Learning Biostratigraphy in University of Diponegoro, Semarang

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Biostratigraphy is a branch of stratigraphy, which focuses on correlating and assigning relative ages of rock strata by using the fossil assemblages contained within them. In Diponegoro University, Semarang, Central Java Province, we learn biostratigraphy in micropaleontology subject, in the 5th semester. In total there are 6 months per semester and we get approximately 12 classes given by the lecturers and 10 other classes given by the lecturer assistants in the laboratory. In the class, there are 100 students, taught by 2 lecturers Mr. Hadi Nugroho, and Ms. Anis Kurniasih. They are the lecturer in paleontology, with master degrees. The lecturer assistants in the laboratory are our senior students who were interviewed and selected by the lecturers.

The lecturers teach us just a little about biostratigraphy in the class, because they also teach us about basic paleontology, microfossils, and their application. In the laboratory we learn more about biostratigraphy. In fact we also learn on how to measure stratigraphic sections in field (Figure 1), then pick some samples to do biostratigraphic analysis in the laboratory. The paleontological laboratory facilities in our campus are located in a small room with minimum equipment. There are limited materials for fossils analysis. With only 4 binocular microscope, a couple of books for a hundred students, we have to make time shifts for our laboratory sessions (Figures 2 and 3). These time shifts give more chance for the students to learn in determining fossils.



Figure 1. *Fieldtrip of Measuring Stratigraphy for Biostratigraphy analysis based on foraminifera microfossils*



Figure 2. *Paleontology & Petrography Laboratory in Diponegoro University.*



Figure 3. *Some tools and equipments for analysis in laboratory.*

Biostratigraphy rarely becomes interesting topic to discuss for students in our university. There are just a few students who like to make biostratigraphy as a case study for their thesis.

Maybe it is because the facility doesn't support much for it. Unlike other students, we'd like to take that opportunity in putting our intention to this subject. We took biostratigraphy as a case study for our thesis and try to apply what we get in class. Although we don't really like the determining step because our eyes often get tired to see these microfossils, we try to enjoy through it. Because, with these amount of microfossils, we can be the history master and tell a lot what happenned long time ago.