَٰ قَيْنِ اَنْشُرُوْا يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا اِذَا قِيْلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوْا فِى الْمَجْلِسِ فَاَفْسَحُوْا يَفْسَحِ اللّٰهُ لَكُمْ وَا
الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِيْنَ اُوْتُوْا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجٰتٍ وَاللّٰهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ خَبِيْرٌ فَاَنْشُرُوْا يَرْفَعِ اللّٰهُ

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Interactive Teaching Methods

Method is an effort how to do something in this case. how to guide Students to be creative. Interactive teaching methods refer to instructional methods used by teachers to actively engage students in the learning process through discussions, presentations, collaborative activities, and other interactive learning activities. these methods aim to involve students in both religious and subjects.

2. Flexible Teaching Methods

Adaptive teaching approaches that consider students' individual needs, learning styles, and learning paces. In pesantren, this method accommodates the diverse educational backgrounds of students while integrating both religious and general education subjects.

3. Academic Quality

In this study, academic quality refers to students' perceived learning progress, understanding, motivation, and engagement as reflected in their personal learning experiences. The term does not focus on numerical scores but on how students narrate their own academic development.

4. Pesantren

Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia that combine religious and general education. Modern pesantren, such as Pondok Pesantren Darul

Hijrah Putra, integrate innovative teaching methods while maintaining a focus on religious studies.

5. Narrative Inquiry

Narrative inquiry is a qualitative research design used to explore participants lived experiences through their personal stories. This approach allows participants to express their thoughts and perspectives in a natural way.

In this study, narrative inquiry is used because the research focuses on students' experiences with interactive and flexible teaching methods. These experiences are better understood through students' stories rather than numerical data. This approach helps the researcher understand how students perceive teaching methods and how these methods influence their motivation, engagement, and learning process.

C. Research Questions

1. What are the students' experiences with interactive and flexible teaching methods?
2. How do students describe the impact of interactive and flexible teaching methods on their academic quality?

D. Objectives of Study

1. To explore students' experiences with interactive and flexible teaching methods using a narrative approach.
2. To understand how students describe the influence of interactive and flexible teaching methods on their academic quality.

E. Significance of Study

1. **Theoretical Significance** This research contributes to the development of literature on innovative teaching practices, particularly in the context of education in pesantren. It provides insights into the integration of traditional pedagogical approaches with more flexible and interactive modern teaching methods.
2. **Practical Significance** This study offers practical recommendations for educators to enhance the effectiveness and quality of teaching in pesantren settings. It also proposes practical strategies for integrating interactive and flexible teaching methods into pesantren and similar educational institutions.