

## IDEAL STUDENT PROTOTYPE: A COGNITIVE LINGUISTIC STUDY

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### Abstract

*The term "Ideal Student" does not yet have a definition that can accurately describe it. Because of the many human perceptions of how the student can be said to be ideal. The number of categories of each person in expressing the concept of the ideal student itself. So that it creates a diverse prototype in its meaning. This research is based on cognitive linguistic studies. Namely examining a human mind on his speech. This research aims to describe the ideal student prototype in the Ideal Cognitive Model (ICM). This model is able to represent the conceptual knowledge of the ideal speaker without denying other concepts. The researcher provides a commonly spoken concept and respondents will choose according to their cognition of the term ideal student. The data was collected and classified to find the Ideal Meaning in the cognition. Analyzed and classified the type of prototype referring to Lakoff's theory. The results of the analysis are described in the form of tables and explanations of the model. In conclusion, in the ideal student prototype there are three top models in the form of having many soft skills, diligent and active organizations.*

**Keywords:** *ideal Student; cognitive Linguistics; prototype.*

### INTRODUCTION

In the KBBI in 2023, students are defined as people or individuals who are studying in higher education (Tamera, et.al, 2023). In another definition, it is further defined that students are people who have more knowledge because they have more education. Meanwhile, according to Knopfemacher, students are prospective scholars who in their involvement with universities (which are increasingly integrated with society) are educated and expected to become intellectual candidates (Kurniawati, 2016). In essence, students are those who are preparing themselves by seeking knowledge in higher education through learning with the aim of becoming human beings with quality and integrity.

Students today are predicted as *Agents of Change*, they are given more trust by society to become agents of change and are directly involved in helping to solve problems that exist in different social classes. Students are required to be more creative, who are not only able to think cognitively but also must be able to think creatively.

According to Jannah and Sulianti, students as *agents of change* are the most important subjects in the world of education. This means that students as the young generation of the Indonesian nation must get adequate education to enrich their insights in order to be able to make a change for a nation (Jannah & Sulianti, 2021). A nation that is rich in insight will become a developed nation. Students also serve as changes that were initially unknown due to the results of teaching activities and the application of positive values developed by public and private professionals. Students must certainly have high competitiveness and a competitive spirit to become a superior generation. Therefore, every student certainly has their own goals, ways and targets during their education, both at the undergraduate and master's levels. They will always try to be an ideal student with all the advantages and targets they want to achieve.

Debrina explained that an ideal student is someone who has criteria that are quite “unique” (unique) such as, neat appearance, polite in speech, critical in responding to situations both in the campus environment and in the community where he is, as well as carrying every aspiration of the community / people who are considered more important, has a smart brain, is responsible, disciplined, diligent and skilled in analyzing a problem that is happening or a problem that he will face later (Gismin & Mansyur, 2018). Meanwhile, according to Nugraha, ideal students are students who take part in significant change movements and have high idealism. In addition, it was also explained that the ideal for students is the process of bringing together the demands of student study age so that it is not more than 5 years with a good grade point average, meeting the qualifications of soft skills and intact character that will be useful for post-campus life (Nugraha, 2016).

From some of the definitions above, it can be said that the ideal student actually does not have a fixed definition. This is because the parameters of “ideal” itself cannot be equated in everyone's mind. Each individual certainly has their own benchmarks about their ideal standards based on what is born from their cognition through the premises that have been passed. In the human mind, both individuals and collective societies have their own definitions of a category. Therefore, the study of cognitive linguistics sees that the ideal concept is a process that exists in the cognition of each individual and society, in the field of cognitive linguistics the concept is known as the Ideal Cognitive Model or Ideal Cognitive Model (Nasution & Casmini, 2020; Rosyid, R & Baroroh, 2020).

*Ideal Cognitive Model* is a structure that represents the speaker's conceptual knowledge. More clearly, Arimi explains that the Ideal Cognitive Model is a category whose definition is idealized by a speaker, or a group of speech communities. Humans always think prototypically (Azizah, 2022). The prototypical thinking model is applied in many language occasions. When a person utters a certain case he will prioritize prototype talk. This prototype theory can be applied

to any category including metabases. Language as commonly known based on its hierarchy, phonology, morphology, lexicology, syntax for example is also qualified with prototype cases in each category. In this case, how does one choose the appropriate expression in defining thoughts through a language.

The existence of this MKI concept is born from the categorization that forms a prototype in the minds of the community (Islami & Arimi, 2022). Prototypes are born because of differences that cannot be explained by componential analysis, so this theory was born as a solution to the gap in semantic analysis that cannot be explained by lexemes that do not have clear meaning components. Therefore, it is necessary to look at the categorization and prototypes of ideal students in the perspective of society to formulate an ideal concept for students.

Research on prototypes has been conducted by several researchers before, including Tasliati. In her research, she studied the semantics of the prototype of the word “stealing” in Indonesian. The results of her research show two major points, first, the prototype of the word “stealing” is supported by three elements, namely taking other people's goods without permission; knowing that the goods belong to others; and utilizing the goods for personal gain. Secondly, the elements that support the meaning of the word stealing show that the intentional factor is the element that most determines an action is categorized as stealing (Tasliati, 2020).

The relevance of this research to the research to be carried out is the prototype study that will be used in this study. But what distinguishes is the object of research. Where the research makes the word “stealing” as its object, while the object in this research is the term “ideal student”.

The next research was conducted by Devita Maliana Sari. The research was entitled “Prototype of Virginity in the Perspective of Twitter Users”. The results obtained are the meanings of “virginity” for the most Twitter users are “crown” and “privacy”. These two things are considered prototypes of the word virginity because they are the most data. In terms of study, the research has similarities with this research. What distinguishes the two is the object under study (Sari & Baskoro, 2020).

Zakiah et al. also conducted research on prototypes. They studied the prototype of the lexeme “corruption”. The research focuses on corruption variables that affect the degree of corruption itself. The research is different from this research in terms of object and theoretical focus. Zakiah focuses on the semantic study of Tomaszczyk's prototype with the lexeme corruption as the object. While this research uses Lakoff's theory with the object of study of the term “ideal student” (Zakiah, Fiaji, & Zulvarina, 2018).

Departing from the many interpretations and categories in defining the form of “ideal students” and no one has done prototype research on the concept of ideal students. So, the researcher decided to use this prototype study model to get the central category of the ideal

student. Because of course, this research is expected to add references to studies in the field of cognitive linguistics, especially those that discuss prototypes.

## METHODOLOGY

This research is mixed research, meaning that it combines qualitative and quantitative types of research. According to Creswell in Tasliati, mixed research is research that combines qualitative and quantitative forms (Sina, 2024). In order to produce data that can be accounted for its validity, the researchers collected data through the questionnaire method. Respondents in this study amounted to 94 people who were active students at different levels, namely undergraduate and master's degrees, where the results of the questionnaire became the main data in this study. These active students certainly have different cognitions about who the ideal student figure is. The questionnaire contains a choice of 12 types of ideal student categories. Each respondent was asked to choose 3 categories and types of ideal students according to them. But on the other hand, researchers also allow respondents to fill in other types of ideal students according to their perspectives if they feel they have their own types besides those that have been prepared, of course this is done in order to get maximum results in formulating the prototype of the ideal student.

Data analysis techniques are carried out through three stages, namely data collection, data analysis and data presentation. The data in this study are presented in verbal and visual form. The visual form in this study is a table containing data from the classification of ideal student prototypes according to respondents. While verbal data is a description of the data that has been collected in the form of written text to further explain the prototype data.

## FINDINGS

After collecting data in the form of questionnaires from 94 respondents, the results obtained from the categorization of ideal students are described in the following table:

**Table 1:** Respondent data on ideal student type

No	Prototype	Number of respondents
1	Smart	24
2	Diligent	33
3	Graduated on time	29
4	Have a cum laude GPA	19
5	Have a lot of soft skills	45
6	Have many achievements	23
7	Focus on college only	6
8	Active in organization	31

9	Studying while starting a business	15
10	Active in social activities	28
11	Active in scientific research	21
12	Have many fans	5
13	Proficient in many languages	1
14	Can manage time well	1
15	Think long term and future	1

In the table above, it can be seen that the most respondents' choice of the ideal type of student is **(5) Having a lot of soft skills** with a score of 45. Then, the second type is **(3) Diligent** with a score of 33, then **(8) active in organizations** with a score of 31.

The ideal student according to the results above is one who has many soft skills. This is a general description of people's cognition that the task of students is not only to study and lecture in the classroom. But they are required to continue to hone other abilities that will become another strength and make it easier for them in the future. This is in line with what was said earlier that students have a function as agents of change in society. By having many other skills, of course, university graduates are able to more easily help the community and be able to contribute more to them not only in terms of science but in many other ways.

As students, of course we are familiar with the proverb “Rajin Pangkal Pandai”. In the 2023 KBBI, the definition of diligent is like to work (study and so on); getol; earnestly work; always try hard (Rifki, et.al, 2023). With the development of the times, science and technology, we are no longer required to just be smart individuals, but also diligent. If we reflect on the proverb, of course we realize that to become someone who is smart, not only requires a high IQ, but must be diligent. Therefore, being diligent is one type that is considered to be the prototype of the ideal student.

The stories of successful scientists as well as scholars are certainly inseparable from their diligence, earnestness, enterprising, and their love of learning. One example is the famous hadith scholar *Syihabuddin Abul Fadhl Ahmad* or better known as *Ibn Hajar Al 'Asqalany*. He is famous for his persistence in studying. It is said that one day Ibn Hajar was no longer able to memorize the hadith taught by his teacher, so he ran away and rested in a cave. Not long after, he saw drops of water falling from the ceiling of the cave onto a rock which eventually made a hole in the rock. Immediately he pondered, how could a very hard stone be made hollow just by drops of water, the key was that the water fell many times and then was able to make a hole in the hard stone. Immediately he returned to his teacher and apologized for having given up on studying, then he promised to try more in learning because he was motivated by the stone he saw earlier. It is for

his sincerity that his work entitled *Bulughuh Maram* became a book of hadith that is widely studied in all parts of the world to this day.

The next type is active in organizations. It is no longer a rare thing in this country, where students who are active in organizations can have more skills than others. Students who are active in organizations will certainly have a more mature mentality because they are often faced with many problems that require them to present solutions. In addition, organizational students also have good leadership skills. This can happen because they are always given tasks in organizations either in the form of committees or in organizational structures where members of the organization will be trained to lead the team. Of course, this leadership skill is needed in the future, so it is not surprising that the type of student who is active in the organization is one of the types of students who are used as prototypes of ideal students.

In this questionnaire, there are three types of ideal students proposed by a respondent, namely being good at many languages (having bilingual and multilingual skills), being able to manage time well, as well as thinking long-term and future. If you look deeper, these three competencies must be possessed by a student if they want to be said to be an ideal student. Mastering foreign languages and even more than one language will certainly help a student in facing international competition in the future. Being able to manage time well also needs to be owned by a student so that they are able to complete their assignments and be able to fulfill their obligations properly. Finally, the ideal student must also have targets in the future so that what he does today will be measured and have a clear orientation, not just doing something that has no influence on his progress and rights related to his future.

If we look at the data, the least types are (12) having a lot of fans with 5 scores and (7) Focusing on Lectures only with a total score of 6. These results explain to us that being famous is not a guarantee of one's quality. In addition, it can also be said that the knowledge gained in class is not enough to make a student said to be ideal or have superior quality. Maybe we have heard the chatter of students who say "*jangan menjadi mahasiswa kupu-kupu*", *mahasiswa kupu-kupu* are an abbreviation for "*mahasiswa kuliah-pulang*". This means that he only becomes a student who is oriented only to the lessons taught in class without learning anything else that can improve his quality as a student. In addition, the perspective of student success today has changed, previously the measure of student quality was seen from the GPA value. But in the existing data, the type of student who has a cumlaude GPA is no longer the first choice as the ideal type of student, even this type of student ranks third from the bottom. This makes it very clear that students who only focus on lectures and hope to get cumlaude grades are not the type of ideal student.

The other six types have scores that are relatively close together. This explains that this type is also included in the ideal student type but has not been able to be used as a prototype of the ideal student.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After analyzing the data generated from the questionnaire, the researcher concluded several things, namely:

1. Prototypes that are considered to represent the concept of ideal students are having many soft skills with a score of 45, then diligent with a score of 33, and active in organizations with a score of 31.
2. The types that were least chosen by respondents were having many fans and only focusing on college with a score of 5 and 6 respectively.
3. There are three additional prototypes from respondents, namely (1) being able to manage time well; (2) having bilingual and multilingual skills; (3) thinking long-term and future.

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