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AGILE METHODOLOGY: SOLUTION TO UNRAVEL COMPLEXITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ERP SYSTEM

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Abstract

Improving productivity is a demand for the industry in order to enhance competitive advantage, especially in the manufacturing industry. For that, the industry is required to make a breakthrough in order to improve organizational performance, such as addressing the inefficiencies in managing business processes, so as to improve the way work becomes more effective and efficient. One of the efforts in improving the performance is the development in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the development of technology as an effort to improve the agility of the organization. ERP system is one solution that can be employed in order to improve company performance. However, in reality, industrial companies face the complexity of implementing ERP systems. This is a challenge, that is how effective for a company in order to solve the complexity of implementing an ERP system for an industry?. In this opportunity, researchers intend to conduct a research to identify the complexity of factors in the ERP implementation, namely by proposing agile methods as one of the new methodologies in the effort to solve the complexity in the ERP implementation for an industry. The results of this study will result in an agile modeling of ERP systems, which is expected to solve the complexity of implementation and improve the capacity of ERP systems for an Industry.

Keywords : Methodology, agile, implementation, ERP system

1. Introduction

Changes in business patterns in the digital age of this information require the company to able to make decisions quickly and precisely, especially for the manufacturing industry. This causes the company to employ an integrated information system as a support tool for strategic decision making. Information systems and information technology have a very important role to support the smooth operation of activities in order to improve the working methods more effectively, efficiently and productively. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is an optional solution as an effort in achieving it. ERP system is an integrated information system that synergizes for managerial functions within a company, such as: Accounting and Finance, Manufacturing, Sales and Marketing, Purchasing, Logistics and Inventory, Human Resource. The purpose of the ERP system is to influence the changes in business processes following the workings of ERP, so that it can only provide various strategic business information that is appropriate and fast, and help managerial level in making decisions appropriately and quickly, and affect the performance of the company and provide optimal benefits for the company. To achieve this, it is determined how the ERP system can be successful in the implementation phase. Stages of ERP system implementation can be considered important and require concentration and commitment level of management for the success of ERP implementation. The ERP project can be said to be a management project, where the management level not only approves in the ERP vendor selection, approves the relative great value for ERP investment, approves the ERP project team, but more than that, the management level is required to be actively involved in the overall implementation stages, stages of planning (pre-implementation), implementation stages of implementation, and stages after implementation (post-implementation). Based on previous research literature studies, most ERP project failures are caused by a lack of management level focusing on the overall stages of the implementation. Stages of ERP implementation are crucial factors that must be taken seriously by considering and identifying the success factors in implementing the ERP system. In reality, researchers found a variety of complexities in determining the method of ERP system implementation. This is what triggers a failure in the ERP implementation. To solve the complexity problem, the researcher intends to do research on the methodology in the implementation stage of ERP system; that is how to develop new methodology modeling as one of alternative for ERP system implementation with a case study on companies in Argo Manunggal Group. The results of this study are expected to produce an agile framework model as a solution to solve complexity in the ERP implementation that can be used an industry, so as to improve organizational performance.

Based on the above background, the researchers formulate problems in this study as follows:

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1. What are the factors of complexity in the ERP implementation for an industry?
2. Can agile methods be used as alternative approaches to address complexity in implementing ERP systems for an industry?

The result of this research is to produce agile modeling as a solution to solve complexity in ERP system implementation. The purposes of this study are as follows:

1. Identify factors of complexity in the implementation of an industrial ERP system.
2. Analyze agile methods as alternative approaches that can overcome the complexity in implementing ERP systems for an industry

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Implementation of ERP systems

According to Xu L et al. (2006), ERP system implementation requires active business process change and feedback. Success in the ERP system implementation process will have an impact for the company, such as: decision making process becomes faster and more precise, changes in the style of corporate organizational structure that becomes more dynamic, lean, flexible and more synchronized. Implementation of an ERP system becomes an important fundamental thing for a company in order to improve company performance. Therefore, in order to implement ERP system effectively and can support various functions within a company, it must be designed using a methodology that is expected to eliminate repetitions of work process, improve product quality and service to customer. It can be said that ERP system implementation process will improve the business process running by following the business process of ERP system, with proven the simplification of business process, improvement of customer service quality, timeliness in production and distribution process. Thus, it can improve managerial functions in decision making to be more precise, focused and fast.

2.2 Challenge of ERP system

According to Yan Xu et al. (2006), it's explained that the purpose of the ERP system was to integrate various information as needed for the managerial level in making decisions become more trivial, fast, and accurate. This becomes the challenges of the ERP system, which are the integration of data and information from the ERP system. The function of ERP system integration ensures that ERP applications run well, such as: no repetition of work, decision making process becomes relatively faster. This will prove a change in the way efficiency and effectiveness work. According to Ranjan et al. (2016), ERP system challenges cover the following:

- Technology selection
Is a consideration of management leaders in making investments. Management support in technology selection will affect the performance of ERP systems.
- Change management
Changing the running business process that follows the selected ERP system, needs technological supports. The factors of people, processes and technology are the three fundamental things of management decisions to make the process of management transformation. This management transformation process is to conduct the changing of working procedures that follow the workings of the selected ERP system.
- Knowledge Management
Knowledge Management Modeling becomes ERP system challenge to achieve success in implementing ERP system. As it is known that the purpose of ERP system is to improve the way the work becomes more effective, efficient, and productive. For that, it takes information processing from knowledge management initiatives. Knowledge management by managing knowledge becomes organized as a means of sharing knowledge and gaining increased flexibility. According to Usman and Ahmad (2012), improved knowledge management will increase flexibility and innovation and in the context of ERP systems, knowledge management is a critical success factor (Critical Success Factors).
- Emerging Technologies (technology)
Technology becomes an important role in improving the process, flexibility, and speeds up the decision-making process precisely, accurately, and up-to-date.

2.3 ERP Complexity

According to (Valdeza et al., 2015) complexity is an effort related to achievement of performance in accordance with predetermined objectives and reduce effects in the completion of complex tasks. According to (Mason and Cosh, 2008) complexity is a problem-solving solution that comes from diverse and conflicting with

efficiently. Building project management in the implementation of an ERP system is important by applying business process management concepts to support project management activities as a strategy to overcome the complexities of ERP implementation and achieve agile organization in decision making and performance improvement. The main stages of project management ERP system implementation include the stage definition, planning, executive and delivery. In all of these stages, active managerial level involvement will determine the implementation process to run on a predetermined target. ERP implementation is not just an IT department project but all levels of managerial departments within the organization must be actively involved in managing business process changes following the business process of the ERP system. According to (Schmidt & Sun, 2018) it's stated that interaction and iteration are the foundations for successful project management, especially focusing on strong business; agile practices facilitate interaction and iteration; adding business understanding to help develop project management. According to (Liao et al., 2018) the successful implementation of ERP requires good project management, where companies must have effective business strategies and tactics. The main phase of the project life cycle depends on the active involvement of all stakeholders. The main stages of project management include the stages of definition, planning, executive and delivery. Managing business process changes to coordinate action in completing each task to achieve business goals. Many organizations experience ERP implementation failures due to lack of focus on changes in business processes and management changes. Change management is one of the important factors to achieve the success of ERP implementation. Business process reengineering has a close relationship with ERP implementation, where re-engineering changes must be done iteratively and in accordance with business strategic alignment. ERP system project management becomes a significant challenge to success in ERP implementation. To that end, the ERP system must meet the business needs with the involvement of related parties, so it becomes very important to select the best people who are members of the project implementation team, ERP vendors, and consultants. The ERP implementation project team is responsible for communicating across departments, developing detailed project plans, determining project schedules, so that the project schedule development process is a critical factor, as it affects the time duration, project budget, and project completion targets in a timely manner. Image cycle ERP system project management as follows:

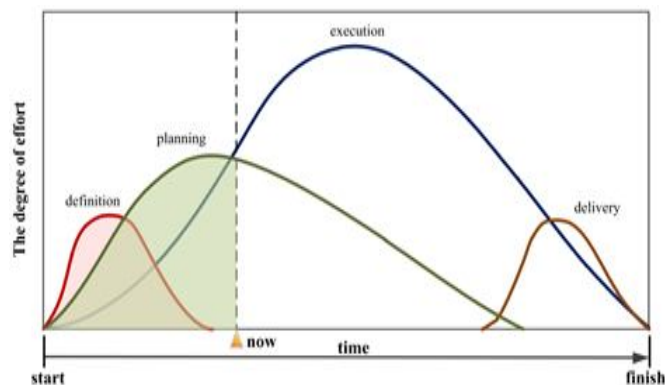


Figure 2.1 ERP project management cycle (Liao et al., 2018)

2.5 Agile Approach

According to Chang M. (2010) it's described that Agile is an approach to system design and development based on incremental and iterative processes. The Agile approach is flexible and iterative with continuous feedback and constant communication. According to Tribka & Soja (2014) describe that Agile of ERP systems is IT Integrator (system integration, ICT infrastructure, and IT service and outsourcing). Agile approach can reduce the risk of ERP implementation failure. The agile method approach is an information system development that focuses on flexible and interactive, and communication. Agile method approach can describe how to work with flexibility, interact and cooperate with customer to ensure problem solving to business process. According to (Quin, 2017) agile methods as a method of evolution in business and management in general, and in the development of management projects in particular. The agile method has a flexibility and work style that focuses on customer needs, and ensures work satisfies business needs. The traditional approach, although aimed at quality, but the fixed focus is the feature, and the variable is time and cost. While the agile approach, aiming at quality, but the fixed focus is time and cost, and variable factors are features. Thus in the agile approach

prioritizes terms of delivery time and cost versus features. A comparison of traditional approach vs agile approach can be seen in the following figure:

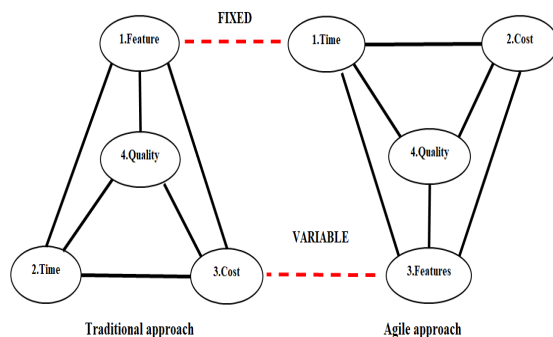


Figure 2.2 Comparison of traditional vs agile approach (Quint, 2017)

Based on the exposure, it becomes a challenge for researchers to conduct further research in an effort to overcome the complexity of ERP system implementation for industry, especially textile industry in Indonesia. Research on agile methodology as a solution to overcome the complexity of ERP implementation for the industry can be considered relatively minimal because it has only been done for the last 3 years and only done for certain industries.

2.6 Agile Methodology

According to Luo & Strong (2004) The framework provides a way of thinking about the implementation of choices to make engineering managers understand and evaluate these choices. According to Awa, H.O et al. (2016) explains that Technology, Organization, Environment is a classic framework that proposes the likelihood of innovation / technology adoption. The framework proposes three bits of enterprise contexts that influence the adoption and / or implementation of innovations. Developing agile modeling is one of the alternative approaches to consider in solving the complexity of implementing ERP systems for industrial companies. The agile framework methodology identifies the critical success factors (Critical Success Factors) in developing information systems.

According to (Quint, 2017) the principles of agile methods are processes, people, products, practices, focused on business needs, timely delivery, information collaboration, product quality, continuous and clear communication, and strict monitoring. According to (Campanelli et al., 2015) the agile principle is the constant delivery of time, the intensive interaction of people, the motivated person, good face-to-face communication, the role of the software that works optimally, the constant speed, the technical excellence and the good design, simplicity, a compact work team, a continuous improvement process.

3. Research Method

3.1 Research design

The methodology used in this research is through case study approach, analysis, evaluation, and literature study. To answer the related complexity factors in the implementation of ERP system, the researchers perform the analysis result based on Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method. In addition, the preparation of this methodology uses the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) technique to manage the data available in the company as the case study of this study as the basis for answering the formulation of the problem in this study. Based on the results of the methodology analysis, the researchers will process in the prototype design according to the object of research related agile methodology for ERP system.

3.2 Data collection techniques

To obtain data and information in the processing of data and information objectively, the researchers perform data collection techniques, which are as follows:

a. Literature review

Researchers conducted literature studies as a distinguished reference to this research topic, such as: books, E-books, scientific journals, scientific conferences and other references.

b. Interview

Researchers collect data by conducting interviews. Interview as a research instrument, where the researcher prepares a list of questions in accordance with the subject matter of this study. Researchers conducted interviews with managerial levels and people related to this research topic.

c. Observation

Researchers make direct observations on the business unit as a case study of this study. In this study, researchers analyzed the ongoing business processes, studied information required managerial levels, and the technology and information systems infrastructure used, and evaluated the performance of ERP systems used in related companies.

d. Questionnaire

The questionnaire is a data collection technique that is conducted by giving a written set of questions that will be distributed to the relevant parties in the case study in this study.

3.3 Research methodology

To clarify the stages of this study, the researchers describe the research methodology for analyze key factors that determine methodology of ERP implementation as follows: systems, people, management, technology, and process. Detail of research methodology can show the figure as follows:

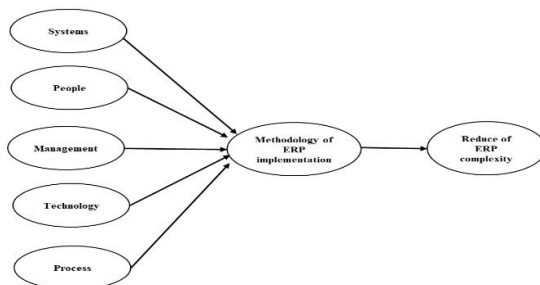


Figure 3.1 : Research methodology

3.4 Research design

In conducting the test and validation process on the feasibility of this research model and design, the researchers use quantitative methodological research methodology called “Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)” to answer the formulation of this dissertation problem. According to (Staphorst et al., 2013) Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) technique is a statistical technique capable of evaluating complex hierarchical dependencies and related context variables that have been proven to be effective in applying context sensitive data. According to (Staphorst et al., 2013) to evaluate the reliability and validity of the outer model measurements of the SEM model, it will be tested through:

- Indicator Reliability: a reflective indicator that gives an indication of the measurement of the variance level described by the related construction.
- Construct Reliability: Reliability indicator to show inadequate reflective indicator measurement of the related construction.
- Convergent Validity: The measurement of convergent validity considers the correlation between responses obtained by different methods to measure the same construction.
- Discriminant Validity: Consider the degree of inequality in measurements obtained by measuring devices for different constructions.

In order to obtain the results of research in general, then make a list of questionnaire questions, namely as follows:

The data of respondents

- Gender : Male / Female
- Position :
- Age :
- The education level of alumni :

This study aims to analyse and implement it in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in the textile industry.

Level of approval:

- 1 Strongly disagree 5 Somewhat agree

- 2 Disagree
- 3 Somewhat disagree
- 4 Neutral
- 6 Agree
- 7 Strongly agree

The following list categories are as follows:

Key Factors		Descriptions
Management	1	Employing an ERP system is the right idea and decision of management to finish the job faster and more efficiently.
	2	Implementing an ERP system often faces complexity if there is no leadership using an ERP system. It is a challenge because the way the ERP system works is a complex system where the workings of the ERP system differ from how I do now
Metode	1	One solution to overcome the complexity of running an ERP is to monitor the ERP implementation methods used and to evaluate targets with strict achievement
	2	Implementation method is one important factor in determining success in performing ERP implementation
	3	Agile method is one of the new methods in the implementation of ERP systems that need to be considered as a solution in overcoming the complexity in the implementation of ERP
	4	Eight agile principles are: 1.Focusing on business needs; 2.Ontime; 3.Collaborate; 4.No compromise on quality; 5.Build gradually from a strong foundation; 6.Develop iteratively; 7.Communicate continuously and clearly; 8.Make control. From this agile principle can be considered as a new method used in implementing ERP
	5	Method Agile ERP method is one of the methodology solutions to overcome the complexity in implementing ERP
People	1	I love the use of ERP systems in getting the job done, and agreeing not having to do the job in comparison with the parallel run system for a long time
	2	Working with an ERP system makes me nervous and unconfident
	3	I feel comfortable working with the ERP system in completing the work, so the completion of tasks to be faster, efficient, and improve work productivity
	4	The ERP project team always provides feedback to users on ERP system customization requests, where customization processes have risks to instability and failure of ERP implementation
	5	Active involvement of ERP project teams with users from relevant departments is critical in determining the success of ERP implementation
	6	Saya berpendapat bahwa hal penting untuk memastikan penggunaan sistem ERP berjalan baik adalah training dengan keterlibatan pengguna aktif secara intensif.
Process	1	The workings of the ERP system satisfy me in meeting the needs of data and information needed.
	2	The workings of the ERP system made me more complicated to get things done.
	3	One of the complexities of running an ERP system is the complexity in understanding the business processes of an ERP system
	4	One of the complexities of running an ERP is the complexity of converting business processes running following the business processes of an ERP system
	5	One solution to overcome the complexity of running an ERP system is to adjust the workings of the ERP system to follow how it works, that is to do customization of the ERP system
	6	One solution to overcome the complexity of running an ERP is to do Business Process Reengineering (BPR), which is changing the way things work to follow the workings of the ERP system
System	1	One way to improve a more efficient way of working for an organization is the use of an integrated information system, known as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
	2	I am satisfied to interact with the way the current ERP system manages data into information as needed to make strategic decisions.s.
	3	It is easy to detect and correct errors that occur through an ERP system.
	4	Using an ERP system is a challenge because the way the ERP system works is a complex system where the workings of the ERP system differ from how I do now
	5	I know that the popular ERP system in the world is SAP because it is a "the best practice" system, so it can be used in support of operational work without customization required.
Technology	1	The purpose of the ERP system is to improve the workings become more efficient, but in reality the use of ERP systems becomes complicated and even tends to inhibit the work becomes inefficient
	2	ERP systems often experience downtime and unexpected infrastructure-related disruptions, thus disrupting operations and completing work to be hampered

4. RESULTS

4.1 Factors of complexity in the implementation of ERP systems for an industry

Based on online searching source database of published papers related to agile method and complexity of ERP implementation, the researchers map the similarity of models based on the components that become the main issue against agile method and complexity of ERP implementation. Based on the results of comparative literature studies conducted by researchers on factors that become factors of complexity in the implementation of ERP systems against agile methods as project management, can be seen in the following table

Based on the results of the questionnaires, the researchers conducted data management using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) method, with the following results :

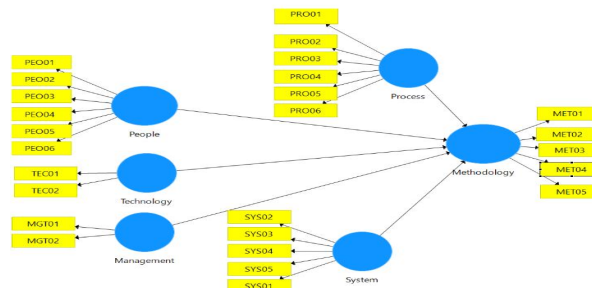


Figure 3.2 Squares Structural Equation Modelling

Table 3.2 Discriminant validity – SEM

Discriminant Validity

	Management	Methodology	People	Process	System	Technology
Management	1.004					
Methodology	0.981	1.004				
People	0.754	0.754	1.004			
Process	0.475	0.475	0.852	1.004		
System	0.537	0.537	0.757	0.722	1.004	
Technology	0.355	0.169	0.584	0.805	0.495	1.004

Based on the results of calculate of Discriminant Validity using the PLS-SEM method, it can be said that people, methodology, and system becomes critical factors for supporting the ERP implementation.

Table 3.4 CollonerarityStatistics – SEM

Collinearity Statistics (VIF)

	Management	Methodology	People	Process	System	Techno
Management	1.781					
Methodology		1.817				
People		1.664	1.817			
Process		1.519	1.664	1.817		
System		1.084	1.519	1.664	1.817	
Technology						1.084

Based on the results of calculate of Collinearity Statistics using the PLS-SEM method, it can be said that the determination of the implementation methodology becomes very significant in overcoming the difficulties of implementing the ERP system, where the factors of people, management and process become the dominant factors.

Thus the ERP project should involve managerial and user level people to make business process changes following the business processes of the ERP system. Based on comparative literature study results, it can be concluded that the main component of the concept of agile method can be used as an alternative approach in overcoming the complexity of ERP system implementation. Components of the agile method are people ability, management support, business value, project management, quality, and process change business. Based on the components of this agile method, the explanation of each component can be seen in the following table:

4.2 Agile method can be used as an alternative approach in overcoming the complexity in implementing ERP systems for an industry

Based on the results of observation, mapping the results of the questionnaire conducted by researchers to the correspondents who are users who experienced and actively involved in the implementation stages in companies in Argo Manunggal Group, and also to the academic correspondents who understand and related ERP system. Here are the results of processing through SEM techniques related to complexity factor in the implementation of ERP systems for the industry, can be seen. Changing the business process to run following the business process of the ERP system is important, so it does not require business process customization process of the ERP system. This has an impact on the success of implementing the ERP system.

Conclusion

One significant factor to achieve successful implementation of ERP system is the implementation methodology. Most ERP system implementation methodologies still employ traditional methods. For that, consider another method in the implementation of ERP system, that is agile method. Agile method is an approach in the development of a popular system and focuses on major software development, enabling companies to migrate into agile approaches. The agile method will improve the way work is more efficient, the response speed and relatively simpler in managing business processes. Agile method is a modern method for industry in managing business process more effectively and efficiently, speeding up production time, improving speed, product quality, and be responsive to fulfill customer requirement. The characteristics of agile methods can anticipate uncertainties and allow relatively rapid changes to achieve "responsive". Based on the results of data management analysis in this study, it can be extrapolated that agile methodology is an implementation methodology that needs to be considered for industry, especially textile industry in implementing ERP system, where agile principles have suitable characteristic in implementing ERP system and can develop agile ERP framework to address the complexity of ERP implementation for the industry. In addition, agile ERP methods can connect most departments, support information flows within the organization, and also connect with external parties. Nevertheless, the role of people who have the insights and thinking of technology to develop the company's business processes through the support of modern technology is essential to ensure the success in implementing ERP systems for the textile industry.

Researchers realize that this research is still not perfect as it has limitations in managing data, research methods, and coverage of the textile industry only in the auspices of Argo Manunggal Group. Therefore, this research will be continued in subsequent research with quantitative research method, with coverage of textile industry throughout Indonesia, to contribute and solution to the constraints faced by many industries in implementing ERP system.

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