

The Use of ChatGPT to Improve Cognitive Abilities and Academic Ethics Values of Master's Students in Islamic Education at UIN Datokarama Palu

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRAK
Volume: 4 ISSN: 2963-5489 KEYWORDS Cognitive Ability, Master's Students, Academic Ethical Values, Islamic Religious Education, Use of ChatGPT.	Technological advances in the digital era have brought about artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT, which has had a significant impact on higher education, particularly in improving students' cognitive abilities and academic ethics. This study aims to analyze the impact of ChatGPT use on the cognitive abilities and academic ethical values of Master of Islamic Education students at UIN Datokarama Palu. The method used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through observation and interviews with five students. The results show that most students feel that ChatGPT helps them understand the material, complete assignments, develop soft skills, and reduce plagiarism. However, some students also acknowledge the risks of dependence, instant use without deep understanding, and potential academic ethics violations such as lack of honesty and responsibility. The discussion highlights that the use of ChatGPT should be a supporting tool that enhances critical thinking, creativity, and scientific understanding, not a tool to replace learning efforts. Academic ethical principles such as integrity, honesty, academic freedom, creativity, and responsibility need to be internalized and implemented in the use of AI. The conclusion of this study is that ChatGPT has the potential to improve the quality of learning if used wisely and ethically. Students must be able to combine technology with Islamic values in order to create a learning process that is of high quality, meaningful, and noble.

1. Introduction

In this increasingly sophisticated era, life activities are required to be fast and accurate. This is in line with the era of education 4.0, which is characterized by the use of technology that continues to develop in learning. One of the technologies that is currently developing is *artificial intelligence* technology, or *AI*, which has the potential to change the way humans work and live. This technological advancement offers various opportunities and challenges in all aspects of life, such as education, health, economy, industry, and welfare. (Adawiyah Hosni, et al., 2023). In this case, artificial intelligence or AI such as ChatGPT (*Chat Generative Pre-Training Transformer*) has become one of the AI applications that is increasingly developing and being used by many people. (Erni Soerjati P., et al., 2023).

The use of ChatGPT has experienced rapid development in the field of education. Various views have emerged from students regarding the use of ChatGPT in education. In this modern era, developments in information technology have brought about real changes and impacts on how these applications are accessed and delivered. One of these developments is the use of

***Wiwi Yuniarti** is a Student of Islamic Religious Education Study Program at Postgraduate School, State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia. This paper was presented at the 4th International Conference on Islamic and Interdisciplinary Studies (ICIIS) 2025, as a presenter, held by the Postgraduate School State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia.

ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence-based application that provides opportunities for students to develop their cognitive abilities because the application has the ability to process, translate language, interact, generate images, and produce text on various topics similar to humans.

However, the use of ChatGPT in education also presents unavoidable challenges. One example is when students can complete scientific papers practically and quickly by answering questions during discussions. This will be a weakness for students, as they will become complacent with the instant completion of tasks from this application. This is because the use of ChatGPT can automate tasks, increase efficiency, and quickly provide smart solutions. (Susanda, Supratman & Fatma, 2023). In addition, this also affects student ethics if users simply accept the answers or results they obtain from this technology without question. As students, they must continue to think critically and ethically when using ChatGPT. This is because this technology is only a tool to assist users in completing a task, not a substitute for humans. (Evie Miftalia Z., 2023).

The phenomenon of using the ChatGPT application is related to the academic ethics of students at UIN Datokarama Palu, especially for graduate students in the 2024 Islamic Education master's program. There are many reasons behind the widespread use of technology today. The benefits that students can enjoy include increased learning efficiency in obtaining discussions that are relevant to the material being discussed or studied by students. Furthermore, it can serve as an additional reference source and an opportunity for learning innovation. However, the use of ChatGPT can limit human interaction, be misused as a shortcut, and lead to reliance on technology without understanding the material, such as copying answers from ChatGPT without verifying whether the answers obtained are valid.

From the above description, it is necessary to conduct research to ensure and monitor the development of current technology so that its use is in line with academic ethics. The researcher is interested in examining the use of ChatGPT on students' cognitive abilities and academic ethics. Thus, the researcher conducted this study with the title "The Use of ChatGPT on Improving Cognitive Abilities and Academic Ethics Values of Master of Islamic Education Students at UIN Datokarama Palu".

2. Literature Review

ChatGPT is an AI *chatbot* that uses transformer technology and generative language models to predict how many words or sentences will appear in a text or conversation. (Novita Maulana A., 2023). According to Stokel-Walker, the use of artificial intelligence in today's educational environment enables students to complete their coursework, such as research essays and scientific papers. (Arif Y., & Novi N., 2024). ChatGPT is widely used by students because this technology can perform various language tasks with little or no special training. For example, as a translator, summarizer, answering questions, and creating diagrams. However, ChatGPT has also sparked controversy due to its ability to generate seemingly realistic answers. This has raised concerns about its use, especially in the field of Islamic education. In addition, the many capabilities offered by this technology tend to make students rely solely on ChatGPT to answer discussion questions without developing their own answers, which affects the improvement of students' cognitive abilities.

As students, there are rules that must be followed in academic activities, known as academic ethics. In this context, students are bound by the rules set by their institution. Academic ethics are contained in the code of ethics. The code of ethics is a set of rules that govern the attitude, speech, actions, clothing, and appearance of students at the State Islamic University Datokarama Palu. The purpose of academic ethics is: (LPM UIN Datokarama, 2022).

- a. To uphold and honor Islamic teachings in campus life and daily life.
- b. To instill noble character (*al-akhlak al-karimah*) in students' lives.
- c. To provide a foundation and guidance for students in their attitudes, speech, actions, dress, and appearance during their studies at the State Islamic University Datokarama Palu.

According to Redioka, academic ethics are rules that define good or bad behavior of members of the academic community in higher education institutions when they interact in activities related to the learning process both on and off campus. (Agus Ardiansyah, et al., 2018). Furthermore, in higher education institutions, there are also violations of academic ethics in the form of *academic dishonesty* (Agus Ardiansyah, et al., 2018). The most obvious component of academic dishonesty is plagiarism or cheating. Academic ethics can be the foundation of moral values in the actions of actors, whether they are educators or students. Academic ethics are noble values that must be upheld by every member of the academic community to fulfill scientific requirements and obligations in thinking, expressing opinions, and acting correctly at a university.

The change in people's lifestyles, which increasingly relies on technology, can bring positive things to human life itself but also has negative tendencies related to demoralization (Bahrul Ulum, 2021). These changes have occurred in the era of the 4.0 industrial revolution with the advent of various advances in science and technology. This is in line with one of the student obligations contained in the student code of ethics, which states that students have an obligation to uphold academic freedom by maintaining and advancing science, technology, and the arts through responsible study, research, discussion, or dissemination in accordance with their aspirations, based on scientific ethics. (LPM UIN Datokarama , 2022). In this era of industrial revolution, the phenomenon of *Artificial Intelligence* (AI) has emerged. This has led to a digital-centric lifestyle. The complexity of AI can impact the progress or even regression of a nation in the field of education, particularly in academic ethics.

Generally, the principles of academic ethics are the same across all campuses, but what distinguishes them is the implementation and emphasis on certain aspects. The principles of academic ethics include: (Novi Suryani, et al., 2023).

- a. Integrity
- b. Honesty
- c. Academic freedom
- d. Creativity
- e. Responsibility

3. Methodology

This study uses a qualitative approach. According to Zulkarnain, a qualitative approach is a study that aims to gain a deep understanding of the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as actors, perceptions, motivations, and actions, in a holistic manner. (Tri, Dewi & Aida, 2023). Meanwhile, the research method used is *field research*. A research method is a comprehensive way or strategy for finding or obtaining the required data. This research was conducted by observing a phenomenon or social phenomenon in the field and conducting interviews to find out students' perceptions of ChatGPT usage. Judging from the type of research method used, the researchers attempted to provide an overview and explanation of the phenomenon raised regarding the use of ChatGPT in improving the cognitive abilities and academic ethics of PAI master's students at UIN Datokarama Palu.

4. Results and Discussion

The use of artificial intelligence by master's students in Islamic Religious Education generally has a positive impact. From the interviews conducted by the researcher with 5 master's students in Islamic Religious Education at UIN Datokarama Palu as informants, there were 3 students who thought that using ChatGPT was very enjoyable and helpful in their lectures. Students find it easier to answer questions during class discussions, create resumes, translate languages, reduce plagiarism, and find answers to exam questions given by lecturers. In addition, there were also 2 students who felt helped by ChatGPT. ChatGPT is very helpful in learning new concepts and materials, assisting in research and references, and helping to develop *soft skills*. Students often face complex academic tasks, such as research papers, articles, or presentations. ChatGPT can be used as a virtual assistant to help complete academic tasks.

This is evident in the quotes from the interviews with five PAI master's students who were the sources in this study. Student A said, "I am very happy with ChatGPT because it is very helpful in discussion activities and making resume assignments." Student B said, "There is no need to bother opening Google Translate because ChatGPT can translate foreign languages." Student C said, "Using ChatGPT reduces plagiarism because it does not take directly from other people's work."

The students' reflections also show their enjoyment of learning with ChatGPT. Students stated that they feel happy and helped in their learning with ChatGPT because it helps with question and answer sessions or discussions in class, and students can easily present their assignment results. Students find it easier to translate foreign languages, and it helps them save time in writing resumes and minimize plagiarism. In addition, students tend not to complain about the assignments given by

lecturers. However, there are still two students who said that ChatGPT only helps them. Student D said, "ChatGPT helps find answers to exam questions, but it must be developed so that the answers are not exactly the same as other students' and helps in learning activities." Student E said, "It helps to understand new material by using language that is easy to understand, but the source of the reference is unclear, making it invalid. To find research references, it is better to use Google Scholar than ChatGPT."

Furthermore, the results of the students' reflections also showed that some of them felt that AI was helpful in learning activities. Students' understanding of new concepts and material can be understood through ChatGPT because it uses easy-to-understand language, but the reference sources are not listed, making it seem less valid. It is better to use Google Scholar to find reference sources. Based on interviews with students asking the question, "Does the use of ChatGPT have an impact on improving cognitive abilities?", most students answered yes. Student A said that "ChatGPT provides various examples, so we can relate them to real-life situations, and this is an example of reasoning activities," while student D said, "The use of ChatGPT can actually broaden our knowledge, but sometimes students only read the explanations in the application and do not develop them further."

Based on this, it can be seen that the use of ChatGPT can improve students' cognitive abilities to understand the material and assignments given by lecturers. In addition, it can also broaden students' knowledge, but students should be able to develop the explanations from ChatGPT based on their own experiences.

The use of ChatGPT based on academic ethics will certainly shape students who have good academic ethics. An individual's perspective, mindset, attitude, and actions form the basis of their ethics. Similarly, in the use of ChatGPT in the context of Islamic education, it is very important for students who are users of this artificial intelligence to have academic ethics. Academic ethics is a behavior of doing one's best, being honest, having academic freedom, being creative, and being responsible. These must be respected or obeyed by students in their learning process.

This is evident in the interview excerpts of five master's students in Islamic Education who were interviewed for this study. Student A said, "In my opinion, academic ethics is the honest behavior of students in lectures," while student B said, "Academic ethics is when we obey the rules set by the campus, for example, we must be polite and well-mannered, and avoiding plagiarism because that is part of honest behavior." Student C said, "Talking about academic ethics means talking about rights and obligations in academia. For example, the campus gives students the freedom to determine their own thesis titles, but they must still be in line with the students' fields of study." Student D said, "Academic ethics are the moral foundation for our actions. This needs to be applied so that we become students with integrity, creativity, and responsibility." Student E said, "In my opinion, there are two perspectives on academic ethics. The first is that ChatGPT is used by the academic community to assist them in journal research or other research and can help them complete administrative tasks as lecturers. The second perspective is that it can be a distraction for students because later on, students will experience a decline in the quality of education, because later on, students will be lazy to search for more information and help them complete assignments from lecturers."

The results of the researcher's interviews with the informants show that academic ethics are the foundation of student behavior in lectures. There are several academic ethics that must be obeyed by the campus community, including integrity, honesty, academic freedom, creativity, and responsibility. All students must comply with academic ethics in completing assignments. In addition, students need to be active in seeking more information in completing the tasks given by lecturers so that there are no distractions that cause a decline in the quality of education.

Furthermore, there is also awareness among Islamic Education master's students at UIN Datokarama Palu about the importance of using ChatGPT and violations of academic ethics. It is important for students to be aware when using ChatGPT so that they do not rely on this AI continuously and use it in a more controlled manner so as not to violate academic ethics. Students need to understand their role as subjects who use ChatGPT. The role of students is a measure of the success of awareness of the importance of academic ethics. From the results of the researcher's interview with student A, he said, "ChatGPT helps us do our assignments, but sometimes we are too lazy to read the explanations provided by the application, so our creativity does not develop to provide additional explanations." Student B said, "To my knowledge, with ChatGPT, when we are given an assignment, we should be able to collaborate the results from ChatGPT with our own understanding so that we have a better grasp of the assignment we are working on, for example, a paper assignment. But because I'm also very busy, I usually forget to write the paper, so I don't think about academic ethics anymore. But it depends on the professor, because some professors use plagiarism-checking applications, which makes me have to consider academic ethics. The point

is, it depends on the situation," said Student C. "We all know that using ChatGPT indirectly means we are cheating, and sometimes lecturers forbid us from cheating, but if it's only for reference, it's okay," said Student D. "The use of ChatGPT clearly makes things easier for us, but when doing assignments such as papers, some students just copy from ChatGPT and paste it into *Word*, so I think that is a violation of academic ethics in terms of integrity and responsibility," said student E. "Well, in my opinion, it is okay to use ChatGPT in an academic context, but it will lower the value of academic ethics. For example, if a lecturer asks whether we use ChatGPT, most students will answer no, which means that honesty is declining. Students could be honest and say that it came from ChatGPT, but that there was also a contribution from the student in the form of paraphrasing. This is where we need to be wise users."

The results of all the interviews conducted by the researcher with the sources show that students are aware of the importance of academic ethics. In the context of completing assignments, students may use ChatGPT, but not entirely. Students need to paraphrase from ChatGPT and only use it as a starting point for their writing. There are also several violations of academic ethics, such as copying all text from ChatGPT and turning it into a paper, cheating, and being uncreative and irresponsible. These things cause the quality of academic ethics to decline. Although the use of ChatGPT actually makes it easier for students to complete assignments, students must also remain constructive, wise, and consider academic ethics.

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher, the use of ChatGPT in enhancing the cognitive abilities and academic ethics of master's students in Islamic Education at UIN Datokarama Palu can be linked to Islamic education, as follows:

4.1 Integrity

Islam emphasizes the value of trustworthiness in seeking knowledge. Being honest means using ChatGPT as a tool to assist, not as a tool to cheat. As users who respect academic ethics, students should use ChatGPT to understand difficult material because this can improve the cognitive abilities of master's students in Islamic Education at UIN Datokarama Palu. As Allah says in Q.S. An-Nisa/4: 58, "Indeed, Allah commands you to convey the trust to its owner. When you judge between people, judge with justice. Indeed, Allah gives you the best instruction. Indeed, Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing."

4.2 Honesty

Honesty (*sidq*) is a fundamental character trait of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Cheating is a sinful act. Therefore, students should quote answers from ChatGPT correctly and paraphrase them first, because by doing so, students have evaluated the information and synthesized new ideas. This can clearly improve the cognitive abilities of PAI master's students at UIN Datokarama Palu. As narrated by Bukhari and Muslim, which means "Indeed, honesty leads to goodness, and goodness leads to Paradise. A person who consistently speaks the truth will be recorded by Allah as an honest person." (Yanuaris Hartanto, 2025).

4.3 Academic freedom

Islam provides space for *ijtihad*, critical thinking, and scientific discussion with manners. ChatGPT provides broad access to various information and perspectives. Academic freedom means having the courage to explore ideas, but also filtering content according to values and ethics. This can clearly improve cognitive abilities because students critically enrich their scientific perspectives. As Allah says in Q.S. Az-Zumar/39: 9, "(Are the polytheists more fortunate) or those who worship at night, prostrating and standing, fearing the punishment of the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of their Lord? Say (Prophet Muhammad), Are those who know (the rights of Allah) the same as those who do not know (the rights of Allah)? Indeed, only

those of understanding (*ululalbab*) can accept the lesson." (Q.S. Az-Zumar/39: 9)

Islam encourages innovation that benefits the community, as demonstrated by renowned scholars such as Al-Khawarizmi, Ibn Sina, and Al-Farabi, who showed creativity within the framework of faith and science. With the advent of ChatGPT, it can be used to develop ideas and new models of thinking, as well as create critical questions and solutions, which will certainly enhance the cognitive abilities of master's students in Islamic Education at UIN Datokarama Palu.

4.5 Responsibility

Islam emphasizes responsible behavior towards the knowledge that is studied and taught. Responsibility in using ChatGPT is to use it to support learning. In addition, in cognitive aspects, it can help students become digitally ethical and encourage intellectual independence. As stated by HR. Bukhari & Muslim, which means, "Each of you is a leader, and every leader will be held accountable for their leadership." (Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023).

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research conducted, it can be understood that academic ethics are the moral foundation for students' behavior during lectures. Academic ethics include the principles of integrity, honesty, academic freedom, creativity, and responsibility, which have strong roots in Islamic religious education that emphasizes the importance of noble character, trustworthiness, and manners in seeking knowledge. In the modern context, especially with the advent of technology such as ChatGPT, these principles remain relevant and are even more important. The use of ChatGPT should be a means to improve cognitive abilities, such as critical, creative, and reflective thinking. It should not be used as a tool to cheat or replace learning efforts. By upholding Islamic values and academic ethics, students can use technology in a civilized, intelligent, and responsible manner, so that the learning process remains meaningful and blessed.

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