

# Students Passivity: Indonesian Context

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**Abstract.** The issue of student passivity has been a major concern for teachers in Indonesia. The majority of students are afraid of directing questions to teachers and expressing their opinion. They tend to keep silent during lessons and wait for the teacher's explanation rather than think critically over the topics and get involved actively in discussion. These passive behaviours not only occur among elementary school students but also occur among university students who should adopt an independent learning style. Research on student passivity indicates that differential teacher behaviour towards students as well as students' perception on these behaviours influence student performance in the classroom (Cooper, 1979; Good, 1981; Wittrock, 1986; Good, Slavings, Harel, & Emerson, 1987; Good & Brophy, 1991). This essay will discuss the issue of student passivity in Indonesia. Some factors that might cause student passivity in Indonesia will be identified and contrasted with the theory and research.

Key words: student passivity, teacher behaviour, learning processes, learning outcome, student self-concept, student perception, educational system

**Abstrak.** Masalah siswa pasif telah menjadi keprihatinan para guru di Indonesia. Kebanyakan siswa takut bertanya pada guru dan menyampaikan pendapatnya. Mereka cenderung diam saja selama menerima pelajaran dan menunggu penjelasan guru, bukannya berpikir kritis tentang pokok-pokok bahasan dan terlibat aktif dalam diskusi. Perilaku pasif tidak hanya terdapat pada siswa-siswa sekolah dasar tetapi juga pada para mahasiswa yang seharusnya menerapkan gaya belajar yang tak tergantung dosen. Penelitian tentang siswa pasif menunjukkan bahwa perilaku guru yang berbeda-beda terhadap siswa, maupun persepsi siswa terhadap perilaku tersebut mempengaruhi kinerja siswa tersebut di kelas (Cooper, 1979). Esai ini membahas isu siswa pasif di Indonesia. Beberapa faktor yang dapat menjadi penyebabnya diidentifikasi dan dibandingkan dengan teori dan penelitian.

Kata kunci: siswa pasif, perilaku guru, proses belajar, hasil belajar, konsep-diri siswa, persepsi siswa, sistem pendidikan

Student passivity is an important issue because of its association with low academic performance (Voelkl, 1995). Student passivity negatively affects the students' learning processes and outcomes (Good, 1981). Because students do not ask

questions when they encounter difficulties and remain passive in the class discussion teachers cannot give effective feedback to the students. Thus, passive students will get less input and attain low academic performance.