

The Application of Sibelius Software as a Learning Medium of Vocal Class Methods

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Abstract: Vocal Class Method is one of the courses in the Music Education Study Program of the Faculty of Performing Arts, ISI Yogyakarta, as a sign of the study program that must be taken by all students. The learning of vocal class method is given in theory about how to sing with good and correct vocal techniques. Furthermore, the practice of singing is given as the application of vocal technique theory. This discussion focuses on the application of "Sibelius" software as an alternative musical accompaniment in the Vocal Class Method learning. The method used in this study was the Class Action Research method by utilizing qualitative data. The results obtained were the learning process carried out gradually, preceded by an understanding of the singing methods theory, and then continued by the practice of singing with the accompaniment of Sibelius software. This is more effective and the teacher can focus more on controlling students in the application of singing practices.

1 INTRODUCTION

Education is a learning both in terms of knowledge and skills, which are usually carried out for generations from generation to generation through teaching or training. Learning is a teaching and learning process showing interaction between educators and students, which is carried out consciously to achieve certain goals according to the target of an educational institution (Zamroni, 2000:29). Qualified learning depends on the motivation of students and the creativity of educators in the learning process. Good learning is supported by smart facilities and the creativity of educators. This will make students easier to reach the learning target. In addition, in order to get successful education, of course, it requires a learning that is qualified and always follows the developments of the time by paying attention to the advancement of technology.

Zamroni states that the quality of education will succeed well when the teaching and learning process is improved. Success or failure of a learning process is certainly influenced by various factors, both from internal factors, namely from individuals, as well as external factors that are outside of the individual (Slameto, 2003: 54).

In this era of globalization, the rapid technological development certainly affects the education process, especially in terms of learning. With the development of increasingly advanced technology, human resources are required to be able to improve their abilities and skills in the field of technology. Technology and education are two things that are related to each other and cannot be separated. Technology in education includes all the tools or facilities used in the educational process carried out, including computer network systems. The application of technology in the learning process certainly provides very significant changes and provides

alternative solutions, if obstacles are encountered in the learning process. This also occurs in the learning process in the Vocal Class Method course.

The learning process of the Vocal Class Method in the practice of singing material as an application of the theory of vocal techniques for students, totalling to 65, requires a musical accompaniment. In fact, the number of students taking these course does not allow the practice of singing with accompaniment directly. It is not only practiced once or twice, but it must be done repeatedly until the students really understand. In this regard, if the learning process in singing practice is done directly with accompaniment, it will require a long period of time and make the instructor tired quickly. In addition, the teacher must also pay attention and check the truth of the students in applying the practice of vocal techniques in singing. With the problems faced, in order to overcome this, an alternative solution is needed by utilizing computer technology media with the Sibelius software to help the singing practice learning process in the Vocal Class Method course.

Sibelius is a software program that is used specifically to write musical notations in the form of beam notation. In general, this program is used in composing or editing classical music, jazz, pop, bands, and vocals. Sibelius can also be used to edit scores and play the results of the song before printing. In addition, beam notation can also be written without typing but by playing the piano or guitar contained in the program. Some types of music that can be heard through Sibelius's compositions include string instruments, wooden blowers, brass, percussion, guitar, piano, vocals, and others. This version of Sibelius software program started from Sibelius 1. Now, it comes up with Sibelius 7 version. Therefore, piano accompaniment notation in a song can also be written with the Sibelius program and can be played to accompany the song. In connection with these problems, it is interesting to study and study more deeply in a study entitled "The Application of Sibelius Software in Learning Vocal Class Method at Music Education Study Program in Performing Arts Faculty, ISI".

2 METHODOLOGY

This study used the Classroom Action Research method by using qualitative data. Class Action Research (Classroom Action Research) is an activity carried out to observe events in the classroom to improve the practice in the learning process to be

more qualified, so that learning outcomes are better (Bahri 2012: 8). In qualitative research, a researcher is required to be able to explain all the trusted parts of the information source he knows and does not cause contradictions with the interpretations presented (Soedarsono, 1999).

This research can be carried out chronologically through several stages, namely field studies (observation), literature studies, and data analysis. Field study research is conducted to obtain data about the object under study through observation, interviews by asking questions to informants or informants, and recording (Moleong, 1999). The observation was conducted at the time of the learning process in the course of the Vocal Class Method directly. Furthermore, to obtain data that could not be done through observation, direct interviews were conducted with students who took the course. Then, to support the interests in the discussion of this research, an audio visual recording and photography were carried out during the teaching and learning activities. Data that have been collected from the results of field studies and literature were then analyzed qualitatively. The data were grouped according to the problems faced and arranged in certain categories to refer to the subject matter that has been determined in the study.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Learning Process of Vocal Class Methods

The subject of the vocal class method in the Education Study Program in the Faculty of Performing Arts ISI Yogyakarta is embedded in the curriculum in the fourth semester. But in general, every semester all students who take these courses are 65 students consisting of the fourth semester and the second semester students. In this regard, a learning strategy is needed to help and facilitate the learning process.

The learning process is a process that contains a series of activities ranging from plan, implementation, to assessment. Therefore, the learning process of the vocal class method in the Music Education Study Program begins with the planning of making a lecture contract and Semester Learning Plan (*Rencana Pembelajaran Semester*/ hereinafter referred to as RPS). After making a plan, carry out the learning process according to the program plan prepared. Besides carrying out the learning process, evaluation of learning outcomes is

also carried out through assessment in the form of theory (knowledge) and practice (skills).

The learning process of the vocal class method in the Education Study Program of the Music Faculty of the Performing Arts of ISI Yogyakarta is conducted through several stages. This is because the subject matter is given in theory and practice. The theoretical lecture material is given about the steps and basic techniques of singing well and correctly, and students are expected to be able to actualize it. In accordance with RPS, this course is allocated for 16 meetings with 2 hours of lectures which are 50 minutes per lecture. Therefore, one meeting requires 2 hours of lectures which is 100 minutes.

Stages in the course learning process of even semester vocal class method in Music Education Study Program begins with the method of learning vocal techniques including classical, group, and individual. Then, the students are given the theory of basic techniques to sing well and correctly. The steps for basic singing techniques are as follows,

3.1.1 Breathing

Breathing here includes the types of breathing including shoulder breathing (clavicular), chest breathing (costal), breathing of the abdomen (abdominal) and breathing between the septum of the chest cavity and the body cavity called the diaphragm (Rahardjo, 1990). The fourth most correct respiration for singing is diaphragmatic breathing. The process of diaphragmatic breathing exercises begins to breathe air through nose and mouth with 8 counts, then the breath is held by 4 counts, exhale through 8 counts and hold by 4 counts. Carry out repeatedly.

3.1.2 Sound Formation

This sound formation is done by enlarging the resonance space by sounding "ma me mi mo you" in tone 5 (sol), and by sounding "Ko ko ko" on tones 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 (do the fa sol fa mi re do), in addition to strengthening the walls of resonance (Marquart, 2005). All of which are carried out repeatedly by continuously raising the half pitch, for example, beginning with the basic note "C", then going up "Cis", and going up again "D" and so on according to the ability of sound ambitus possessed. As an example of notation for resonance cavity training, enlarging the resonant cavity, and strengthening the resonant cavity wall can be seen in the following notation.



ma me mi mo mu

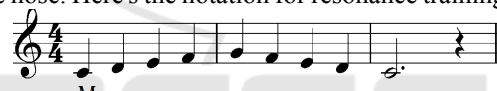
Notasi 1: Latihan memperbesar rongga resonansi



koo koo koo koo koo koo koo koo

Notasi 2: Latihan memperkuat rongga resonansi

Exercises to train feeling the resonance cavity can be done by sounding "Mm", "Nn" and "ng" on tones or solmization 1 2 3 4 5 3 2 1 (do this fa sol fa mi do). The way to sound "Mm", put the upper and lower lips freely, relax, do not stiffen the upper and lower teeth open, to produce good resonance. Then, to sound "Nn", the mouth is slightly open, place the tip of the tongue behind the upper root of the tooth without tension and the upper lower teeth are spaced out. Feel it to produce good resonance. Likewise to sing "Ng", the mouth opens slightly, the position of the tongue is flat and is more directed at the resonance of the nose. Here's the notation for resonance training.



Mm



Nn



Ng

Notasi 3: Latihan rongga resonansi

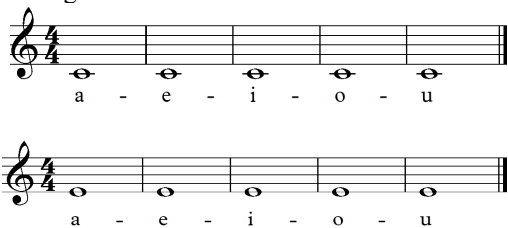
3.1.3 Vibration

Vibration is a smooth wave or sound vibration that occurs due to the breath coming out of the human vocal cords. Then, the material about the sound source of the human vocal cords has a different register of sounds or range of tones, including chest registers for low notes, throat registers for moderate notes and head registers for high notes. Apart from sounds register, there are different types of sounds according to the high and low tones of each male and female. The human voice has its own sound color or characteristics both male and female, such as Dramatic, Lyrical, and Coloratura (Bel Canto, 2003).

3.1.4 Articulation

Articulation is the correct pronunciation or pronunciation of vowels and consonants, demonstrating the correct vowel formation exercise "a, e, i, o, u". In pronouncing the "a" vowel, the mouth must be opened more or less as wide as we yawn or we can put three fingers in our mouth, the tip of the tongue slightly pulled back against the root of the lower teeth, and the surface of the tongue flat. To pronounce the "e" vowel, the mouth is opened smaller than the pronunciation of the vowel "a", except that it is stretched to the left and right, the lip attitude is like someone laughing, the position of the tongue sideways and slightly pulled up. To pronounce the vowel "i", the shape of the mouth is almost the same as the pronunciation of the vowel "e", except that the upper and lower lips are rather tightened like a smile. To pronounce the vowel "o", the mouth is opened slightly wide and both lips are rounded and the tongue is pulled inward. The lips form a "trumpet" of the lower jaw, the tip of the tongue is located at the root of the lower teeth and the back, the tongue is flat and relaxed. To pronounce the vowel "u", the mouth is opened smaller, the shape of the lips and the position of the tongue are the same as in "o" except that the back tongue is rounded up slightly (Katamsi, 2011).

How to practice articulation or pronunciation in vowels a, e, i, o, u, to form the correct mouth position can be done by sounding long tones beginning with tone 1 (do) or "C" or tone 3 (mi) or "E", then it can be done by increasing the ½ tone continuously. Here's an example of a long notation for practicing articulation in vowels.



Notasi 4: Latihan huruf vokal a,e,i,o,u dengan notasi panjang

In addition, it can be three tones or solmization 1 3 5 1 5 3 1 (do mi sol do sol mi do) with arpeggio. This is done repeatedly by raising the half pitch continuously, for example beginning with the basic note "C", then going up "Cis", and going up again "D" so on according to the ability of the sound ambitus possessed (Okatara, 2011). The following is an example of a notation for practicing articulation in vowels.



Notasi 5: Latihan huruf vokal a,e,i,o,u dengan trinada

3.1.5 Hyphenation, Interpretation, and Expression.

Hyphenation of the sentence must pay attention to the structure of the sentence, either sentence language or musical sentence. By paying attention to the sentence of language, it is necessary to study the meaning of the poem, poet, history, and background of the poem. Likewise in sentences, music needs to pay attention to punctuation in music and signs of legato or signs of break (silence). However, many composers make a phrase in a musical sentence that does not match the phrase in the sentence of language (, 1972). This is because the composer wants to give certain nuances. Singing a song by a singer is required to be able to interpret or convey a message from the composer. In addition, in singing a song, an expression is needed as an expression of the meaning of the song delivered.

After the theory is completed, then the students actualize and implement the theory of basic techniques of singing in the practice of singing, on songs whose intervals are rather difficult. In this case, take the Indonesian seriosa song entitled "*Wanita*", and "*Cempaka Kuning*" because this song has a difficult interval or pitch. The learning process in the practice of singing begins with reading the notes together, then the lyrics, and singing by implementing the correct basic singing techniques, such as diaphragmatic breathing, clear pronunciation or

articulation, correct placement of the resonance cavity.

3.2 The Application of "Sibelius" Software and Effectiveness in Course Learning of Vocal Class Method

The Application of Sibelius Software in the learning of vocal class method course was done during singing practice learning. This "Sibelius" software serves to accompany the song that will be delivered. The practice of singing in learning was done as an implementation of the theoretical lecture material that has been given. This singing practice was followed by 65 students who took the course, which was done in a classical and group manner. The practice of singing was given in the last six meetings, namely the tenth to fifteenth meeting.

The process in the application of Sibelius Software in subject learning vocal class method begins by writing piano notations from parts of the songs "Wanita" and "Cempaka Kuning" with the Sibelius Software. After completing writing the part, it was then used as "Midi" as a companion that can be raised and lowered the tone as desired. The application of Sibelius Software as a song accompaniment can simplify the learning process. Moreover, the teachers focus more in observing and controlling students who are practicing singing. The examples of writing introduction part of the songs entitled "Wanita" and "Cempaka Kuning" in Sibelius Software are as follows.

ISMAIL M

Notasi 6: Introduksi lagu "Wanita" dalam Software "Sibelius".

Notasi 7: Introduksi lagu "Cempaka Kuning" dalam Software "Sibelius".

Singing practice with the accompaniment of Sibelius software is very helpful and more effective,

compared to direct piano accompaniment. Yet all of them have advantages and disadvantages of each. The advantage of singing with accompaniment of Sibelius software is the teachers find it easier and focus on observing students, while the disadvantage is that students must follow the accompaniment and it is less free in expressing a song. Unlike singing with piano accompaniment, students are more free to express themselves, because the accompanists follow the singer. With a number of 65 students taking classes in the vocal class method, if accompanied directly it would be tiring for the accompanists and teachers to be less able to focus on students who practice singing.

The impacts of the use of Sibelius Software in the learning process of the vocal class method on the practice of singing are students have more control over the correct mistakes in implementing singing techniques. In addition, the accompaniment of Sibelius Software can help students learn to sing independently, both at home and on campus. Therefore, the application of Sibelius Software for writing piano accompaniment notation is more effective and efficient in the course learning process of vocal class method with a total of 65 students.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the explanation of the results achieved, it can be concluded that the learning process of the vocal class methods in Music Education Study Program can be done through several stages. The learning process of the vocal class method course begins with planning to make a lecture contract and RPS (Semester Learning Plan). Then carry out the learning process according to the prepared program plan. Furthermore, evaluation of learning outcomes is carried out through assessment both in the form of theory and practice. The course learning process of vocal class method is given material theoretically about the steps and basic techniques of singing well and correctly. The basic techniques of singing are how to produce sounds such as the use of breathing, the use of resonance, the correct pronunciation of articulation and at the same time actualizing it. This course is given for 16 meetings with material theory and practice of singing.

The application of Sibelius software in singing practice learning in the vocal class method is used to accompany the songs "Wanita" and "Cempaka Kuning". The application of Sibelius Software as a song accompaniment can simplify the learning process. In addition, the teachers have more focus in

observing and controlling students who are practicing singing. Although students are less free to express themselves in singing, this media is more effective and efficient.

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