PROMOTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE VOCABULARY TO YOUNG LEARNERS THROUGH VISUAL IMAGERY STRATEGY: A PHOTOVOICE STUDY

A THESIS

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



ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHERS TRAINING FACULTY UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN 2024

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MOTTO

"It always seem impossible until it's done" (Nelson Mandela)



Abstrak

Mempelajari kosakata merupakan langkah awal dan bagian penting dalam mempelajari bahasa asing. Penelitian ini menjelaskan bagaimana citra visual sebagai strategi pengajaran dapat mempromosikan kosa kata Bahasa Inggris kepada pelajar muda. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah guru bahasa Inggris di sekolah dasar. Data penelitian dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan fotografi dokumenter dan wawancara. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain photovoice dan narasi kualitatif. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa menggabungkan representasi verbal dan visual dalam pengajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris melalui strategi pencitraan visual dapat memperoleh manfaat yang signifikan dalam proses pembelajaran, yang berdampak positif terhadap hasil akademik dan keterampilan kognitif siswa. Meskipun demikian, terdapat berbagai kendala yang perlu diatasi untuk menjamin efektivitasnya.

Kata Kunci: Citra Visual; Kosakata; Pembelajar Muda; Photovoice.

Abstract

Learning vocabulary is a first step and an important part of learning a foreign language. This study describes how visual imagery as teaching strategy can promote English Language vocabulary to young learners. Participants in this study is English teacher in Elementary school. The data of the research were collected by using documentary photography and interview. This study used photovoice and qualitative narrative design. The finding shows combining verbal and visual representations in teaching English vocabulary through visual imagery strategy can gain significant benefits in the learning process, positively impacting students' academic outcomes and cognitive skills. Although, there are various obstacles that need to be overcome to ensure its effectiveness.

Keyword: Visual Imagery; Vocabulary; Young Learners; Photovoice.



PREFACE

Praises and gratefulness are sent to Allah SWT who has poured His grace and His gift and bestowed me guidance, health, and patience so that the writing process of my thesis entitled "PROMOTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE VOCABULARY TO YOUNG LEARNERS THROUGH VISUAL IMAGERY STRATEGY: A PHOTOVOICE STUDY" can be completed. It is submitted to English Education Department, UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan to fulfill one of the requirements of for Sarjana Pendidikan Degree at English Education Department of Faculty of Education and Teacher Training UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan. This proposed study can be accomplished because of many supports from several people. Therefore, in this occasion I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

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The Writer

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Learning English in elementary schools plays an important role in forming the basis of students' language skills. However, teaching English vocabulary often faces challenges in terms of maintaining students' interest and improving their understanding. Due to a lack of vocabulary, many students still struggle to comprehend English texts and provide meaningful answers to reading comprehension questions.

Their limited vocabulary implies they are unable to understand the meaning of terms found in English texts. Because their mother tongue has an influence on the terminology they employ, students struggle to learn and comprehend it. Teaching English to students in Indonesia is not easy because English is a foreign language (Nugraha, 2018). To overcome this challenge, several studies have highlighted the effectiveness of using visual imagery strategies as an aid in teaching English vocabulary.

Visual imagery is the mental ability to imagine or visualize objects, situations, or experiences in the human mind without the presence of real stimuli. It involves the process of creating mental representations of things that can be seen with the eye, such as images, shapes, colors, or scenes (Pearson & Kosslyn, 2015).

Visual imagery has an important role in information processing, learning, memory and creativity. The ability to imagine visually can help individuals remember information, solve problems, and understand complex concepts (Kosslyn, et. al, 2006). In using visual imagery to introduce English vocabulary, several approaches that can be taken include: flashcard, video, storyboard, mind ma, etc. Visual imagery theory explores how the brain interprets visual information and how it affects comprehension, memory, and sensory experience.

By combining these findings, this study aims to explore the process of the use of visual imagery strategies by an English teacher in elementary school in introducing English vocabulary. By strengthening understanding of the use of this strategy, it is hoped that this research can make a valuable contribution in improving the quality of English language learning at the elementary school level. By visual narrative, the researcher can describe the process.

1.2 Formulation of the Problem

This study provides two research question.

- 1. How is the process of using visual imagery strategies in teaching English vocabulary?
- 2. What are the obstacles of using visual imagery in teaching English vocabulary?

1.3 Operational Definition

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms in this study, the researcher provides some definition related to the study as follows:

1. Vocabulary : the word contained in a language (Gu &

Johnsin, 1996)

2. Visual Imagery : process in which individuals use photos

to showcase aspect of their environment and daily experiences to share with others

(Koslyn, 2006)

3. Young Learners: students in the age range of 6-12 years

(Flyman & Norby, 2013)

1.4 Significances of the Research

The research was expected to contribute:

1. Theoretical : The results of this study are useful as

input constructive relating to the use of visual imagery in promoting English

language to young learners.

2. Empirical : This study will give the empirical insights

about the promoting English language to young learner trough visual imagery

strategy.

3. Practical : This study offers the information for the

readers about promoting English language to young learner trough visual

imagery strategy.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

5.1 Findings

This research aims to explain the process of teaching English vocabulary through visual imagery strategy and obstacles faced by teachers when using this strategy in promoting English vocabulary. The use of visual imagery strategies that combine verbal and non-verbal processes, as explained by Allan Paivio's Dual Coding Theory, has proven effective in increasing students' understanding, retention, motivation and engagement in learning English vocabulary. Interactive activities such as guessing pictures and sticking pictures help strengthen students' visual memory and make learning more fun and memorable.

Some of the obstacles found in this research include limited student memory, ineffective instructional design, and limited visual resources. Students tend to quickly forget the vocabulary they have learned without sufficient repetition. Instructions that are too complicated can cause confusion and interfere with student understanding. Apart from that, limited access to visual aids such as projectors and learning software is also an obstacle in implementing visual imagery strategies optimally.

To overcome memory limitations, regular repetition of vocabulary and linking new vocabulary to existing knowledge or experiences can help strengthen student retention. Simplifying instructions and using practical demonstrations can improve students' understanding of the tasks to be performed. Despite resource limitations, the use of simple visual aids such as printed drawing paper can still be used effectively with proper instructional design.

5.2 Suggestion

Using visual imagery strategies in English vocabulary learning can be very beneficial, but there are various obstacles that need to be overcome to ensure its effectiveness. By understanding and managing obstacles and implementing appropriate solutions, teachers can make the learning process more efficient and effective. This will help students remember and understand vocabulary better, and make learning more interesting and interactive.



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