



## Mathematical Literacy of Senior High School Students in Yogyakarta

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to describe mathematical literacy of Senior High School students in Yogyakarta. This research was a survey using quantitative design. The population was all of Senior High School students in Yogyakarta. The sampling was a combination of stratified random sampling and cluster random sampling. The sample was 813 students the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of Senior High School. These schools include high, average and low category based on the score in the national examination of mathematics subject. The data collection was by a test. The student was tested with 13 items of mathematical literacy problems. The analysis of those data used descriptive statistics including mean, standard deviation, maximum and minimum score, total score, and also test statistics  $z$  ( $\alpha = 0,05$ ). The research finding reveals that mathematical literacy of Senior High School students in Yogyakarta is in a very low category. Mathematical literacy of Senior High School students for understanding indicator belong to low category and for the other indicators of process belongs to very a low category.

**Keywords:** mathematical literacy

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### INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era, that needed peoples who had the capability to find new concepts, to open network and competence able to fulfill high jobs standard (Hayat & Yusuf, 2010, p. 5). The required societies present days is not only they who capable who understand particularly sciences but also deeper. Right now, the society demand to using the knowledge optimally to become smart and critically to resist and process information. It is important to support complexity problem-solving.

Education has an important role to face that challenges. Education was a means to prevent risks and tools that can help increase human quality life in continuities (Moretti & Frandell, 2013, p. 1). So that, education demand to develop creative thinking, flexible, problem-solving, collaboration skill and innovation of students that needed to success in jobs and life. (Pacific Policy Research Center, 2010, p. 1). Education demand to supply student competence to apply the knowledge in daily life.

The urgently of knowledge application in daily life create *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)* to held *Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)*. One of the focus that examined in PISA was mathematical literacy. Mathematical literacy in PISA means an individual's capacity to formulate, employ, and interpret mathematics in a variety of contexts. It includes reasoning mathematically and using mathematical concepts, procedures, facts and tools to describe, explain and predict phenomena. It assists individuals to recognize the role that mathematics plays in the world and to make the well-founded judgments and decisions needed by constructive, engaged and reflective citizens (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2013, p. 25).

Before introduced by OECD, mathematical literacy has been initiated by NCTM (1989) as one of the mathematics education visions that is to mathematically literate. In that vision mathematical literacy had four prior component to solve a problem. That are

exploring, connecting and reasoning also using variety mathematical methods (Stacey & Turner, 2015, p. 12). Simplicity, Ojose (2011, p. 90) say that mathematic literacy was the knowledge to know and apply basic mathematics in our every day living. Fit out opinion before, Steen, Turner, & Burkhardt (2007, p. 286) add word effectively in the definition of mathematic literacy. Mathematic literacy defined as a competence to use mathematical knowledge and comprehension effectively to face daily life challenges.

That opinions emphasize on the same thing that was how to use mathematic to solve daily problems better and effectively. The use of the knowledge here through some process start from exploring, connecting, formulating, determining, reasoning and the other mathematical thinking process. That thinking process can be reduce to three prior process that was formulating, using, and interpreting. Mathematical literacy can be definite as a competency to formulating, using, and interpreting mathematic in variety problem-solving context in daily life effectively.

Mathematical literacy can drive someone to considerate and understand the use of mathematics in daily life. That will helpful to think numerically and spatially in order to interpret and critically analyze everyday situations confidently (Department of Education Republic of South Africa, 2003, p. 9). Numerical and spatial thinking in interpretation and critical analysis will needed in daily life. For the example in politics, people who had good mathematical can changes the statistic data to become a kuantitatif fact and effective information to choose a legislation wiser (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2007). Not only that, simple thing such as determine nearest way or to estimate expense can also helped by the mathematic literacy.

The important of mathematic literacy also paid attention by the Indonesian government in here Education and Culture Ministry (Kemdikbud) that showed from the participation of Indonesia in PISA. Another that, its also can be seen in the competency and aims of learning that encapsulated in curriculum. In the newest curriculum, national curriculum as example, mathematic literacy reflected in main competency domain knowledge and skills mathematics teaching (Menteri Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia, 2016). In that main competency, mathematics as one of the required subject expected not only to supply student with

knowledge to use calculation or formula to solve an examination but also to involve reasoning and analytical thinking to solve daily problem or mathematic literacy skill. This purpose hopefully can developed optimally when students get a formal education. In another word hopefully students mathematic literacy skill have improve optimally with obtain mathematics knowledge from formal education path completely.

In Indonesian formal education, mathematics became a require subject until senior high school. As the last stage of formal mathematics education for all student hopefully senior high school student had mathematic literacy skills. That skill not just needed by students that will continued to the next stage that related with mathematics and sciences but also all student considering the use. Seen from the cognitive development, senior high school student can think abstract and logic (Slavin, 2014, pp. 39–41). This development suitable and support mathematic literacy skill so student of senior high school expected to had that skill.

However, the assessment system in Indonesian not yet occur students mathematic literacy skill specifically. The systems that used is National examinations (UN) which the problems still in low level of student cognitive aspect (Kamaliyah, Zulkardi, & Darmawijoyo, 2013, p. 9). The problems not yet can reveals student mathematical literacy skill that include in high level cognitive aspect.

All this time students mathematical literacy skills only seen from the survey that held by PISA. This survey analysis that used cover tree domain: process, content and context. Process domain consist of student ability to connect the problems context with math and also solve it. Then, content and context cover the mathematic content that tested. The survey result show that mathematic literacy of Indonesian students still low that is 64<sup>th</sup> from 65 participant. Almost of them only can solve problem below 2<sup>nd</sup> level (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2014, pp. 66–69). Its show that Indonesian students mathematic literacy skill still low.

That result can give little view of student mathematical literacy skill nationally. But there are needed a mathematic literacy skill mapping of Senior High School student in each region in Indonesia. It can be using as an evaluation of the education implementation besides UN. Government, in here are Education and Culture minister need to see which school or region that the

students has a good mathematic literacy skill so can become models to correct the curriculum. Without pre-mapping that process less than optimal.

That mapping has been already initiate by Education and Culture Minister in the research about mathematic literacy skill for student of elementary and secondary school at 2013. the result doesn't far different from PISA result was students mathematic literacy skill still low (Mahdiansyah & Rahmawati, 2014). The research take seven province in Indonesian witch one of them was Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta (DIY) that based of this research have higher mathematic literacy skill than the other province. However, the domain that have been analyses only the cognitive, content and context. Process domain that was the main component of mathematic literacy doesn't analyses deeply. It underline the needed of student mathematic literacy skill mapping reviewed from process domain.

Process domain was the process that happened when student solve real problems. There are two term that used to describe that process. They are mathematical process (Niss, 2010; Organisation for Economic & Cooperation and Development, 2003) and modeling process (Blum & Ferri, 2009; Henning & Keune, 2007). Mathematical process consist of formulating, using, interpreting, and evaluating (Organisation for Economic & Cooperation and Development, 2003, pp. 38–39). Meanwhile, modeling process can be simplify into tree main step that are bring the real problems into mathematic context, solving the problems and last take it back to the real context (Blum & Ferri, 2009, p. 54). Generally, mathematical process and modeling similar the differences only on the term that used.

In mathematical process there are formulating the real problems witch in modeling break into tree step that are formulating or construct the problems, simplify the problems and made a mathematics model from the problems. Next, the using step in mathematical process called as mathematical analysis or work with mathematic. In interpreting step, there are expert that used the same term in modeling process but there are also expert that break it into two step that are interpreting and present the problems result. The next step was evaluating the result. That term used in both mathematical and modeling process. From the description mathematic literacy process can be

grouped into four process indicators, they are: (1) Understanding the problems, (2) Made a mathematics models from the problems, (3) Using concept, fact, and object in mathematic to solve problems, (4) Interpreting and evaluating the result. That process was the process that didn't analysis and mapped in previous research.

Remained that there was haven't yet of mapping of student mathematic literacy skill review from the process domain, the aim of this research is to describe mathematical literacy of Senior High School students in Yogyakarta. There needed a research to know mathematic literacy skill of Senior High School student in DIY have been in high, medium or low category generally and for each indicators. The result can be used as a view and consideration to choose strategy in order to improve student mathematic literacy skill.

## **METHOD**

This research type is survey research. This research is a quantitative research that use to reveals phenomenon from a group of individual. Quantitative approach used in this research because the data was test score. Besides that, this approach used because the result or conclusion from the samples will be generalizable for the research population.

In this research phenomenon that will be surveyed was mathematic literacy skill of senior high school student in DIY. This skill including skill to formulate the real problems to mathematic problems, using mathematic and interpret also evaluate mathematical solution from a real problems. This skill analysis by take attention the result score in the mathematic literacy test. The score then categorize into five category. They are very high, high, medium, low and very low. The categorization did by using reference normative deviation standard that adapted from Ebel & Frisbie (1991, p. 280).

## **Research Time and Place**

This research held in 15 Senior High School in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta that choose by using random sampling based on five region cluster in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta Yogyakarta province and school levels (high, medium, low) in each region. This research held for about 1,5 month from February, 16<sup>th</sup>-March, 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. The survey held for student in grade 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Research Population and Sample**

The population of this research was all Senior High School student of Yogyakarta Province. The student was all student from science, social and language major. There were 48.995 student of senior high school in Yogyakarta province (Pusat Data dan Statistik Pendidikan-Kebudayaan, 2015).

Because the population was so big, so there need to take some samples. Sampling technique that used was combination from stratified random sampling and cluster random sampling. By the stratified random sampling, researcher take a school from each level and region randomly. Then, cluster random sampling used to determine one class in each level that have been choose. So, school and class became the subject sample group and student was the sample for the research.

Determination of the sample size based of minimum sample formula below:

$$n = \left( \frac{Z_{\sigma/2\sigma}}{e} \right)^2 \quad (\text{Walpole, 1990, p. 245})$$

With:

n : minimum sample size

$\sigma$  : deviation standard

e : maximum error

Based on the formula minimum sample size that require was 675 with 1,58 deviation and maximum error 0,05. Then from the result of random sampling a school in each category and region and considering the minimum sample size so from each school choose two class randomly or about 45 students from each school as the sample.

**Data and Instrument**

The data that used in this research was student mathematic literacy skill test score that score gotten from written test. Written test needed to collect the data or information about student answer or steps that did by students to solve the problem in mathematic literacy test. The time that provide to solve the test was 80 minutes.

The instrument that used in this research was a test instrument with mathematic literacy problems. The question forming based on mathematical process that consist of understanding problems, modeling the problems, using and interpreting the solution and also based on mathematic content in school for student with the age about 15 years there was number, geometry, algebra, statistic and proba-

bility. There are 10 problems with 13 question. The problems have been validated then used to collecting the data.

**Data Analysis Technique**

The analysis that used in this research was quantitative data the form student mathematic literacy skill score described and categorized in five category based on reference normative deviation standard that adapted from Ebel & Frisbie (1991, p. 280) in Table 1.

Table 1. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category

Score Interval	Category
$M_i + 1,5Sd_i < X$	Very High
$M_i + 0,5Sd_i < X \leq M_i + 1,5Sd_i$	High
$M_i - 0,5Sd_i < X \leq M_i + 0,5Sd_i$	Medium
$M_i - 1,5Sd_i < X \leq M_i - 0,5Sd_i$	Low
$M_i - 3Sd_i < X \leq M_i - 1,5Sd_i$	Very Low

Information:

$M_i$  : ideal score mean=  $\frac{1}{2}$  (maximum ideal score – minimum ideal score)

$Sd_i$  : deviation =  $\frac{1}{6}$  (maximum ideal score – minimum ideal score)

X : empiric score

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Achievement**

Student mathematic literacy skill score calculate from total score of the test for 10 problems that consist of 13 question. Score interval that students got was 0 until 26. The categorization that used can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category

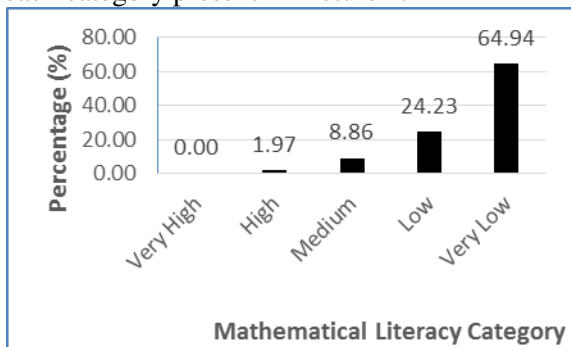
Score Interval	Category
$19,5 < X \leq 26$	Very High
$15, 17 < X \leq 19,5$	High
$10,83 < X \leq 15,17$	Medium
$6,5 < X \leq 10,83$	Low
$0 < X \leq 6,5$	Very Low

The description of the data result from the test can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Description

Description	Score
Mean	5,51
Deviation	3,83
Maximum Score	18,17
Minimal score	0
Students	813

Based of the data from Table 3 student mathematic literacy skill still in very low category. There was no student who got very high category. The highest score still in high category. More details distribution the student for each category present in Picture 1.



Picture 1. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Percentage

From the diagram, we know that most of student was in very low category. Only 1,97% that was in high category.

#### Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Achievement for Understanding Process

In this research there are 2 question that occur students understanding. Score interval for this indicator is 0 until 4. The categorization that used can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category for Understanding Process

Score Interval	Category
$3 < X \leq 4$	Very High
$2,3 < X \leq 3$	High
$1,67 < X \leq 2,3$	Medium
$1 < X \leq 1,67$	Low
$0 < X \leq 1$	Very Low

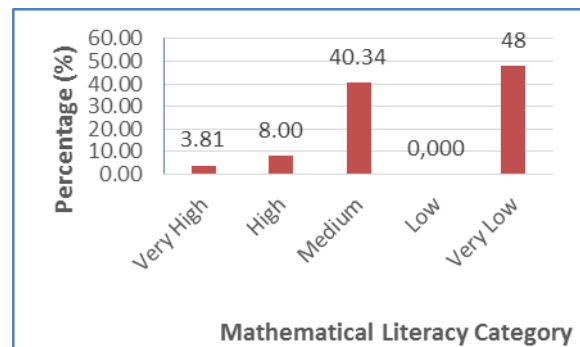
The result of the test for that indicator can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Description for Understanding Process

Description	Score
Mean	1,36
Deviation	1,12
Maximum Score	4
Minimal score	0

Based on the information from Table 5, the average of student mathematic literacy skill for the understanding process has been low category. However, there are student that was in very high category. Furthermore the distribution of the student mathematic literacy skill category

for understanding process present in diagram in Picture 2.



Picture 2. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Percentage for Understanding Process

Based on diagram in Picture 2, most of student was in very low category that is 48%. There are 40,34% student have been in medium category. The low mathematic literacy skill for understand problems can be seen from there are a lot of students that an enable to differentiate information that relevant and not relevant with the problem and determine the keyword from the problem. It can be showed from the incorrect answer that reach 27,49% and unanswered 30,69%. In other word, there are some students that difficult to understand contextual problem. It was many happen experienced by the students (Wijaya, van den Heuvel-Panhuizen, Doorman, & Robitzsch, 2014, p. 558).

Understanding problems process was the early step from solving mathematic literacy problems process. This step will influence the next steps. Because of that, the low understanding skill can be one of the factor of low mathematic literacy skill.

#### Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Achievement for Modeling Process

In this research there are 3 question that occur students modeling. Score interval for this indicator is 0 until 6. The categorization that used can be seen in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category for Modeling Process

Score Interval	Category
$4,5 < X \leq 6$	Very High
$3,5 < X \leq 4,5$	High
$2,5 < X \leq 3,5$	Medium
$1,5 < X \leq 2,5$	Low
$0 < X \leq 1,5$	Very Low

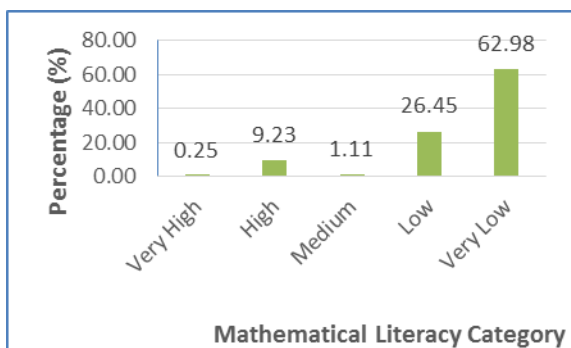
The result of the test for that indicator can be seen in Table 7.



Table 7. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Description for Modeling Process

Description	Score
Mean	0,96
Deviation	1,34
Maximum Score	6
Minimal score	0

Based on the information from Table 7, the average of student mathematic literacy skill for the modeling process has been very low category. However, there are student that was in very high category. Furthermore the distribution of the student mathematic literacy skill category for modeling process present in diagram in Picture 3.



Picture 3. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Percentage for Modeling Process

Based on diagram in Picture 3, most of student was in very low category that is 62,98%. Only 0,25% student who have been in very high category and 9,23% in high category. It showed that many students difficult to made a mathematic models from problems. It was because student difficult to analysis the fact that then associated with mathematic concept that relevant. Because of that, students wrong to transform the problems to mathematic models. It was many happen experienced by the students when solving contextual problems besides understanding the problem (Wijaya et al., 2014, p. 558).

### Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Achievement for Using Process

In this research there are 3 question that occur students ability to using mathematic to solve problems. Score interval for this indicator is 0 until 6. The categorization that used can be seen in Table 8.

Table 8. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category for Using Process

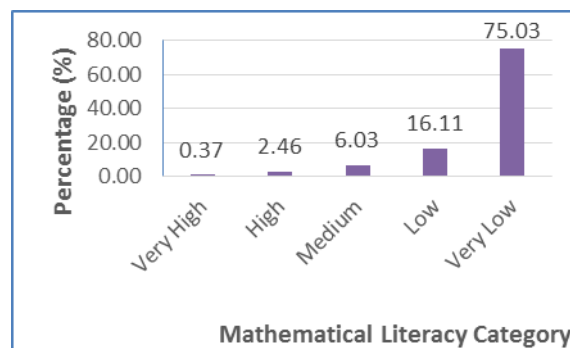
Score Interval	Category
$4,5 < X \leq 6$	Very High
$3,5 < X \leq 4,5$	High
$2,5 < X \leq 3,5$	Medium
$1,5 < X \leq 2,5$	Low
$0 < X \leq 1,5$	Very Low

The result of the test for that indicator can be seen in Table 9.

Table 9. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Description for Using Process

Description	Score
Mean	0,83
Deviation	1,09
Maximum Score	5
Minimal score	0

Based on the information from Table 9 the average of student mathematic literacy skill for the using process has been very low category. However, there are student that was in very high category. Furthermore the distribution of the student mathematic literacy skill category for using process present in diagram in Picture 3.



Picture 4. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Percentage for Using Process

Based on diagram in Picture 4, most of student was in very low category that is 75,03%. It showed that many students difficult to apply fact, concept, and mathematical procedure to solve problems. It can because students difficult to apply the concept, analysis the right procedure and apply it. This difficulties was dominant to be done by students (Tias & Wutsqa, 2015, p. 28). Because having a problem can cause student wrong to answer or didn't answer at all the questions. It can be seen from 50,08% unanswered and 21,65% incorrect answer.

**Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Achievement for Interpreting Process**

In this research there are 5 question that occur students interpreting. The problems divided in tree kind of question those are question to know student ability to interpret the solution, arguing, and evaluating. Score interval for this indicator is 0 until 10. The categorization that used can be seen in Table 10.

Table 10. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Category for Interpreting Process

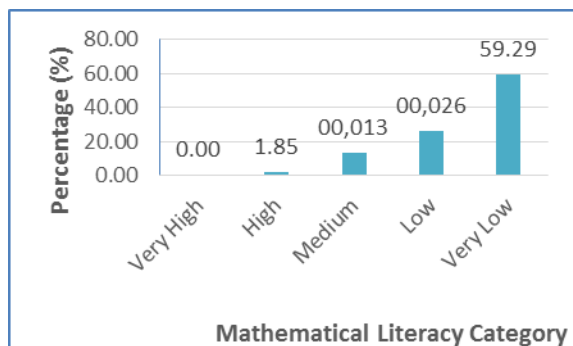
Score Interval	Category
$7,5 < X \leq 10$	Very High
$5,83 < X \leq 7,5$	High
$4,167 < X \leq 5,83$	Medium
$2,5 < X \leq 4,167$	Low
$0 < X \leq 2,5$	Very Low

The result of the test for that indicator can be seen in Table 11.

Table 11. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Description for Interpreting Process

Description	Score
Mean	2,36
Deviation	1,44
Maximum Score	7,5
Minimal score	0

Based on the information from Table 11 the average of student mathematic literacy skill for the interpreting process has been very low category. There are no student who got the maximum score. The highest score obly 7,5 that was in high category. Furthermore the distribution of the student mathematic literacy skill category for using process present in diagram in Picture 5.



Picture 5. Student Mathematic Literacy Skill Percentage for Interpreting Process

Based on diagram in Picture 5, most of student was in very low category that is 59,29%. It showed that many students difficult to

interpret solution to the context, arguing and evaluate a statement or solution. Different with the other process, most of the student answer was incorrect answer this is 54,54%. It showed that interpreting solution tend seem simple but many student incorrect to interpret it. Some students still didn't have sensitivity that context from the problem can influence the result or solution. Another that, there was many student who wrong to evaluate and arguing a statement.

**CONCLUSION**

The research finding reveals that mathematical literacy of Senior High School students in Yogyakarta is in very low category. Mathematical literacy of Senior High School students for understanding indicator belong to low category and for the other indicators of process belongs to very low category.

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