

*The Integration of Economic System Concept Through Teaching and Learning Processes to Promote Students' Systematic Thinking in Business and Computer Major in Faculty of Education, Kasetsart University, Thailand*

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**Abstract**

The objective of this classroom action research was to construct learning activities in terms of the integration of Economic System Concept through teaching and learning processes to promote students' systematic thinking. The researcher developed three learning activities that were applied from Economic System Concept that were comprised of 1) Brainstorm Chart, 2) Group and Ordering Chart, and 3) Content Networking Chart. Data were collected by students' reflections, opinions, and their direct experiences. Data were analyzed by using content analysis method. The target was 22 undergraduate students who enrolled in Methods of Teaching for Basic Business Course in Major of Business and Computer Education, Faculty of Education, Kasetsart University in second semester of academic year 2013. Researcher developed three learning activities that have been conducted from the Classroom Action Research Cycle to promote systematic thinking. The researcher integrated and applied Economic System Concept through planning, conducting, and developing students' learning activities that were analyzed and applied the Concept of Economic System through three learning activities.

The finding results have been demonstrated that students learned to develop themselves in systematic thinking through the development of knowledge, capabilities, skills according to conducting in subject's data contents, setting objectives, using techniques in content's clarifying, structuring, grouping and ordering that related to Economic System Concept through students' systematic thinking. The systematic thinking related to basic, principles, and reasons in teaching and learning processes of systematic thinking. Interestingly, the development and the application of three learning activities that were applied and based on Economic System Concept could develop systematic thinking for their students and increase high values in students' learning activities.

Keywords: The Integration of Economic System Concept; Students' Systematic Thinking

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## **Introduction**

Methods of Teaching for Basic Business subject is the core course for Bachelor of Education Program in Business and Computer Education that has been provided for 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate students who enrolled in this course to prepare about the scope of basic business subject' areas, principles of basic education, methods of teaching, instructional medias and measurement and evaluation in students' learning (Faculty of Education, 2012). In this case, the researcher focused on the integration and application of Economic System Concept through teaching and learning processes to support students' systematic thinking that could link the crucial and essential body of knowledge to apply in the real life (Amornwiwat, 2006; <http://www.jitwiwat.org>)

According to this instruction, the classroom teacher needs to prepare and arrange classroom learning environments to facilitate students in learning participation and students' self development in systematic thinking (<http://www.semisikkha.org/paca>). The researcher has been teaching this course (Methods of Teaching for Basic Business Subject) for more than 10 years. The researcher found that students need to practice searching in the data and knowledge by themselves and require knowing deeply the way of data analysis and how to apply it in their real lives and that will prepare for their professional of teaching in the future (Khammanee, 2009). Consequently, the researcher finds out the important ways and supporting techniques to help classroom students in clarifying, analysis, and content link to develop students' systematic thinking through the application of Economic System Concept more than students' learning to memorize and knowing (Khammanee, 2009; Poolpataracheewin, 2009).

According to this classroom action research, the researcher developed learning activities that integrated and applied the Economic System Concept in terms of brainstorming, clarifying, ordering, structuring, and linking the core content to relevant with real life situation that used in students' self learning reflections (Rumpagaporn, 2010; Khammanee, 2009). The research question of this research was "How to develop students' learning activities through application and integration of the Economic System Concept to promote students' systematic thinking". Therefore, the researcher developed students' learning activities based on Economic System Concept to promote students' systematic thinking, to study students' self learning reflections through learning activities and to guide classroom teachers to use this way to conduct students' learning activities for their students' instructions in their class.

## **Research Objective**

To develop students' learning activities based on Economic System Concept to promote students' systematic thinking

## **Definitions**

**Learning Activities based on Economic System Concept** is the development of learning activities to integrate learning management that focus on concept, theory, and practice in the Economic System Concept. The components of this approach are Economic System views in terms of capitalist economic system, socialist economic system, communist economic system, and mixed economic system. The body of

knowledge in Economic system were applied and integrated in community wisdom, community cultures, and community development with new theory of Economic System Concept among globalization, such as Sufficiency Economy System.

**Students' Development in Systematic Thinking** is the output that observed, measured, and recorded from students' development in systematic thinking that measure from students' self learning reflections, classroom learning reflections, and classroom learning observations based on Economic System Concept through 1) Brainstorming Mapping Activity, 2) Group and Order Mapping Activity, and 3) Content Network Mapping Activity.

### **Research Scopes**

Researcher developed three learning activities based on Economic System Concept to promote students' development in systematic thinking that has been conducted from the Classroom Action Research Cycle to promote students' Systematic Thinking by using students' self learning reflections. The researcher integrated Economic System Concept by using the ways how to plan, conduct, and develop students' learning activities that analyze business education content in methods of teaching for basic business subject that comprised of three activities included 1) Brainstorm Mapping Activity, 2) Group and Order Mapping Activity, and 3) Content Network Mapping Activity. These activities have been demonstrated as follow.

#### 1) Brainstorm Mapping Activity

Researcher/ Teacher divided students a group of four students members in each group analyzed Economic System Concept and contents from a variety of books, magazine, instructional medias, dialogue, pictures, slides, and so on. All students in each group brainstormed about Economic System Concept and contents that contained in business education course, criteria of contents to select the content to teach for their students in classroom. Then in each group wrote down in form of Brainstorm Chart Format.

#### 2) Group and Order Mapping Activity

All students in each group needed to consider in course objectives to separate Economic System Concept and contents in terms of content's structuring and ordering through learning criteria's grouping and ordering. Then in each group wrote down in form of Concept Chart Format.

#### 3) Content Network Mapping Activity

All students in each group needed to consider to link between Economic System Concept and contents to separate course contents in terms of content's analyzing, content's structuring, and content's ordering through learning criteria's content linking. Then in each group wrote down in form of Content Network Chart Format.

Research target is 3<sup>rd</sup> year bachelor degree students (22 students) who enrolled in methods of teaching for basic business subject (01179322) in 3 Credits 3 (2-2) in 15



Students displayed the brainstorm chart about “Economic System Concept” that has been exhibited in details. There were comprised of the ideas and knowledge about “Economic System Concept”, including, Meaning, Philosophy, Theory, and New Theory of Economic System Concept, Evolution and Change of Economic System Concept, Role of Government and Private Sector, The Application of Economic System to apply ion real lives in family sector, community sector, and society sector, Advantages and Disadvantages of Economic System Concept, Freedom of Price and Rights among the differences of Economic System, and so on.

### Students’ Learning Reflections on Brainstorming Activity

“Students select the interests and beneficial topics about Economic System Concept to teach in this subject that has been gauged on benefits to students’ learning and could lead to the development in family, community, and society in the long term”

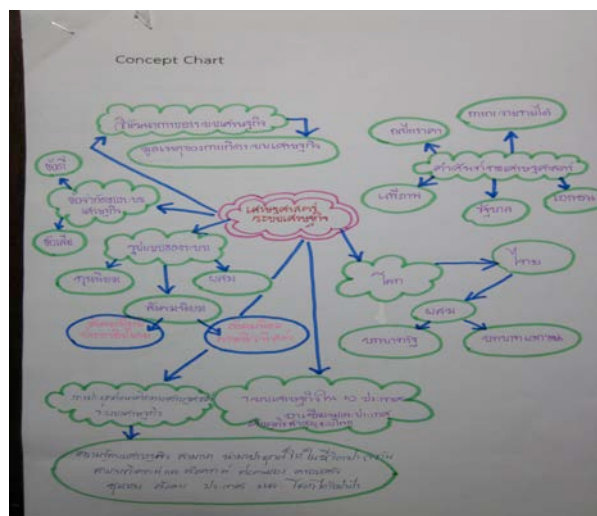
“Students pick the interests and beneficial topics about Economic System Concept to teach in this subject that has been relied on the learning goal and objectives, students’ interests, and levels of students’ ages, matures, and students’ personal backgrounds”

“Students consider in subject contents in about Economic System Concept in psychomotor, .....”

“Students designate the interests and beneficial topics about Economic System Concept to teach in this subject that has been relied on simply and complexity of contents and can motive students’ interests”

### 2. Students’ Learning Reflections on Grouping and Ordering Activity

Group members considered in learning’s objectives and divided the subject contents about Economic System Concept on structuring, ordering, and grouping that come to conclude in the standard of content criteria in each group and drawn up in Concept Chart of subject contents.



Students demonstrated the concept chart about “Economic System Concept” that has been displayed in details. There were comprised of eight groups of ideas and knowledge about “Economic System Concept”, including, 1) Group of Contents of Economic System Concept, including; meaning, principle, new theory, procedure, philosophy of Economic System Concept 2) Group of Views on Change and Evolution of Economic System Concept, including; Capitalist, Socialist, Communist, and Mixed Economic System, and new theory of Economics System “Sufficiency Economy”, and so on 3) Philosophy in New Economic System Concept, including the King Rama IX’s new Philosophy, such as Sufficiency Economy Concept 4) Price/ Mechanism and Investment of Distribution of Economic System 5) Problems and Obstacles of Economic System Differences, 6) How to Solve the Problems among the Difference of Economic System, and so on.

### Students’ Learning Reflections on Group and Ordering Activity

“Students make ordering the contents about Economic System Concept from simply to complexity, past to present or present to past”

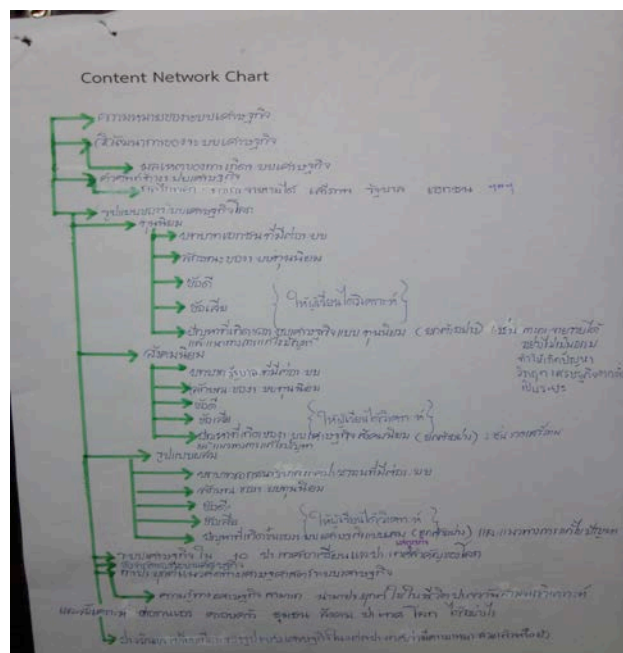
“Students focus on the content subject about Economic System Concept in from details to overall or overall to details”

“Students consider in subject contents about Economic System Concept between theme and sub-theme, or main concept to relevant concept”

“Students designate the interests and beneficial topics about Economic System Concept on near to far”

### 3. Students’ Learning Reflections on Content Networking Activity

Students in each group considered in the links of networking of subject contents about Economic System Concept. They wrote down in Content Networking Chart.



According to previous activities, brainstorming, grouping and ordering activities, if classroom students were interested to teach in Economic System Concept. They brainstormed their ideas, discussed, and shared their experiences through brainstorming activity. They wrote down subject contents about Economic System Concept in form of brainstorming mapping and separate their ideas. Then, group members considered in learning's objectives and divided the subject contents about Economic System Concept on contents' structuring, ordering, and grouping that come to conclude in the standard of content criteria in each group and drawn up in Concept Chart. After that, students worked together to link in networking of subject contents about Economic System Concept. They wrote down in Content Networking Chart. Students demonstrated the content networking chart about "Economic System Concept" that has been displayed in details.

1. Economic System Concept
  - 1.1 Meaning of Economic System Concept
  - 1.2 Principle and Benefits of Economic System Concept
  - 1.3 History, Background, and Evolution of Economic System Concept
  - 1.4 Philosophy of Economic System Concept
  - 1.5 Definition of Economic System Concept
    - 1.5.1 Price Mechanism
    - 1.5.2 Income Distribution
    - 1.5.3 Freedom of Economic
    - 1.5.4 Government Role in Economic System
    - 1.5.5 Private Role in Economic System
2. Changes and Evolutions of Economic System Concept
  - 2.1 Capitalist Economic System
    - 2.1.1 Private Role among Capitalist
    - 2.1.2 Characteristics of Capitalist Economic System
    - 2.1.3 Advantages and Disadvantages of Capitalist Economic System
    - 2.1.4 Problems and Solutions of Capitalist Economic System
  - 2.2 Socialist and Communist Economic System
    - 2.2.1 Government Role among Socialist Economic System
    - 2.2.2 Characteristics of Socialist Economic System
    - 2.2.3 Advantages and Disadvantages of Socialist Economic System
    - 2.2.4 Problems and Solutions of Socialist Economic System
  - 2.3 Mixed Economic System
    - 2.3.1 Private Role, Government Role, Community Role among Mixed Economic System
    - 2.3.2 Characteristics of Mixed Economic System
    - 2.3.3 Advantages and Disadvantages of Mixed Economic System
    - 2.3.4 Problems and Solutions of Mixed Economic System
3. Economic System in ASEAN
  - 3.1 Economic System in ASEAN 10 Countries
  - 3.2 Economic System in ASEAN + 3

- 3.3 Economic System in ASEAN + 6
- 4. Limitations, Problems, and Obstacles of Economic System
  - 4.1 Examples of Problems of Economic System
  - 4.2 Solution to solve Problems
- 5. The Application of Economic Concept Economic System
  - 5.1 Application in Real lives and Families
  - 5.2 Application in Community and Society Sectors
  - 5.3 Application in National, International, and Globalization Sectors
- 6. Evaluations and Comparisons in Economics System among Different Countries

#### Students' Learning Reflections on Content Link and Networking Activity

“Students clarify the details of content subject about Economic System Concept to make ordering and grouping, then, they link the contents to the relevant concepts through theme and sub-theme that can apply in the real live”

“Students analyze the main subject contents about Economic System Concept from theme to sub-theme that support to content linking and networking in the real world”

#### **Research Discussions**

Students reflect on students' learning and conduct students' learning activities based on Economic System Concept to develop students' systematic thinking through three activities, including 1) Brainstorming Activity, 2) Grouping and Ordering Activity, and 3) Content Networking Activity. Interestingly, researcher discussed and shared their ideas in three aspects.

1) Content analysis started from brainstorming to clarify and search the essential subject contents. This statement was relevant to Jumpol Pholpataracheewin (2009)'s article was mentioned in learning practices to develop students' analysis thinking. Teacher should focus on brainstorming, sharing, explaining, discussing, and arguing between students, and between students and teachers to change in students' self learning, organization, and society that guided to sustainable development and argued by using reason that referred to a variety of data, theory, and practices to lead to the best findings and conclusion and the benefits of Systematic Thinking.

2) Content analysis that was included in contents' structures, components, links and networks in subject contents by ordering and grouping. Students made the conditions to set the standards of criteria in ordering and grouping. These ideas were referred to Suwit Molkhum (2005)'s ideas that were said that relation analysis was find out the contents' relation between group and identified the ideas, reasoning, and difference between arguments

3) The objective of content analysis is to discover the contents' networking and linking, ordering and grouping that connected with the overall contents. This reason was supported by Kriangsak Charoenwongsok (2003)'s article that concluded that the activity of systematic thinking must create facts, collect facts, link them systematically. Students' opinions required to cause and reason, to link between facts,



theories, and principles that lead to develop in systematic thinking and link data continuously since from the start to achieve learning goal.

### **Research Summary**

According to students' learning reflections on students' development in systematic thinking, this research discovered from students' opinion records, students' experiences, and discussions that lead to arguments by using cause and reason in each groups' activities. Students had opportunity to participate in three activities, including, 1) Brainstorming Activity, 2) Grouping and Ordering Activity, and 3) Content Networking Activity to explain in students' development in systematic thinking.

Students had occasionally on practicing to develop in their learning based on about Economic System Concept to promote students' systematic thinking through students' group and self reflections in three activities. Students applied their knowledge, capabilities, and skills to classify subject components and arrange contents' details in learning' objectives, ordering, and grouping, and link to contents networking that concerned to relation of ideas, reasons, or difference between students' arguments, or link to relevant principles or related theories.

In conclusion, the development of students' learning based on about Economic System Concept could promote students' systematic thinking and values of learning's' activities could encourage students in systematic thinking reasonably.

### **Research Suggestions**

1. The development of students' learning based on about Economic System Concept could promote students' systematic thinking and values of learning's' activities could encourage students in systematic thinking reasonably. Consequently, subject teachers or relevant academic staffs need to apply the research results to other subjects.
2. Subject teachers and academic staffs need to construct their learning network with each others to apply in the development of students' learning based on about Economic System Concept to promote students' systematic thinking.

### **Acknowledgement**

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