

## TEACHER LEARNING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE LEARNING COMPREHENSION ABILITY OF INTROVERT STUDENTS IN SMPN 2 BANDAR

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### Abstract

This study aims to determine teachers' strategies in teaching introverted students, how introverted students understand learning, and how introverted students respond to teachers' methods. This research is descriptive qualitative. This research uses questionnaires to identify student characters, interviews with teachers who teach introverted students, and views of interested students. The questionnaire results were 5 introverted students (20% of respondents) in grade 8 at SMPN 2 Bandar. The results showed the strategies used by teachers, such as approaching and giving positive encouragement, using visual and interactive media, role-play techniques, and group learning. Using these strategies is a way to overcome teachers' obstacles when teaching introverted students, namely lack of activeness and communication. Introverted students also have other ways to understand learning, such as self-study using Google and YouTube media. Then, introverted students' responses to teachers' strategies show that there is still a need for adjustment.

**Keywords:** *Introvert Students, Learning Method, Teaching Strategy*

### Introduction

One of the concerns in education is the closed attitude of students, commonly called introverts. Assyifadelya (2012) suggests that introversion is a trait and character that tends to be alone. They are closed personalities and rule out a social life that is too random. According to Baddu (2018), based on the results of his study, introverts hate small talk. Therefore, they are happy with dense and informative conversations. According to Jung, quoted by Chaplin (2009), an introverted person shows his libido inward. They tend to sink into themselves, especially during inner tension and pressure.

Introverted students tend to have difficulty in learning and receiving learning. That is because introverted individuals have difficulty socializing and interacting with other people around them. Introverted individuals devote more focus inside themselves than outside themselves. Introverted individuals pay less attention to the people around them, feel more comfortable in solitude and are classified as shy. This shy nature fosters a sense of learning difficulty because it is embarrassed to ask things that are not yet understood.

Individuals with introverted personality types are slow in carrying out activities because introverts are more passive and rigid. Introverts tend to have barriers to communicating and getting along with the surrounding environment. Individuals with introverted personalities usually find interacting or adjusting to the surrounding environment challenging because they are likelier to be alone and quiet. Therefore, students with introverted personalities are generally less active in class or have difficulty getting along with their friends.

McLeod (2013) states that counselling is a purposeful, private conversation arising from the intention of one person (couple or family) to reflect on and resolve a problem in living and the willingness of another person to assist in that endeavour. With this statement, the role of the teacher is also vital. Teachers need to give attention and guidance to introverted students. Teachers also need to have appropriate strategies and understand the personalities of students. This aims to improve the learning comprehension abilities of introverted students who have difficulty understanding learning. According to Saiddaeni (2023), understanding the differences in learning styles between introverted and extroverted children is essential for teachers, parents and educational practitioners to understand. Besides, parents also need to support children's development as being the first school for children (Apriyanti, 2021), (Mitasari & Apriyanti,

2021). So that learning can be adjusted according to the child’s characteristics and appropriate learning methods at each school level.

**Method**

This research used a qualitative descriptive research design. The study was conducted at SMPN 2 Bandar on July 22, 2024, and involved 8th-grade students and teaching teachers. In this research, the subjects were teachers who taught 8th-grade introverted students at SMPN 2 Bandar. Researchers used questionnaire-filling techniques and interviews for data collection. The questionnaire was completed online using the Google Form platform to learn these students’ introverted or extroverted characters by providing 15 statements. Interviews were used to obtain information from teachers about the strategies used by giving 2 questions and interviews of introverted students to find out how introverted students understand the learning and respond to the teacher’s strategy in learning by sharing 2 questions. After data collection, researchers analyzed the data, which included sorting, presenting, and drawing conclusions.

**Findings**

**Teacher Strategies for Teaching Introverted Students**

Based on interviews with teachers who teach introverted students, there are strategies used for the learning process. The following strategies used by teachers are described in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Teacher’s Teaching Strategy**

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
Using Visual Teaching Media	Teachers use media in teaching. Media use varies, such as posters, mind mapping, and interactive media, such as learning videos, games, and power points.
Using Interactive Techniques	The teacher uses role-play techniques with the students and assigns group tasks for discussion.
Provide positive support and engagement	Teachers provide positive support by not saying negative things but instead giving words of appreciation and support and approaching introverted students more.
Provide feedback	After explaining the material, the teacher allows students to ask about material that has not been understood.

These strategies allow teachers to deal with the obstacles often faced when teaching. The barriers teachers often face are the lack of activeness of introverted students in the teaching and learning process and the lack of communication.

**How Introverted Students Understand Teacher’s Learning**

Based on the results of interviews with students with introverted personalities related to how they understand the teaching given by the teacher, there are several ways obtained. How they know is always different depending on the teacher they are teaching. Introverted students understand learning in several ways, as shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Introverted Students’ Learning Comprehension Methods**

<b>How To Understand</b>	<b>Description</b>
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Ask	Introverted students ask their peers or friends they feel close to.
Using audio-visual media	Introverted students use Google and YouTube in some lessons to aid their understanding.
Self-Study	Introverted students repeat learning independently at home after school or in their spare time.
Calm atmosphere	Introverted students find it challenging to understand learning when the classroom atmosphere is noisy and not conducive.

### Introverted Students' Response to Strategies Used by Teachers

Interviews were conducted with introverted students regarding their responses to the teacher's teaching strategy. As a result, introverted students explained their responses. There are several responses described in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Introverted Students' Response to Teacher's Teaching Strategy**

Responses	Description
Still difficult to understand	Introverted students explain, although using engaging media, and some teachers are too quick to give explanations.
Likes group learning	Introverted students are happy with group learning because they can ask friends about learning-related things.
Don't like games	Introverted students feel anxious with games learning given by the teacher

### Discussion

#### Teacher Strategies for Teaching Introvert Students to Improve Learning Comprehension

A teacher should have a strategy for learning. The strategy used also needs to be understood. This is because there are always different students in each class. One of them is students with introverted personalities. Introverts (introversion) have direct objective experience, focus on the inner and private world where reality is present in the form of observations, and tend to be alone, quiet/unfriendly. Generally, introverts are busy with their internal world (Alwisol, 2009).

Based on the research that has been done, the use of strategies for introverted students is varied. Encouraging and approaching are two of the methods that are used. Providing positive encouragement by offering opportunities for introverted students to express themselves makes students dare to interact and be active. Introverted students are given various positive supports, such as giving praise and encouragement. Teachers avoid sensitive words for the comfort of introverted students. Therefore, the role of the teacher is to provide encouragement, motivation, and enthusiasm so that children can focus and receive learning materials well (Susmiati et al., 2020). So, with encouragement and approach, students do not need to feel alone. He will feel embraced and comfortable in acting.

Media use is one of the strategies many teachers use in teaching. With media use, students are expected to be more exploratory and understand the learning. Asyhar (2011) divides the types of learning media into four parts, namely (1) visual media, (2) audio media, (3) audio-visual media, (4) and multimedia. Visual media posters and mind mapping will make

students think critically, easily understand learning, and strengthen memory. Since introverted students tend to be quiet, using it makes them participate in class activities.

Teachers also use interactive media in learning. One of the main factors of interactive learning is to utilize learning media, such as technology, videos, and animations, that are expected to help achieve learning goals (Setiadi & Haidar, 2021). With this, the results of the study found that teachers utilize the use of video learning games and use power points. The use of learning videos also makes students not feel bored during teaching and learning activities. With interactive media, students can understand learning materials in a new way and participate in learning actively.

Teachers also use role-play techniques. The role play model is a learning model by performing or playing a character in a story (Rumilasari, Tegeh, and Yjianti 2016). In implementing role play, the teacher first engineers or gives examples or simulations so that students can understand the roles they will play. This simulation will make children more interested in activities according to the teacher's direction. The teacher provides the characters that are played through interesting fictional stories. Sometimes, they also give fictional stories that have humour in them. The existence of role-play techniques like this makes students more active and improves communication and courage. Not only that but the role-play technique is also used to increase knowledge.

In practising cooperation, teachers utilize group assignments. Group assignments are mixed with various students in the class. Starting from introverts and extroverts are put together. In the distribution of group assignments, the teacher also makes a difference. Introverts have better reading focus than extroverts. According to the teacher, introverted students can read longer and more focused, so introverts get much more information. With that in mind, the teacher assigns tasks to each child at a level that suits them. With group work, social interaction is increased. This is because group communication and interaction are always required. Group tasks also help introverted students mingle and solve problems in discussion.

### **How Introverted Students Understand Teacher's Learning**

Based on the research that has been carried out, students have their way of understanding the learning provided by the teacher. As they tend to have little interaction, they ask their peers about material they have not understood. They dare to ask because they feel close. Their lack of courage to ask the teacher directly stems from fear and feeling disconnected. Introverted students explained how the teacher delivered the material and how each teacher's nature differed.

Introverted students also choose to repeat learning independently at home to understand the learning obtained. They also use their media when studying independently, which makes them better understand the material. The media used are Google and YouTube. The use of YouTube is when learning math. That is because there is audio visual in it, which makes them understand better by explaining the formulas discussed. Introverted students are also fixated on learning books, such as textbooks. The use of package books as learning materials helps them understand better. Introverted students find it difficult if learning is only through naked explanation without a book as a visual medium used for reading material. According to Labu (2021), on average, introverts primarily have audio and visual learning styles or a combination of audio and visual.

The results also explain that introverted students feel uncomfortable with a crowded and uncondusive classroom atmosphere. That is because an introvert has a learning style that requires a quiet atmosphere away from noise and very high privacy. Introverted energy and thoughts will be better in these conditions. When an introvert is in a crowd, the energy drained will be more or twice the energy expended simultaneously. It is required to think and absorb its power to overcome the crowd of the surrounding environment. Introverts are not comfortable

in highly social conditions. So that the brilliant ideas of an introvert who likes deep things do not come out. So, a quiet environment supports an introvert (Cain, 2013).

### **Introvert Students' Response to Strategies Used by Teachers**

Every individual's way of understanding is different. Some may easily catch what others say, but some must be explained repeatedly to understand. From this research, introverted students feel that it is challenging to capture learning because the teacher is too fast to explain. Introverted students feel left behind, especially when they do not ask the teacher directly about learning. Although the teacher has allowed them to ask questions about material that has not been understood, they still feel awkward.

Besides these problems, introverted students admit that they like group assignments. This is because, with group assignments, they can ask friends who they feel close to learning-related questions. This is because, with group assignments, they can ask friends who they feel close to learning-related questions. Introverted students feel that with group assignments, they can try to interact with other friends.

Introverted students' feelings of anxiety also often arise when teachers provide games in learning. The existence of games, in which the implementation is to find the appropriate answer by competing with each other, makes introverted students feel scared. This anxiety arises because of the thoughts they make themselves. Introverted students are afraid of not being able to finish the games like other friends. When they feel anxious, they sweat and feel dizzy. Situations like this make it difficult for introverted students to participate well in learning activities. That is because if introverts get more pressure from the outside world, it will cause feelings of discomfort and anxiety (Rachilda et al., 2023).

### **Conclusion**

The results of this study show that teachers use particular strategies when teaching introverted students. The methods used are pretty diverse. It can be seen from some of the information that has been mentioned. Such as the use of role-play techniques to increase activeness and socialization. In addition, visual teaching media is used. Introverted students tend to use visual media in learning.

Along with this, teachers use visual-based teaching media to improve understanding. However, although the strategies used by teachers are diverse, it turns out that introverted students also have a way of deepening their knowledge. Teachers use other media to deepen their understanding and learn independently. Introverted students also feel that the strategies given by the teacher have not been able to make them understand the learning fully. This can be seen from some of their responses to the teaching strategies provided by the teacher.

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