

**YOUNG LEARNERS' OPINION OF MEMRISE AS A MEDIA
IN LEARNING ENGLISH VOCABULARY: A NARRATIVE
RESEARCH**

A THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Sarjana Pendidikan in English Education



By:

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
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K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN
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Demikian nota pembimbing ini dibuat untuk digunakan sebagaimana mestinya. Atas perhatian bapak/Ibu, saya sampaikan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

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MOTTO

“Don’t give up though it’s hard and you’re tired.”

(Stray Kids – Grow Up)

“No need to rush, don’t compare yourself with others, it’s alright to go slowly, go on your own path, put down your impatience, just keep looking forward.”

(Stray Kids – My Pace)

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pendapat para young learners dalam menggunakan aplikasi Memrise sebagai media pembelajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris. Metode yang digunakan oleh peneliti dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan desain penelitian naratif. Peneliti menerapkan wawancara semi-terstruktur untuk mengumpulkan data. Kemudian, data penelitian dianalisis dengan analisis tematik oleh Braun dan Clarke. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah young learners yang telah mendapat pelajaran Bahasa Inggris di sekolahnya, diperbolehkan oleh orang tuanya untuk menggunakan perangkat telepon pintar, dan menggunakan aplikasi Memrise sebagai media untuk mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pendapat para young learners mengenai penggunaan aplikasi Memrise sebagai media pembelajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris dapat dibagi menjadi pendapat positif dan negatif. Pendapat positif mengenai Memrise menunjukkan bahwa aplikasi Memrise membantu young learners dalam mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris lebih mudah, aplikasi Memrise meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata bahasa Inggris, aplikasi Memrise membantu meningkatkan ketertarikan dan motivasi dalam mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris, dan aplikasi Memrise dapat membantu mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris secara cepat. Sedangkan pendapat negatif young learners mengenai aplikasi Memrise adalah aplikasi tersebut tidak dapat menggantikan pembelajaran bahasa secara intensif. Kemudian, para young learners juga mengalami beberapa tantangan saat menggunakan aplikasi Memrise seperti masalah jaringan internet, kurangnya penggunaan aplikasi, ketidaksiapan mereka dalam menggunakan aplikasi, dan keterbatasan ruang penyimpanan.

Kata kunci: *Young learners; Pendapat; Memrise; Kosakata bahasa Inggris*

ABSTRACT

This research purposes to report young learners' opinion of Memrise application as a media in learning English vocabulary. The method used by the researcher in this research is a qualitative method with a narrative research design. The researcher implemented semi-structured interview to collect the data. After that, the research data were analyzed using thematic analysis by Braun and Clarke. The participants of this research were young learners who are given English subject in their school, are allowed to use a smartphone by their parents, and use Memrise application as a media in learning English vocabulary. The result of this research showed that the young learners' opinion of utilizing Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary can be categorized into positive and negative opinion. The positive opinion of Memrise shows that it helps the young learners in learning English vocabulary more easily, it helps the young learners increase English vocabulary mastery, it helps the young learners to increase their interest and motivation in learning English vocabulary, and it can help the young learners learn English vocabulary quickly. The negative opinion of Memrise is that it cannot replace intensive language study. Furthermore, the young learners also experienced some challenges when using Memrise application such as connectivity issues, underuse of smartphone apps, their unreadiness to use the application, and limited storage device.

Keywords: *Young learners; Opinion; Memrise; English vocabulary*

PREFACE

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Rokhuma', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

The Writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Learning English must be started with learning vocabulary because vocabulary has an important role in English learning. Richards and Renandya (2002) define vocabulary as an important part of language proficiency which becomes the foundation for the learners to speak, listen, read, and write. Fidyningrum et.al (2021) state learning English vocabulary is advised to be taught to young learners since primary school because according to Prayatni (2019) young learners have impressive vocabulary development. Thus, it is expected that learning English vocabulary since young age can develop the young learners' vocabulary achievement.

One of the ways to teach vocabulary to young learners is by taking the advantage of digital technology developments. The use of digital technology in language learning is considered effective and able to help learners learn independently (Motteram, 2013). Technology itself plays a significant role in English learning process because it can foster learners' motivation in learning.

In this case, the young learners can use mobile application for the media in learning vocabulary. According to Zhang and Liao (2015) mobile application is technology, system, or product of software used by the smartphone and other mobile devices. Mobile application provides many kinds such as shopping, payment, entertainment, and learning. Therefore,

since mobile application can be used for learning, the young learners can use mobile application as a media for learning vocabulary.

There are many attractive mobile applications that can be utilized by the young learners to learn vocabulary. For example, the participants in this research, they use Memrise as a media for learning English vocabulary. Memrise is an online learning tool that can be used to learn certain subjects (Luczak, 2017). Memrise is very easy to access, it can be accessed both via smartphone and computer device. Memrise can be downloaded on Google Play or App Store, and it is also accessible via website. It provides several aspects and specifications in language learning such as vocabulary, and other language skills. Using Memrise can train the young learners to memorize the vocabulary that has been learned because Memrise is developed to create long-term vocabulary memory where the users must learn the words repeatedly through systematic and regular assessment of vocabulary (Walker, 2015). Hence, the young learners can utilize Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary.

Furthermore, in using Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary, the young learners of course have their own opinion about Memrise and face some challenges when using the application. Based on this case, the researcher is interested to explore the opinion of young learners related to Memrise and the challenges experienced by them when using Memrise.

Subsequently, there are many studies have explored the effectiveness of Memrise as a media for learning vocabulary. However, the studies related to

the users' opinion in using Memrise to learn vocabulary are still rarely found. Therefore, to fill the gap, the researcher is interested to investigate young learners' opinion in learning English vocabulary by using Memrise and the challenges faced by the young learners when using Memrise.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

This research provides two formulations of the problem as follows:

1. How do the young learners think about learning English vocabulary by using Memrise?
2. What are the challenges faced by the young learners when using Memrise?

1.3 Definitions of Key Terms

There are several key terms in this research, the researcher provides several definitions related to the research as follows:

1.3.1 Young Learners

Young learners are learners who are less than 12 years old (Fajarina, 2017). Meanwhile, Scott and Ytreberg (1992) define young learners as learners who are around 5-11 years old, and they divide young learners into two major groups consisting 5 to 7 years old learners and 8 to 11 years learners.

1.3.2 Opinion

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, opinion is a thought or assumption about something or someone. Opinion also defined as the thoughts and assumptions that majority of people have about a subject.

1.3.3 Memrise

Memrise is a language learning platform created by Ben Whately, Ed Cooke, and Greg Detre to help the learners in learning a foreign language (Karjo & Andreani, 2018). In addition, Walker (2015) defines Memrise as an online learning tool that can be accessed via an application on a smartphone or tablet, and computer device that can be used to learn vocabulary and also build long-term memory of the vocabulary that has been learned through a series of exercises that must be done by the users

1.3.4 Vocabulary

Vocabulary is an important part of language proficiency which becomes the foundation for the learners to speak, listen, read, and write (Richards & Renandya, 2002). According to Clouston (2021) vocabulary is defined as a key component of language learning because without a proper vocabulary, learners cannot understand others or convey their thoughts.

1.4 Aims of the Research

The aims of this research are as follows:

1.4.1 To report the young learners' opinion in utilizing Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary.

1.4.2 To report the challenges faced by the young learners when using Memrise.

1.5 Significances of the Research

1.5.1 Theoretical: This research will contribute to several related theories about Memrise application and theory conducted by Metruk (2022) about challenges faced by the learners when using mobile learning application.

1.5.2 Practical: This research will present the information to the readers about the young learners' opinion of using Memrise to learn English vocabulary.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of the Findings

After conducted an interview with the participants, the researcher found some results related to the young learners' opinion of Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary and the challenges faced by the young learners when using Memrise. Therefore, the findings of this research can be summarized as:

1. The young learners' opinion of utilizing Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary can be categorized into positive and negative opinion. The positive opinion of young learners about Memrise shows that it helps the young learners in learning English vocabulary more easily, it helps the young learners to increase English vocabulary mastery, it helps the young learners increase their interest and motivation in learning English vocabulary, and it can help the young learners learn English vocabulary quickly. The negative opinion of young learners about Memrise is that it cannot replace intensive language study.
2. Furthermore, the participants also experienced some challenges in using Memrise as a media in learning English vocabulary. It includes connectivity issues, underuse of smartphone apps, their unreadiness to use the application, and limited storage problem. Then, the most common

challenge faced by the young learners in using Memrise in learning English vocabulary was the underuse of the Memrise application.

5.2 Recommendation

This research only focused on the young learners' opinion of Memrise application as a media in learning English vocabulary and only focused on a theory conducted by Metruk (2022) to analyze the challenges faced by them when using Memrise. Furthermore, for the research novelty, the researcher would like to offer some suggestions for further researcher who will explore about the young learners' opinion of Memrise application. Further researcher can explore the young learners' opinion of Memrise and challenges faced by them when using Memrise with other theories about Memrise application which probably can explore other things. Subsequently, further researcher can explore the use of Memrise from the users' opinion of other age groups, not only the young learners.

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