

## TEACHING ENGLISH IN SDN MANGUNHARJO IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR YEAR 2022/2023

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### **Abstract**

The study aims to identify the student's English learning problems and identify the method of teaching. This study used qualitative research methods. Data was taken from one English teacher and the homeroom teacher for class 2 at SDN Mangunharjo. In collecting data, researchers conducted in-depth interviews with respondents by asking questions about seven essential points, including the difficulties, the implementation of curriculum Merdeka, learning strategy, challenges of teaching English, learning media facilities, student motivation, and effective English learning solutions. The main problem in this research is the student motivation to learn English. To deal with this problem, the teachers make the class more fun than usual, such as putting games as learning material. This research results that English teachers in SDN Mangunharjo still have difficulties teaching English in school, one reason being student study motivation, time, and materials.

**Keywords:** *Teaching, Teaching English, Teaching Methods*

### **Introduction**

English is an international language that has been recognized by the world, and for all people who visit foreign countries, the language used to communicate with domestic people using English is very important for everyone to have (Qadafi, 2020). Elementary school children have characteristics that are undoubtedly special and different for each child. However, some of the features of elementary school children tend to like to play, move, work in teams or groups, and do things or activities directly. Especially in teaching English, teachers must be able to use the right strategy so that students do not feel bored and also so that students can quickly pronounce English vocabulary.

Language skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Therefore, it can be understood that language learning focuses more on language performance than just knowing the language, namely in the form of performance using language in specific contexts following the communicative function of language (Abidin et al., 2015). In learning a second or foreign language, speaking is the most essential aspect. This success can be measured through students' skills in conducting conversations and interacting verbally in the language (Nunan, 2000). Speaking is the act of using language orally. As social beings, humans always use language to communicate in social life. So it can be concluded that speaking is part of language skills. Therefore students are required and trained to have good speaking skills.

It is true in making good communication, one must speak accurately and fluently to deliver the core of the meaning intended by the speaker. The speaking accuracy can be used as the starting point, leading one to speak fluently. However, it must be noted that the demand for fluency in speaking itself is a significant problem for learners of foreign languages. In other words, speaking fluently and confidently in various situations is an essential goal of any language learning.

The early years are a golden age when the brain develops at a breakneck pace. As a result, giving stimulation during that period requires parents to maximize their children's development. Parents, especially mothers, must provide a stimulus for children starting from pregnancy (Ardhyantama & Apriyanti, 2021). Another research explains that parental involvement is required during children's development (Mahmood, 2013). However, Parents are the first teachers of children admitted true. This is unfortunate, considering mothers have

three leading roles for children: meeting physical and spiritual needs, being role models, and stimulating child development (Apriyanti, 2021).

Furthermore, children in their early years habitually ask, pay attention, and comment about what they see, hear, and feel in their environment. Children spontaneously ask when they see something that catches their attention. Words, or what is known as speaking, will reflect the child's curiosity and love for everything that is seen, heard, and felt. Children who can speak have shown maturity and readiness to learn because speaking allows them to verbally express their desires, interests, feelings, and thoughts to those around them. The existence of the family is needed as a partner in communication.

As babies and children grow, abilities to form secure relationships, explore environments, and express emotions healthily develop, impacting their future behavior and relationships. According to Lev S. Vygotsky (1896-1934), the highest levels of abstract thinking and self-regulation in preschool development are established in pretend play using object substitutions (Smolucha & Smolucha, 2022). On the other hand, language development is an essential part of child development. It supports the child's ability to communicate. It also supports a child's ability to express and understand feelings, think and learn, solve problems, and develop relationships. Results indicated that infant attention and maternal education were predictors of receptive vocabulary initial status, with no differences as a function of child sex (Bruce et al., 2022).

Regularly educating children from an early age will impact children's growth and development in communicating with interlocutors even though they cannot communicate using English per sentence but at least per vocabulary, and teaching will show results. Teaching English early on will differ from elementary to high school level children. Early childhood needs to be given interesting and fun learning so children can be interested in new things. In addition, early childhood concentration only lasts 5-10 minutes, so it is necessary to put together stimulation interestingly so that children do not feel bored quickly when the teaching and learning process is carried out (Ulfa & Na'imah, 2020).

This is because elementary schoolers' learning styles and the development of their language skills differ from that of adolescents and adults. Hence, language learning should be designed and adjusted to the child's action level so that learning becomes meaningful and does not overwhelm students. Children learn the language more accessible. By being given English at an automatic elementary school when children will continue to be middle-level learners will readily accept English.

Brewster (2003) states that the right age to teach vocabulary is young. They will never forget what is introduced to them. One aspect of English relevant to introduce to children, especially in elementary school, is vocabulary. Of course, this is very important and becomes the basis of a person in language. As stated by Tarigan (2012) that the more vocabulary a person has, the more excellent their opportunity to speak, for them to speak.

In this case, the ability that must be possessed is not a good voice but the correct pronunciation. Of course, learning using song media would be much more perfect if we had good singing skills, but this is not the leading benchmark considering that what will be introduced to children is the vocabulary, not the leading standard considering that what will be taught to children is the vocabulary in the pronunciation, we have to give an example of the correct pronunciation because it will be a model for the students. There are a lot of mistakes made by teachers in pronunciation that are imitated by students so that it becomes a model for students—eventually imitated by students so that it becomes something less precise. For example, "eleven" and "elephant" must be noted that the two words have different writing and meaning.

Unfortunately, at the elementary level, it is only local content in Indonesia. But in many remote schools, problems are often, such as the lack of trained English teachers and teaching media to support them. English is a must in modern times. The learning process also plays an

essential role in language acquisition. Schools need additional English lessons because local teachers lack teaching hours. Children's needs in school must be accomplished because English education must be introduced from elementary school. The presence of English teachers at school will be a great aid in the early learning of a foreign language, especially if the teacher can teach English in various ways.

Introducing English, a foreign language in our country is not a simple job but something that must be done continuously. Various methods or media can be used to develop children's English skills, one of which is through songs. Song use is not limited to a medium for children to recognize English. Still, it can also be used as an alternative to creating fun learning, improving the quality of education. According to the current curriculum, there is no English subject for elementary school children. But seeing the need for the next generation's proficiency in English is very important for them. There must be a method to make them receptive to learning English. Such as by getting them interested in the topic to be discovered. Start with simple things and then check if they have understood. If they still don't understand, they will repeat it and, at the end of the lesson, will evaluate everything.

## **Method**

This is qualitative research. The data were taken from one English Teacher in SDN Mangunharjo on 12 June 2023. The observer used seven questions covering teaching, strategies, difficulties in teaching, learning media facilities used, student motivation in learning English, and effective English learning solutions. From the interview, the researcher explores data, information, and information framework from the research subject. The interview technique is free-guided, meaning that the interview questions are not only focused on the interview guidelines and can be deepened or developed according to the situation and conditions in the field.

## **Findings and Discussion**

### **Students' Problems in Learning English**

#### **Less Motivation**

There is less motivation, especially from parents, and the parents' environment is less supportive of their children's learning process. Motivation and learning are two interconnected things. One factor that influences learning motivation is the environment and parenting patterns that determine the quality of student learning outcomes. According to Maimunah (2012: 18), The role of parents in children's education is to provide primary education, attitudes, and basic skills, such as religious education, ethics, manners, aesthetics, affection, security, basics for obeying rules, and instilling good habits. It is concluded that parenting patterns affect student learning motivation. It is recommended that parents apply good parenting and create situations that stimulate children's interest in learning. Those involvements give motivation as a facilitator, as a model, and as a place to ask a question. Teachers could use the result of this study to find and explore more strategies or techniques that are fun and appropriate for teaching vocabulary. Besides, it informs parents about the factors that affect students' vocabulary mastery so that parents can maximize parental involvement to enrich students' vocabulary mastery.

Jerome Bruner (1983), Jerome Bruner is a cognitive psychologist who asserts that children learn through social interactions and stresses the importance of adults acting as mediators when helping children comprehend and apply new vocabulary. A parent can assist a child by using new words to describe the child in everyday situations, engaging in active conversation with them, and using a variety of contexts to help the child understand their language. According to Jaen Piaget (1952), children experience different stages of cognitive development, and parents have an essential role in providing appropriate learning to help children develop to the next step. Parents can provide the fundamentals of education by

providing interaction and an environment rich with experiences that support the child's learning process.

### **Less Vocabulary**

There are two essential components in learning English: vocabulary and grammar or sentence structure. Vocabulary is necessary because learning vocabulary is one of the main assets in learning English. According to Nagy & Anderson (1984), Vocabulary is essential for English proficiency and speaking because it aims to convey something clearly and effectively. Limited time and facilities are a challenge to develop language skills. Tungka (2010) states that it is still low, and there is no place to channel creativity outside class hours.

### **Student Behaviour toward learning time**

Often learning is hampered because the main factor is children who do not pay attention and do not follow the teaching properly. Brookfield, S.D. (2015). Active involvement of students in the teaching and learning process is significant to achieve deep understanding. This is one of the factors that hamper learning and do not run properly.

### **Less Learning Media**

Most teachers provide material only from the material book only. But some teachers experience problems due to the lack of books. Learning media is very important to help the learning process and improve students' understanding of the subject matter. According to Prof. Dr. H. Johnny S. K. Soetjipto, M.Pd. (2014), learning media is essential in visually, auditorily, and kinesthetically conveying information. Learning media can increase students' absorption of learning materials and help create a pleasant learning atmosphere. The media functions and regulates the practical relationship between teachers and students in the learning process.

There are several limiting factors in school learning media, namely the lack of English reading books and the few dictionaries available. According to Prof. Dr. H. Dardjowidjojo (2011) in his book "The Existence and Need of English Dictionaries in English Language Learning in Indonesia," states that English dictionaries have a vital role in helping students understand the meaning of words and expressions in English, as well as facilitating their learning process. Reading books available in the library are mostly science books and novels in Indonesian. In addition, students also use dictionaries alternately, which is one of the obstacles to the learning process in class. So that students feel not optimal in the learning process. Thus, students are not interested in learning and following the learning process.

### **The Methods Used by Teacher in Learning English**

#### **Discussion**

The teacher invites students to discuss through the discussion method because the average elementary-age child likes to work in teams or groups. They also tend to prefer to do things honest or direct. So, they can better express their desires and activities during the learning process. The proper discussion method can make students better understand the material taught through the topic of conversation.

#### **Q&A**

Invite students to do questions and answers to train their courage and confidence in asking and answering questions. John Hattie (1950) states that teacher interaction with students through the question-and-answer method can provide immediate feedback, increase student confidence, and provide opportunities for students to understand their thinking.

#### **Outdoor learning**

Learning can be carried out anywhere and anytime, as long as the place and conditions are still effective for education. A lesson so as not to seem monotonous and dull, then invite students to study outdoors occasionally. Children will not feel bored because they can freely breathe fresh air while learning.

#### **Watch learning videos**

This method becomes effective for the learning process to foster student enthusiasm for learning, a relaxed and comfortable classroom atmosphere will make students not bored.

Occasionally the teacher also invites students to learn through a video which indeed contains education in it. For example, Showing music and visual images will make it easier for students to remember vocabulary. Richard E. Mayer (1947) states that effectively presented videos can facilitate learning by combining text with moving images, sound, and animation, making it easier to understand concepts.

### **Games**

Playing is a natural and enjoyable way for children to keep active, stay well, and be happy. Freely chosen play helps children and young people's healthy development. Children need various unstructured play opportunities from birth until their teenagers to have good physical and mental health and learn life skills. Play is an essential part of early childhood education. Parents play a critical factor in this. Responding to children's play and providing an appropriate education is necessary. Because children early years can learn to channel and hold their emotions by playing. Children are also taught to manage their feelings, resist their urges, and use them as a source of relaxation. Children pick up a lot of information when playing, including concepts, colors, shapes, sizes, and amounts, among other things. However, parents were doubtful to permit their children to play without adult supervision in green spaces, except parks; this was contrary to the freedom they were given in their childhood. This is probably due to parents' heightened concerns about incidents, even though actual incident rates have been reduced (Truong et al., 2022). This condition makes children feel unsecured.

However, transitioning from physical playing to "more secure" is happening. Interactive, intelligent, and connected toys are expected to increase rapidly, with many claiming new ways to play and educational benefits (Hall et al., 2022). Since the existence of online games cannot be easily eliminated from children, parental involvement in accompanying children during playing is needed.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, teaching English presents various challenges requiring teachers' dedication, adaptability, and creativity. These challenges include catering to diverse learning styles, addressing language proficiency gaps, motivating students, and fostering practical communication skills. Despite the difficulties, teachers' commitment to creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment can result in significant language acquisition and empowerment for their students. Through perseverance and innovative approaches, educators can overcome the challenges of teaching English and positively impact students' language skills and overall academic growth.

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