

# Diagnosis of Student Misconception in Heat Material Using Tier Test

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**Submission date:** 29-Okt-2021 06:21AM (UTC+0200)

**Submission ID:** 2104258380

**File name:** Diagnosis\_of\_student\_miss...jpembf.pdf (562.17K)

**Word count:** 3110

**Character count:** 16509



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**Diagnosis of Student Misconception in Heat Material Using Tier Test**

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*Received: December 29, 2021*

*Accepted: December 30, 2021*

*Published: December 31, 2021*

**Abstract:** Students, basically, possess prior knowledge or conception regarding a concept, even before they study it formally in the school. Sometimes, their conceptions are inconsistent with scientific concept and resulting misconceptions. Some studies found that students encounter misconception of some concepts, particularly in Physics. Three-tier Test is an instrument used to identify student's misconception and lack of knowledge. A misconception should be differentiate from a lack of knowledge because remediation of a misconception is more difficult than remediation of a lack of knowledge. Besides, both of them may entail different instructional methods. This study focused on diagnosing students' misconceptions of heat using Three-tier Test. The study is aimed to explain in what concepts the students encounter misconceptions of heat and to explain the prevalence of students' misconceptions of heat. The method used in this study was a descriptive-exploratory research with non-experimental design. The sample of this study was 150 Grade VII students of five different State Junior High School in Lamongan, East Java. The data was collected through written test using Three-tier Test and administered once. The results showed that students encounter misconceptions in 6 concepts of heat comprising energy, heat, temperature, mass, specific heat capacity, vaporizing, boiling, pressure, boiling point, freezing, and freezing point. Moreover, the results showed that 88% of the students encounter misconception, where the most frequently appeared is misconception about energy and heat that is objects could have a certain quantity of heat in them.

**Keywords:** misconception, heat, three tier test

**DOI:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.23960/jpf.v9.n2.202104>

## INTRODUCTION

Physics is the basic science of the development of other sciences and technology. The role of physics in the development of science is very helpful for human life. Given the important role of physics, this science should be well understood by students. One of the concepts of physics that is closely related to student life and students often experience misconceptions is the concept of temperature and heat. Some researchers found that students think temperature and heat are the same thing (Haryono, 2018)(Paul, 2013). Other researchers noted students' thoughts that the temperature of an object depends on the size / mass where if the object is large the temperature is also large, and vice versa (Wahidah S. et al., 2017), the temperature of an object continues to increase when it changes (Widiyatmoko & Shimizu, 2018), if the mass is small, the heat will be absorbed is greater so that the temperature increases quickly (Maison et al., 2020), and if the heat capacity is large, the temperature objects will quickly rise (Aulia et al., 2018). Students can study physics through various learning sources, one of which is textbooks.

Physics is a branch of science that discusses natural phenomena with all their physical dynamics. Physics is also a science that learns about the characteristics and basic properties of matter, various forms of energy and the way matter and energy interact. The knowledge gained by students in physics learning is basically concepts. This concept is the basis for thinking and solving problems. Science materials studied in junior high school cover 3 fields of study, one of which is the field of Physics. One of the physics materials learned by junior high school students is calorific. This material is important to learn and understand because it has a close connection to daily life (Matraeva et al., 2020).

The main task of a teacher in learning is not only to convey material, but also to instill it understanding and concept correctly. The teacher must first know the initial concepts (preconceptions) that exist in students are used to be able to design learning that allows students constructing the conception, according to constructivism theory, new material or lessons must be able connected and continued with students' existing conceptions or if preconceptions were too distorted from these preconceptions must be dismantled and rebuilt (Berg, 1991)

Misconception is a concept that is believed by people even though the concept is wrong. In learning physics, some teachers have problems how to properly embed concepts in the student, because in the student's mind there is already deep knowledge and experience himself about physical phenomena which are considered to be exactly the same as the existing concepts in the theoretical study of physics, one of them is the misconception about temperature and heat. Since childhood students have felt hot and cold, if it is near the fire it will be hot and when it touches the ice it will feel cold, so the students will explore the environment around him actively includes the events he experiences in his daily life through the assimilation and accommodation process. Some students think that between temperature and heat is the same, the measuring instrument is used to measure temperature and heat are also considered the same.

One of the causes of the low quality of natural sciences education to date is the misconceptions and learning conditions that are less concerned with the pre-conception or initial conception that students have. The conception of physics can occur to anyone at any level of education, whether in elementary school, secondary school, student, even teacher or lecturer (Wahidah S. et al., 2017). According to (Paul, 2013) Misconception is an understanding of different concepts between the concepts that students have and the actual concepts. Student misconceptions in IPA materials can be caused by material containing abstract concepts. Abstract concepts are difficult to understand because they require deep thinking to solve problems that cannot be directly observed (Ulfah & Fitriyani, 2017). One of them in the field of physics is temperature and calorific matter.

## METHOD

This research is a descriptive study using qualitative descriptive methods in explaining the results of the study. The technique of data collection through tests is to use diagnostic instruments in the form of *three tier tests* and open interviews. Diagnostic results data is expressed in the form of a percentage of the student conception category. This research was conducted in 5 different schools with random sampling. This research was conducted at SMP Negeri 1 Sukodadi, SMP Negeri 2 Sukodadi, SMP negeri 1 Pucuk, SMP Negeri 1 Lamongan, and SMP Negeri 3 Lamongan in the school year 2020/2021 grade VII students. The test consists of 20 questions, which have been validated by 3 validations consisting of two lecturers and one junior high school physics teacher. After the students studied the calorie material, the students were tested with the questions that the researcher had prepared to further identify the misconceptions found in the students.

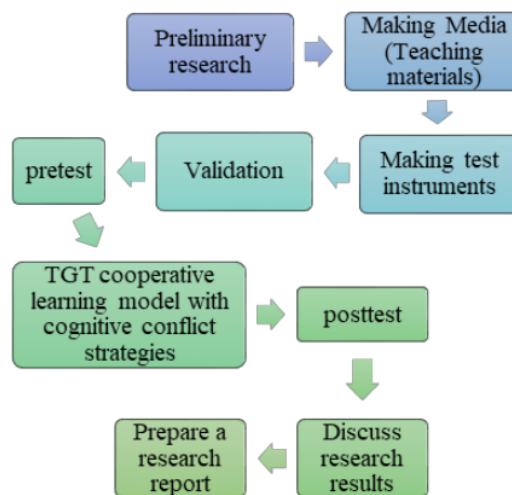


Figure 1. The research procedure

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Research Results

This research was conducted in SMP Negeri 1 Sukodadi, SMP Negeri 2 Sukodadi, SMP Negeri 1 Pucuk, SMP Negeri 1 Lamongan, and SMP Negeri 3 Lamongan in the school year 2020/2021. This research was conducted on grade VII students. The results of this study show that there are misconceptions on the Heat material. Based on the analysis of data from three *tier test diagnostic instruments* shows that of all students who include the criteria of mastering the concept there 45%, the Criteria of Misconception exists 35%, guessing criteria exist 10% and the criteria do not know the concept exists 10% can be seen in figure 2.

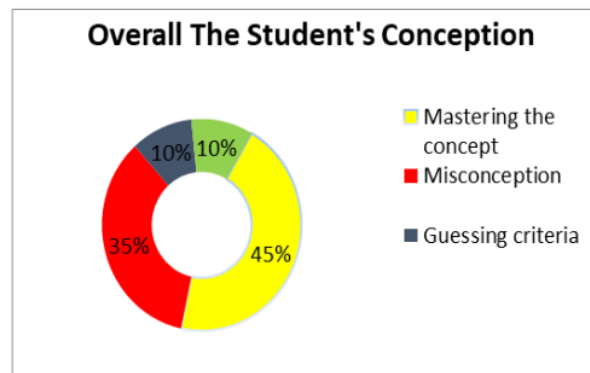


Figure 2. Overall The Student Conception

Based on the results of the student conception analysis, the conception level of grade VII students is still said to be quite low with a 45% below material. The cause of the inability of student conception is due to the large number of alternative concepts. Based on the results of the identification of the number of students who are classified as misconceptions there 35%, this is the reason it comes from the students themselves. Incoming students do not know the concept is 10% because they are unable to abstract the concept properly and most students have forgotten or the memory is weak on the previous material they have studied. The weakness of students' memory of the material that has been studied causes students to quickly forget the materials and formulas they have memorized (Haryono, 2020), Only 10% fall into the guessing category. The causes of misconception can be categorized into five aspects of student-sourced student preconceptions, associative thinking, humanistic thinking, incomplete or incorrect reasons and incorrect student intuition, can be seen in figure 3.

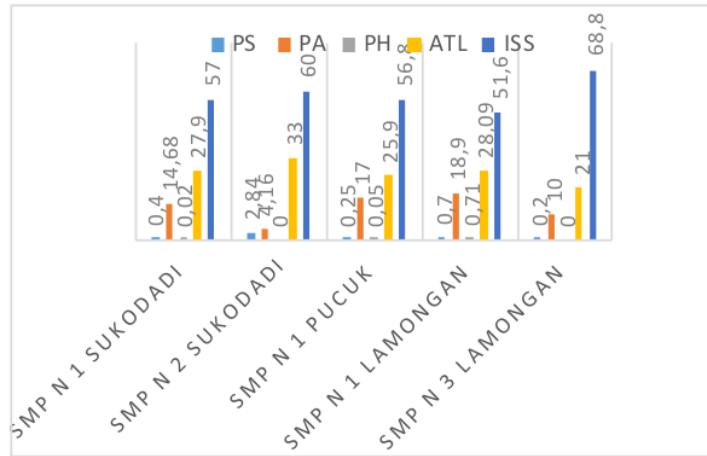


Figure 3. Percentage Of Causes of Misconception

### Discussion

Based on Graph 2, it can be shown that the result of the percentage of the causes of misconceptions from 5 junior high school in Lamongan district. The results showed that the percentage of causes of SMP N 1 Sukodadi Misconceptions in the pre-conception category of students amounted to 0,4%, Associative Thinking as big as 14,68% , Humanistic thinking is as big as 0,02%, an incomplete or incorrect reason for the 27,9% and the wrong student intuition amounted to 57%. Persentase causes SMP N 2 Sukodadi misconceptions in the student preconception category of 2,84%, Associative Thinking as big as 4,16%, Humanistic thinking is as big as 0%, an incomplete or incorrect reason for the 33% and the wrong student intuition amounted to 60%. The percentage of causes of SMP N 1 Pucuk Misconceptions in the student preconception category is 0,25%, Associative Thinking as big as 17 % , Humanistic thinking is as big as 0,05%, an incomplete or incorrect reason for the 25,9% and the wrong student intuition amounted to 56,8%. The percentage of causes of SMP N 1 Lamongan misconceptions in the student preconception category is 0,7%, Associative Thinking as big as 18,9 % , humanistic thinking is as big as 0,71%, an incomplete or incorrect reason for the 28,09% and the wrong student intuition amounted to 51,6 % . The percentage of causes of SMP N 3 Lamongan misconceptions in the student preconception category is 0,2 % , Associative Thinking as big as 10%, Humanistic thinking is as big as 0%, an incomplete or incorrect reason for the 21 % and the wrong student intuition amounted to 66,8%. Of the five aspects of the highest cause of misconception are in the wrong student Intuition category with above average 50%.

The results showed that the highest cause of misconception was in the wrong student intuition category, out of the five junior high school in the district lamongan the wrong student intuition category above average 50%. The highest occurred in SMP Negeri 3 Lamongan which is as big as 68,8% and the lowest wrong student intuition is in Junior High School 1 Lamongan State. The next cause of misconception is the

category of reasons that are incomplete or wrong percentage above average 20% from five junior high school in Lamongan district. While the percentage of causes of misconceptions in the student preconception category, associative thinking and humanistic thinking are on average below 20% .

From the interview results some students obtained data that almost all students are challenged in working on diagnostic tests in the *form of three tier test* students are also responsible for providing the answer. Out of the five conception criteria, students are more mastered of concepts than other criteria, because students have obtained calorific material before. However, in the criteria of misconception is also quite a high percentage. This is because there are five aspects of the cause of student misconceptions. The most high aspect of them is the wrong student intuition. According to students, there is a diagnostic test in the *form of three tier test capable* of providing experience on the concept. However, for a long description of the question and reason it takes a long time to answer.

The heat material essay test was tested on 150 seventh grade students who had studied heat material. Students' conceptions are based on the essential concepts tested on the essay test, namely definition of heat. The number of questions that discuss the meaning of heat is no. 1 and 2. The number of students who answered correctly on the definition of heat (no. 1) was 27 people (96.4%). This is different from result no.2. Students who answered correctly on no.2 were only 14.3%. The questions tested on question no.2 are the application of the concept of heat which should be if students can answer question no.1 then they can answer no.2 correctly. In question no. 2 it was found that many students thought that heat and temperature were the same. There is an inconsistency in the conceptions of students.

Effect of heat on changes in temperature and changes in form, the number of questions that discuss substances requiring heat to change form are no. 5. The number of students who said that substances require heat to change form is 22 people (78.6%). The number of students who answered correctly on question no.9 (graphic illustration of the relationship between time and temperature of an object when a process of temperature change and shape change occurs) is 7 people. Many students think that as long as the process of transformation occurs, the temperature will continue to rise. This shows that students actually know that heat is needed in changing the shape of objects, but students do not know that during the process of change in form, heat does not cause changes in temperature.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussion, it was concluded that the analysis of diagnostic data *of three tier test* students showed that of the five junior high school in lamongan district on the criteria of mastering the concept there 45%, criteria undergoing misconceptions exist 35%, guessing criteria or not being confident exists 10% while the criteria do not know the concept exists 10%. This is due to the large number of alternative concepts and comes from students.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the Ministry of Research and Technology / National Agency for Research and Innovation for providing financial support for this research and to families who have always provided support and encouragement during the research process. To the entire academic community of the Islamic University of Darul `Ulum Lamongan, who have provided support during the writing of this article.

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