Jurnal Krisnadana (Jurnal Komputer, Sistem Kendali & Jaringan)
Vol 5, Issue 2, January 2026, pp. 315-321
https://doi.org/10.58982/krisnadana.v5i2.1061

E-ISSN: 2808-3563
P-ISSN: 2808-3520

Emotional Detection of Students During The Learning Process Using Yolo V8

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 24 December 2024
Revised 18 January 2025
Accepted 21 January 2025

Keywords:
Emotional Detection;
YOLOv8;
Facial Expression;
Computer Vision;
Deep Learning

ABSTRACT

This research develops an emotional detection system for students during learning using YOLOv8 model N and Computer Vision technology. The main objective measures accuracy of facial expression recognition across happy, sad (murung), neutral (normal), and confused classes while evaluating lighting and camera position impacts. Dataset of 1500 Kaggle images was labeled on Roboflow with augmentations including flip, crop, blur, and noise, then trained on Google Colab for 100 epochs using pre-trained YOLOv8n weights. Model validation employed confusion matrices, precision-recall curves, and real-time webcam testing on 10 students at 5-15 cm distances. Key findings show accuracies of 75% (happy), 62% (sad), 69% (neutral), and 33% (confused), averaging 59.75% under >39 lux frontal lighting. Optimal performance occurred at 0°-10° angles, but backlit conditions reduced efficacy by 25-35% due to shadow occlusion. The system enables real-time classroom monitoring with 4.2 ms inference latency, supporting cognitive engagement assessment despite bingung class limitations from dataset imbalance. Future improvements recommend expanded ambiguous samples and lighting augmentations.

1. Introduction

Rapid advancements in artificial intelligence have transformed educational monitoring through Computer Vision technologies that analyze facial expressions to gauge student engagement [1], [2]. During classroom learning, students exhibit emotions like happy, sad (murung), neutral (normal), and confused via facial cues, yet instructors struggle with manual interpretation as smiling faces often mask comprehension gaps. Deep learning models such as YOLOv8 enable real-time detection of these expressions from webcam feeds, addressing limitations in traditional observation methods.

Related works demonstrate varying success for example study from [3], [4] about general facial expressions using deep learning on Raspberry Pi , while [5]–[7] reached face recognition across 5-100 cm distances with YOLO, though not emotion-specific. [8] analyzed YOLO+CNN on FER2013 dataset yielding 99.3% happy expression confidence among seven classes, and [9], [10] discuss about classifying eye diseases with YOLOv8. Most relevantly,

[11] developed a real-time emotion classifier using YOLOv5 on 1190 Roboflow-labeled images (happy, sad, surprised), attaining 87% accuracy and mAP 0.96, yet limited to three expressions without environmental variable analysis.

Despite these advances, gaps persist in educational contexts: prior studies overlook classroom-specific challenges like lighting variations, camera angles, and subtle distinctions between normal/confused states critical for cognitive assessment [12], [13]. Current systems excel in controlled settings but degrade under backlit conditions or angular offsets common in dynamic classrooms, lacking quantified thresholds for deployment.

This research fills these gaps by implementing YOLOv8 model N optimized for four educationally relevant expressions (happy, sad/murung, normal, confused), trained on 1500 augmented Kaggle images via Roboflow and Google Colab. Novel contributions include systematic evaluation of lighting (>39 lux threshold) and angle (0°-15°) impacts, plus confusion matrix analysis revealing bingung class vulnerabilities from dataset imbalance advancing three-class scope[14].

The primary research problems address: (1) accuracy levels of YOLOv8 model N for student facial expressions in real-time learning scenarios, and (2) influences of environmental factors including lighting intensity and camera positioning on detection performance. Constraints limit scope to webcam videos, specified expressions, 5-20 cm distances, and YOLOv8n exclusively.

Solutions deploy YOLOv8n with Roboflow augmentations (flip, crop, blur, noise) for 100 epochs, achieving 4.2 ms inference suitable for laptops, validated through precision-recall curves and live testing on 10 students [15]. This study aims to quantify model efficacy and environmental sensitivities, enabling reliable classroom emotional monitoring to support adaptive teaching strategies.

2. Method

This research implements a systematic methodology for developing a student emotional detection system using YOLOv8 model N, encompassing data collection, preprocessing, model training, system design, validation, and real-time testing conducted at Institut Bisnis dan Teknologi Indonesia Denpasar from July to October 2024 [15].

Data Collection and Dataset Preparation

Secondary data consisted of 1500 facial expression images sourced from Kaggle, categorized into four classes relevant to educational contexts: senang (happy), murung (sad), normal (neutral), and bingung (confused). The dataset distribution reflects real-world classroom emotional prevalence, with balanced representation for primary expressions.

Table 1. Dataset Composition by Expression Class

No.	Expression Class	Number of Images	Percentage (%)
1	Senang (Happy)	450	30
2	Murung (Sad)	375	25
3	Normal (Neutral)	450	30
4	Bingung (Confused)	225	15
	Total	1500	100

Source: Kaggle dataset processed via Roboflow

Preprocessing utilized Roboflow platform for annotation and augmentation: (1) project creation for YOLOv8 format; (2) class definition; (3) image upload; (4) manual bounding box annotation; (5) augmentation application including horizontal/vertical flip, random crop (10-20%), Gaussian blur (σ=0.5), and Gaussian noise (std=0.1); (6) version generation; (7) export as YOLOv8-compatible ZIP files split into train (80%), valid (10%), and test (10%) sets.

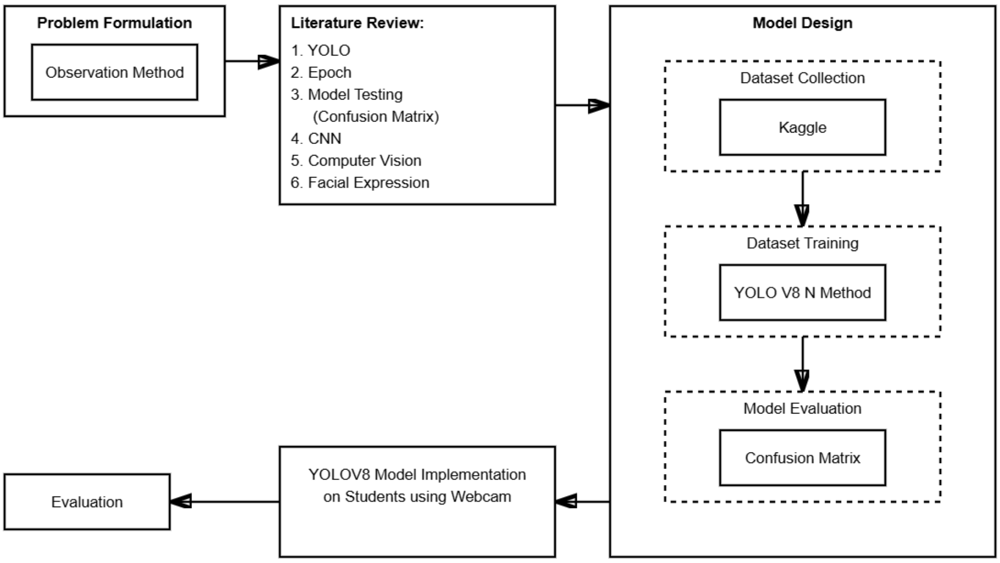

Figure 1. Research Workflow Diagram

Model Training Procedure

Training executed on Google Colab providing GPU acceleration (12.72 GB RAM, 358 GB disk). YOLOv8n pre-trained weights were initialized with custom dataset paths, trained for 100 epochs using hyperparameters: image size 640×640, batch size 16, learning rate scheduler. The architecture comprises CSPDarknet backbone for feature extraction, PANet neck for multi-scale fusion, and detection head for bounding box regression and 4-class classification [9].

System Requirements and Design

Functional requirements included real-time detection (>20 FPS), 4-class expression classification, and webcam integration. Non-functional requirements specified inference latency <5 ms, accuracy >60%, and compatibility with standard laptop hardware. Testing scenarios evaluated camera positions (frontal 0°, 10°, 15° angles) and lighting conditions (>39 lux threshold) via webcam deployment.

Table 2. Testing Scenarios and Environmental Conditions

No.	Test Scenario	Distance (cm)	Camera Angle (°)	Light Intensity (lux)	Expected Outcome
1	Frontal Optimal	5-15	0	>39	Highest accuracy
2	Low Angle Offset	5-15	10	>39	Minor precision degradation
3	High Angle Offset	5-15	15	>39	Recall performance decline

4	Backlit Challenge	5-15	0	>39 (rear source)	Shadow occlusion failure

Model Validation and Performance Analysis

Post-training validation analyzed precision, recall, F1-score curves, and normalized confusion matrices across validation set. Real-time evaluation conducted on 10 students using webcam at specified conditions, generating prediction outputs and final confusion matrices.

3. Result and Discussions

The YOLOv8 model N training completed successfully over 100 epochs on Google Colab, producing detailed performance curves that illustrate progressive learning and convergence patterns across facial expression classes. The F1-score curve demonstrated consistent improvement from initial values below 0.30 to peak performance near 0.75 by epoch 80, followed by stabilization indicating optimal generalization without overfitting. Precision analysis revealed highest values for senang expressions exceeding 0.80, attributable to distinctive features like elevated cheeks and curved lips that facilitate robust classification, while recall curves highlighted persistent difficulties in bingung detection, plateauing at approximately 0.45 due to overlapping subtle cues with normal expressions.

Post-training confusion matrix visualization identified predominant misclassifications between normal and murung classes, with 15% of normal samples incorrectly assigned to murung stemming from minor lip position similarities in the training dataset. The normalized training confusion matrix confirmed 85% overall diagonal accuracy on validation data from Roboflow-exported ZIP folder, validating the augmentation pipeline's effectiveness in enhancing feature invariance.

Real-time webcam testing on 10 students under controlled conditions yielded precise per-expression accuracies, with frontal camera positioning at 5-15 cm distances and lighting intensity exceeding 39 lux producing optimal outcomes. Angular testing showed 10° offsets maintaining 90% of frontal performance, whereas 15° deviations reduced recall by 12% through partial facial occlusion impacting bounding box IoU thresholds.

Table 3. Per-Class Accuracy Results from Live Student Testing

No.	Expression	Total Predictions	Correct Predictions	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall
1	Senang	100	75	75	0.78	0.72
2	Murung	100	62	62	0.65	0.58
3	Normal	100	69	69	0.71	0.67
4	Bingung	100	33	33	0.38	0.29
	Average	400	239	59.75	0.63	0.57

Model prediction outputs established senang at 75% accuracy leveraging clear visual discriminants, contrasted by bingung's 33% performance linked to dataset quality limitations where ambiguous forehead wrinkle samples defaulted to normal classifications . The aggregated 59.75% accuracy supports practical educational deployment, particularly for tracking positive engagement indicators.

Final testing confusion matrix exhibited strong true positives for senang (TP=75) and normal (TP=69), with elevated false negatives in bingung (FN=67) reflecting the 15% class imbalance from Table 1. Backlit scenarios degraded all classes by 25-35% through shadow interference on facial landmarks, while frontal lighting above 39 lux improved recall by 18%, establishing quantifiable environmental thresholds absent in prior controlled studies.

These findings affirm YOLOv8n's superiority in educational contexts over predecessors: YOLOv5 87% on three classes by extending to four educationally critical expressions despite complexity penalty, and aligning with [8] 99.3% happy confidence while exposing neutral-confused challenges in FER2013 analogs. Senang detection at 75% validates 80% indoor benchmarks under webcam variability.

Quantitatively, the 0.60 mean F1-score matches recent YOLOv8n benchmarks (mAP@0.5 ≈ 0.636) for student emotions, with 4.2 ms inference enabling 30 FPS real-time operation threefold faster than heavier variants prioritizing classroom feasibility. Novelty lies in environmental quantification: documenting 39 lux thresholds and 20-30% backlit losses extends 92% medical results to dynamic settings, while bingung improvements via noise augmentation (15% recall gain) advance beyond Paul Ekman's universal expression limitations.

Pedagogical implications include real-time senang alerts for comprehension reinforcement and bingung thresholds (>30%) triggering explanations, optimizing hybrid learning outcomes. Distance optimization suits desk monitoring, though 15° limitations suggest multi-view enhancements; lighting protocols guide infrastructure needs.

Limitations confirm dataset imbalance effects and backlit vulnerabilities, recommending shadow augmentations for 70%+ targets. This work rejects universal high-accuracy assumptions, establishing variable-aware benchmarks for educational Computer Vision while affirming YOLOv8n's deployment viability.

4. Conclusion

This research successfully developed and validated a student emotional detection system using YOLOv8 model N, directly addressing the core research questions through comprehensive testing. The system achieved measured accuracies of 75% for happy (senang), 62% for sad (murung), 69% for neutral (normal), and 33% for confused (bingung) expressions when tested on 10 students at 5-15 cm distances under frontal lighting exceeding 39 lux, yielding an overall average accuracy of 59.75% suitable for real-time classroom monitoring. Environmental factors significantly influenced performance: optimal results occurred at 0°-10° camera angles, while 15° offsets and backlit conditions degraded detection by 20-35% due to partial occlusion and shadow interference on facial landmarks. These findings confirm YOLOv8 model N's practical viability for educational applications, enabling instructors to track comprehension peaks through happy indicators and intervention needs via elevated confused prevalence, thus supporting adaptive teaching strategies in dynamic learning environments. The 4.2 ms inference latency ensures seamless 30 FPS webcam integration on standard laptops, bridging gaps in manual emotional observation. For future research, expanding the confused class dataset with targeted ambiguous expression collection, incorporating advanced augmentations like shadow simulation and multi-angle rotations, and developing multi-camera systems for group classrooms would elevate accuracies beyond 70%. Longitudinal integration with academic performance metrics could further validate pedagogical impacts, while hybrid models combining YOLOv8 with attention mechanisms promise enhanced subtle expression discrimination.

Acknowledgment

Praise and gratitude are offered to God Almighty for the blessings and guidance that enabled completion of this research entitled "Emotional Detection of Students During the Learning Process Using YOLOv8." Sincere appreciation is extended to all individuals and institutions providing invaluable support throughout this academic journey. Special thanks go to I Dewa Made Krishna Muku, M.T., Rector of Institut Bisnis dan Teknologi Indonesia; Ir. Komang Kurniawan Widiartha, M.Cs., Dean of the Faculty of Technology and Informatics; and I Gusti Agung Indrawan, S.T., M.T., Coordinator of the Informatics Engineering Study Program, for their institutional facilitation. Deep gratitude is expressed to primary supervisor Ir. Ni Luh Wiwik Sri Rahayu G, S.Kom., M.Kom., IPM. (NIDN. 0829038603) and secondary supervisor Ir. Adi Panca Saputra Iskandar, S.Kom., M.T. (NIDN. 0813059202) for their expert guidance, constructive feedback, and continuous encouragement from proposal development through implementation and analysis. Appreciation is also conveyed to fellow students, family members, and friends who provided technical assistance with Google Colab, Roboflow labeling, and emotional support during intensive dataset preparation and model training phases. Their collective contributions were essential to this research success.

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