

WIKI: A Solution for Thesis Supervisors

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MAKALAH RINGKAS

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to introduce the use of a wiki in the field of CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) in Indonesia and to give an example how a wiki could be used in a collaborative writing project. The collaborative writing activity used as a practical example in this paper is thesis writing. Thesis writing could be regarded as a collaborative writing activity since it usually involves at least three people: the student(s), the first supervisor, and the second supervisor. Using a wiki, thesis-writing students could interact with or help one another. This collaborative writing is very useful and can help solve some of the problems faced by thesis supervisors. It could be expected that in the near future a wiki will play a more important role in the development of CALL in general and in collaborative writing projects in particular.

Although the first wiki was installed by Cunningham Ward in the Internet in 1995, a wiki is relatively new and hardly known by CALL practitioners. Beaty (2003), for example, did not mention anything about a wiki in her book Teaching and Researching Computer-Assisted Language Learning. Dudeney (2007) was perhaps one of the first CALL writer who included a wiki in his book How to Teach English with Technology. In Indonesia, a wiki is hardly known and may have never been discussed among Indonesian CALL practitioners. No topic was presented to introduce a wiki in EFL seminars, conferences, or workshops held in Indonesia (e.g. in Kongres Linguistik Tahunan/KOLITA-7 held by Atma Jaya Catholic University or in Conference on Applied Linguistics/CONAPLIN-2 by Indonesia Education University).

What is a Wiki?

A wiki is a social computer program that allows people to communicate online. Unlike other social software such as blogs (i.e. online journals or diaries) and Facebook, a wiki allows its users to work collaboratively on web pages. "A wiki is like having a publicly accessible word processing documents available online, which anyone can edit" (Dudeney and Hockly, 2007:93). A wiki enables documents to be written collaboratively. A single page in a wiki website is referred to as a *wiki page*, while the entire collection of pages is *the wiki*.

Although a wiki was not originally designed for language teaching/learning purposes, it can be used by language teachers or learners. A wiki is relatively easy to set up and used with no technical knowledge is needed.

PBworks Features

There are some free wiki sites available such as MediaWiki (<http://mediawiki.org>) and Wikihost (<http://wikihost.org>). The writer, however chooses PBworks (used to be PBwiki or Peanut Butter

wiki) at <http://pbworks.com> in setting up a wiki project for collaborative writing (i.e. thesis writing). The summary of PBworks features are listed below (see <http://pbworks.com/features.wiki> for the complete one).

- Collaborative Page Editing: Several people can work together on the same page.
- Document management & file sharing: Documents, spreadsheets, PowerPoint, and other files can be shared on the workspace.
- Complete history and audit trail: Every change in the workspace is recorded. It is easy to know who changed it and when it was changed. Additionally, the change can be reversed quickly.
- Easily invite others to collaborate: Inviting many users to be members of the wiki can be easily done. Only members with appropriate permissions can write comments on the workspace.
- Automatic notifications: Members will be notified automatically by email if any change is made.
- Access Controls: Users or members can be controlled by giving different access levels (i.e. Reader, Writer, Editor, and Administrator).
- 60 second setup: Setting a PBworks takes less than a minute.
- Point-and-Click Editor: Inserting images and changing colors and fonts is easily done using Point-and-Click editor.
- Tags and Folders: Pages and files can be categorized in folders for easy browsing. Pages can be categorized into multiple categories by adding tags.
- Automatic Backups: The data is kept safely by creating automatic backups.
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How to Set up a Wiki for Thesis Writers

The following discussion is based on the writer's experience in using PBworks to supervise students doing their final projects. The writer has made two wikis: one for Universitas Pelita Harapan Students (UPH) at <http://indoepl.pbworks.com> and the other one for non-UPH students at <http://bimbingan.pbworks.com>.

The steps are outlined below:

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Step 3: Create a new page as a work space for each of the students and name it using the student's name. On this page, write the table of contents (TOC) of the thesis.

Step 4: Make a link between a student's name and his or her page so that when a student clicks the name, s/he can immediately access his or her own page.

Step 5: Invite the students (and the second supervisor if there is one) to join the wiki and control the access level of the users (e.g. as Editor). The invited users will receive an email and they will have to confirm their memberships.

Step 6: Provide some basic training to the students. The training should enable the students to:

- Edit the page to add the main points in their table of contents.
- Create a new page for each chapter to write the detail of each chapter and create a hyperlink to jump to the intended page. They may create additional pages for the abstract and works cited.
- Create a folder to upload their data files and appendixes.
- Encourage the students to help one another or to work collaboratively by giving suggestions or comments to the others.

CONCLUSION

Wikis play a constantly growing role of web content creation. They provide easy to learn and use interfaces for collaborative writing projects. A wiki can be very helpful for thesis supervisors to complement face-to-face consultations. A wiki is relatively easy to set up and to use for online collaborative writing projects. It is hoped that Indonesian EFL teachers, especially CALL practitioners, start exploring the possibility of using a wiki in their teaching/learning activities. A wiki lends itself especially well to collaborative writing projects. However, it is possible to use a wiki for other purposes as well. The writer himself has used wikis for various purposes, e.g. to make an online announcement for his students and for personal use (see, e.g. <http://hananto.pbworks.com>).

B. Daftar Pustaka

Beatty, K. (2003). Teaching and Researching Computer-Assisted Language Learning. Hong Kong, Pearson Education Limited

Dudeny, G. and Nicky Hockly. (2007). How to Teach English with Technology. Essex. Pearson Education Limited.

<http://pwworks.com>

<http://pbworks.com/features.wiki>

<http://usermanual.pbworks.com/Inviting-Users#AccessLevels>

MAKALAH LENGKAP

WIKI: Solusi bagi Pembimbing Skripsi

ABSTRAK

Dalam makalah ini akan dibahas manfaat dan cara penggunaan *wiki* yang dapat sangat membantu para pembimbing dan penulis skripsi atau guru dan siswa yang terlibat dalam proyek *collaborative writing*. *Wiki* merupakan salah satu bagian dari pemanfaatan teknologi komputer dalam proses belajar-mengajar secara *on-line* atau sering lebih dikenal dengan nama *eLearning*. Salah satu contoh *wiki* yang paling terkenal adalah **Wikipedia** (www.wikipedia.org). *Wiki*

menawarkan sebuah cara untuk melakukan *on-line collaborative writing* secara mudah dan murah (bisa gratis). Tidak seperti Moodle (www.moodle.org), *wiki* tidak mengharuskan penggunanya mempunyai server sendiri. Salah satu manfaat dari sebuah *wiki* adalah jika sebuah halaman diedit atau diubah, maka halaman sebelumnya tersimpan secara otomatis. Dengan demikian maka mudah untuk melihat perubahann apa, oleh siapa, dan kapan perubahan itu terjadi. *Wiki* yang akan dibahas dalam makalah ini adalah *pbworks* yang dulu dikenal dengan nama *PBwiki* ('Peanut Butter wiki').

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the benefits and how to use a *wiki* which can be very helpful for thesis supervisors, language teachers and learners who involve in collaborative writing projects. Wiki is a part of online computer assisted learning or better known as eLearning. The best known *wiki* is **Wikipedia** (wikipedia.org). A wiki offers a way to online collaborative writing easily and free of charge. Unlike Moodle (moodle.org), a wiki does not require its users to have their own server. One of the benefits of a wiki is that when a web page is edited, the previous page is automatically saved. Therefore, it is to the changes, by whom, and when the changes were made. The wiki discussed in this paper is PBworks, used to be known as PBwiki (Peanut Buter wiki).

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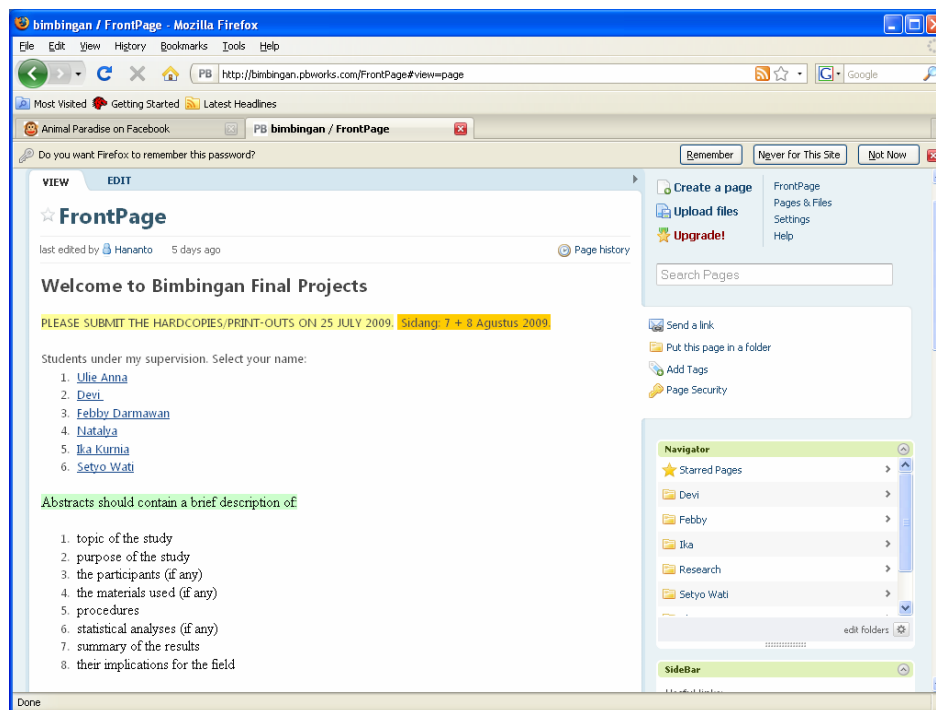


Figure 1: The FrontPage

Step 6: Provide some basic training to the students. The training should enable the students to:

- Edit the page to add the main points in their table of contents (Figure 2).
- Create a new page for each chapter to write the detail of each chapter (see Figure 3) and create a hyperlink to jump to the intended page. They may create additional pages for the abstract and works cited.
- Create a folder to upload their data files and appendixes.
- Encourage the students to help one another or to work collaboratively by giving suggestions or comments to the others (see Figure 4).

The wiki for supervising students doing their theses then can be summarized in Figure 5.

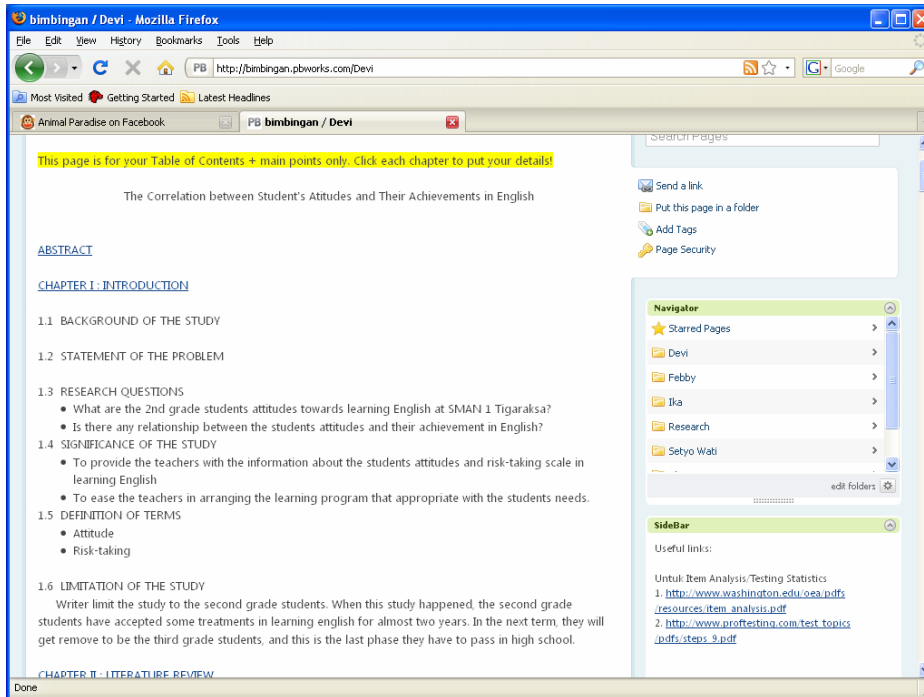


Figure 2: The Table of Contents and Main Ideas

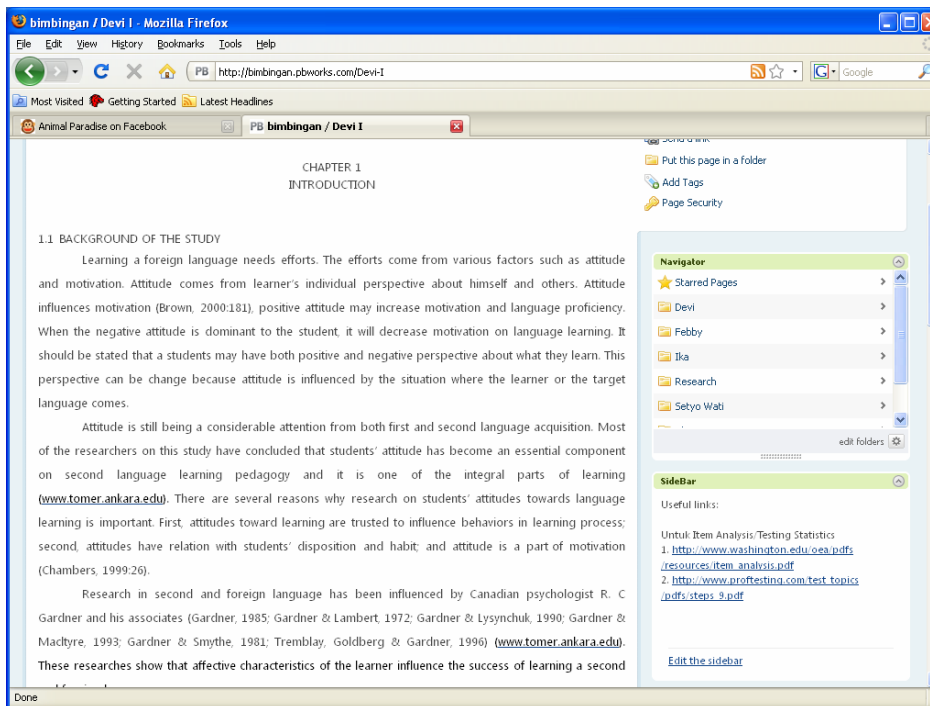


Figure 3: The Detail of Chapter 1

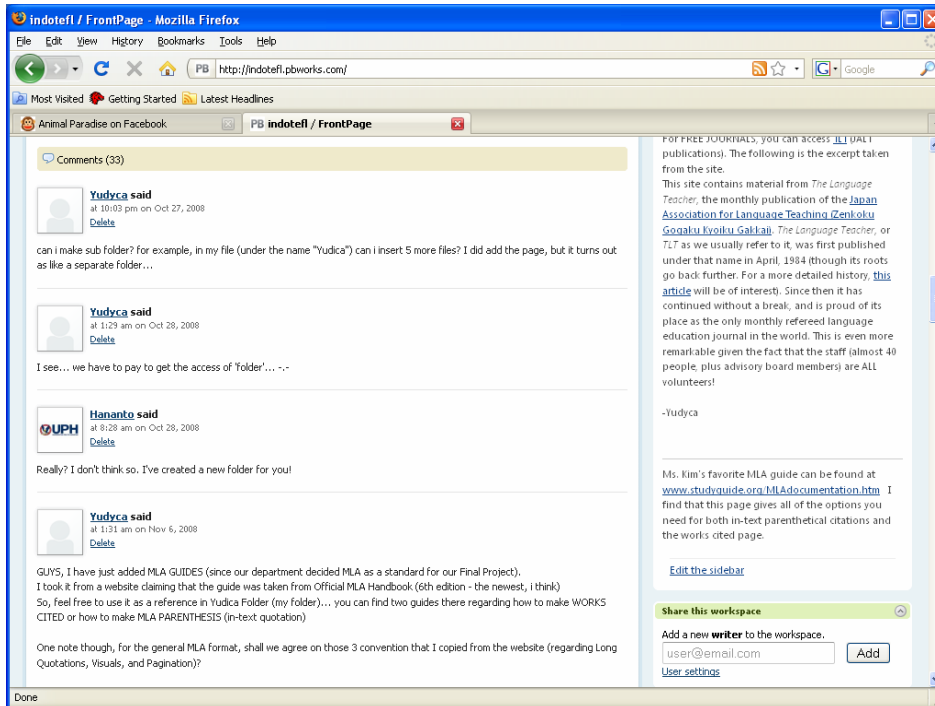


Figure 4: Some Comments.

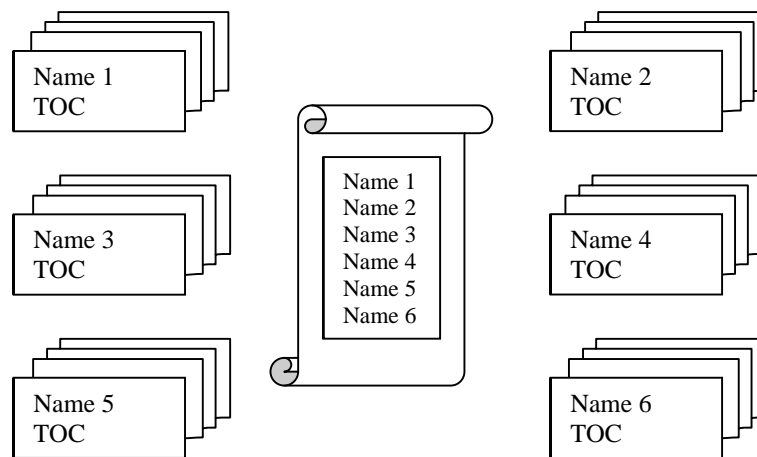


Figure 5: The Wiki Illustration

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Biodata

Hananto adalah alumnus Fakultas Keguruan Ilmu Pendidikan (FKIP) Jurusan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana Salatiga, tahun 1987. Penulis menyelesaikan program Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) di University of Canberra, Australia, tahun 1992. Pada akhir tahun 2007, Hananto menyelesaikan program doktornya di bidang Linguistik Terapan, di Universitas Atma Jaya, Jakarta.