IMPLEMENTATION OF THE USE OF FLASHCARD MEDIA IN IMPROVING ENGLISH VOCABULARY SKILLS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstrak

Bahasa Inggris pada tingkat sekolah dasar bertujuan agar siswa dapat mengembangkan kompetensi komunikasi dan memiliki kesadaran akan hakikat dan pentingnya bahasa Inggris untuk meningkatkan daya saing bangsa dalam masyarakat global. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut diperlukan keterampilan dasar yang harus dikuasai siswa yaitu berupa kemampuan kosakata bahasa Inggris, semakin banyak kosakata yang dimiliki seseorang maka semakin tinggi pula kemampuan berbahasanya. Mengingat pentingnya peran kosakata dalam berbahasa, maka pembelajaran kosakata menjadi perhatian penting dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris bukanlah suatu hal yang mudah karena seringkali siswa mengalami kesulitan dalam memperoleh kosakata baru. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode penelitian kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa observasi dan dokumentasi. Tujuan dilaksanakannya penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui implementasi penggunaan media flashcard dalam meningkatkan kemampuan kosakata bahasa Inggris siswa sekolah dasar. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah media flashcard cukup efektif bagi pemula untuk menambah kosa kata dan membiasakan diri dengan bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci : Media Flashcard, Kemampuan Siswa, Kosakata Bahasa Inggris

Abstract

English at the elementary school level aims to enable students to develop communication competencies and have awareness of the essence and importance of English to increase the nation's competitiveness in a global society. To achieve this goal, basic skills are needed that students must master, namely in the form of English vocabulary skills, the more vocabulary a person has, the higher their language skills. Given the importance of the role of vocabulary in language, vocabulary learning is an important concern in learning English. Learning English vocabulary is not an easy thing because often students have difficulty in acquiring new vocabulary. The research method used is a qualitative research method with data collection techniques in the form of observation and documentation. The purpose of carrying out this study is to find out the implementation of the use of flashcard media in improving the English vocabulary skills of elementary school students. The result of this study is that flashcard media is quite effective for beginners to increase vocabulary and get used to English.

Keywords : Flashcard Media, Student Ability, English Vocabulary

INTRODUCTION

According to Keraf (2004:1) Language is a means of communication between members of society in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech devices. Santrock (2001:178) argues that language is a system of symbols used to communicate with others. In humans, language is characterized by inexhaustible creativity and the existence of a system of rules. Infinite generativeity is an individual's ability to create a number of meaningful sentences that never stop using a limited set of words and rules, which makes language a creative endeavor. Thus, it can be said that meaningful sentences or commonly known as messages that we convey both in oral and written form are a series of vocabulary that is in accordance with the agreed language rules.

Expertise or language skills such as speaking, which are adequate. Because the essence of the language itself is vocabulary.

In this era of globalization, language has a very important role, especially the function of language as a means of communication, one of the languages that must be mastered is English, because English is an international language and is used as a tool to communicate both orally and in writing. Communication is understanding and expressing information, thoughts, feelings, and developing science, technology, and culture. The ability to communicate in a complete sense is the ability to discourse, namely the ability to understand and produce oral or written texts which are realized in four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills are used to respond to or create discourse in community life.

English subjects are directed to develop these skills in order to be able to communicate and discourse in English at a certain level of literacy. English is a local content that must be studied for all students at the elementary school level. English at the elementary school level aims to enable students to develop communication competencies and have awareness of the essence and importance of English to increase the nation's competitiveness in a global society. To achieve these goals, basic communication skills are required, one of which is the ability that must be possessed in the form of vocabulary mastery.

Vocabulary is a good thing very important and fundamental in language learners. Without a vocabulary adequately, one cannot communicate effectively or express The ideas are both in oral and written form. It is undeniable that vocabulary grows through incidental learning such as through constant exposure to language that is easy to understand in reading, listening, speaking, and writing exercises (Krashen, 1984: 74). To acquire these skills, learning must be carried out in an interactive, inspiring, fun manner, supported by the use of media that can motivate students to actively participate in learning. Sri Anita (2010:5) defines learning media as any person, material, tool, or event that can create conditions that allow students to receive knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Media is a means to get to a destination.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research method uses a qualitative approach, a qualitative approach means collecting data in a natural setting with the intention of interpreting the phenomena that occur where the researcher is a key instrument, with data collection techniques namely observation and documentation. Observation is a research method by looking at the object being studied directly. Observation is an observation that shows a study or learning that is carried out deliberately, directed, sequentially, and according to the goals to be achieved in an observation. And there are opinions of experts and previous research to strengthen this argument.

DISCUSSION RESULTS

Carter (1993:4) states: Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language. It also a collection of words a person knows and used in speaking and writing. In the era of globalization, English has become a very important language to master. Everyone is required to be able to communicate in an international language. To prepare students in mastering English as an international language, teachers need the right method to teach students because teaching vocabulary for elementary/middle school students is much different from teaching vocabulary for junior high school/high school students. The chosen method must be able to increase students' interest in learning and learning independence, so that the meaningful learning process and student learning outcomes can be achieved optimally. They have different motivations and characteristics.

The objectives of learning English vocabulary are as follows:

1. English in Elementary School aims to enable students to have simple listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English with an emphasis on communication skills through topics chosen for the needs of students and their environment.

2. English subjects in elementary schools are taught to students who are expected to have language competence which includes elements of grammar, vocabulary, grammar, writing, and cultural system and have the skills to use (language performance) of the elements mentioned above in a simple form.
3. The allocation of time for learning English is provided with 2 hours of lessons every week (provided with the provisions of the local school).
4. Assessment, the purpose of assessment is to measure the success rate of certain students, the type of assessment of learning outcomes, while the function of assessment is as feedback for the improvement of the teaching and learning process. There are three ways to assess it, namely written tests, oral tests, and performance tests. Meanwhile, the types of assessments are divided into unit assessment (a combination of several subjects), mid-semester assessments and end-of-semester assessments (Ministry of National Education 2006:402).

In learning English, vocabulary skills play an important role in understanding the material to be taught. This is because vocabulary mastery is the basis for learning a language, because without sufficient vocabulary mastery, a person will not be able to express ideas and respond to the language he receives. There are several factors that cause a low level of vocabulary mastery, including the factor of lack of interest in learning English and the methods used are not fun and ineffective. One of the learning media that can be used to improve students' English vocabulary is flashcard media. Flashcard media is media in the form of cards in which certain images or instructions are given with the aim of making it easier for students to learn a subject matter.

According to Susilana and Riyana (2009:95), Flashcard is a learning medium in the form of a picture card measuring 25 x 30 cm. The images are made by hand, photographs, or using existing images and then pasted on sheets of flashcards. From this description, it can be said that flashcards are media in the form of picture cards made using photos or images, on the back there is a description of the image on the flashcard with a flashcard size of 25 x 30 cm, but Arsyad (2007:120), has a different opinion that flashcards are usually 8 x 12 cm in size or can be adjusted to the size of the class faced, The cards contain images in the form of animals, objects, fruits and so on that can be used to enrich the vocabulary of elementary school students.

According to Suryana (2000:24), Flashcard is a form of educational game in the form of cards that contain pictures and words that are deliberately designed to improve various aspects including: developing memory, practicing independence, and increasing the number of vocabulary. From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that flashcards are a form of educational media in the form of cards that contain pictures and words whose size can be adjusted to the students they are facing and to get them can be made themselves or use ready-made media. Flashcard media has the following features:
1. Flashcards are effective picture cards.
2. Has two sides front and back.
3. The front side contains a picture or symbol sign.
4. The back side contains definitions, captions, answers, or descriptions.
5. Simple and easy to make.

Flashcard media is classified as visual media (images), flashcard media has several advantages, as expressed by Susilana and Riyana (2009:94) including:
1. Easy to carry everywhere, namely with a small size, flashcards can be stored in a bag or even in a pocket, so they do not require a large space, can be used anywhere, in the classroom or outside the classroom.
2. Practical, namely judging from the way it is made and used, flashcard media is very practical, in using this media teachers do not need to have special skills, this media does not need to also need electricity. If you are going to use it, we just need to arrange the order of the images according to our wishes, make sure the position of the pictures is correct, not upside down, and when it is finished using it, just save it again by tying it or using a special box so that it does not scatter.
3. Easy to remember, the combination of images and text is quite easy for students to recognize the concept of something, to find out the name of an object can be helped with the picture, and vice versa to find out the name of an object or concept by looking at the letters or text.

4. Fun, flashcard media in its use can be through games. For example, students compete to find an object or certain names from a randomly stored flashcard, by running students compete to find a command.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the advantages of flashcard media include: easy to carry, practical, easy to remember, and fun. In addition, flashcard media can help the right brain's ability to remember pictures and words so that it can improve students' vocabulary. The use of flashcard media in vocabulary learning According to the Great Indonesian Dictionary, what is called vocabulary is the meaning of a word, a vocabulary of words or words with the same meaning. A vocabulary is a set of words that are known to another person or entity, or are part of a particular language. A person's vocabulary is defined as a set of all words that the person understands or all the words that the person is likely to use to compose a new sentence. Flashcards consist of several types, including:

1. Plain Flashcard

A plain flashcard is a type of flashcard that does not contain any writing or images on it. This card is used to suit the needs of its users. Users of this flashcard can create their ideas and imagination as freely as possible. The use of this flashcard takes more time than other flashcards. This flashcard can be used by both early and late stage learners.

Plain Flashcard Media Images

2. Alphabet Flashcard

An alphabet flashcard is a type of flashcard that contains a list of alphabetical letter names ranging from the alphabet a to z. The total number of these cards is 26 cards, according to the number of alphabets in Indonesian and English. This type of flashcard is generally used in early-stage language learners. For example, children of early childhood education, kindergarten, elementary school, or second language learners.

Alphabet Flashcard Media Images

3. Flashcard Vocabulary

A vocabulary flashcard is a type of card that contains a list and definitions of several vocabulary. The source of vocabulary on this flashcard refers to a dictionary, either a general dictionary or a dictionary of terms. As for the type of card, it can be developed as needed. As long as a glossary or vocabulary is available, then vocabulary flashcards can be created. This type of flashcard can be used for early to advanced learners.

Vocabulary Flashcard Media Images

4. Number Flashcard

A number flashcard is a type of flashcard that contains a list of numbers. The list of numbers is basically only 10. These 10 lists of numbers are 0-9, the next number is just a combination of these numbers. However, generally the number 0 is not counted as a number when introducing numbers. The list of frequently used numbers is 1-10 or multiples of them. Similar to alphabet flashcards, number flashcards are generally used in early stage language learners.

Numeric Flashcard Media Images

5. Flashcard Basic Count

A basic count flashcard is a type of flashcard that contains a list or series of paired numbers along with the results. This string of paired numbers is mediated by the symbol of counting and ends with the symbol of equality (=). This type of card is divided into four forms, namely addition (+), multiplication (x), subtraction (-), and division (÷). The list of numbers generally used on flashcards is the number 1-10. These cards are used to memorize counts, such as multiplication, division, and are used for early-stage learners.

Flashcard Media Images Basic Count

6. Exact Flashcard

Exact flashcards are a type of card for a field of science that is concrete and can be proven with certainty. The exact types of flashcards include formulas, unit names, and element names. A formula flashcard can be the name of a mathematical, physical, chemical or other formula.

Furthermore, the name and symbol of the unit can be in the form of units of weight, distance, length, time, and others. Then, for the name and symbol of the element can be metal. Alkaline, non-metallic metals, artificial or synthetic elements. This flashcard is used to remember or memorize the basics of formulas, names, and symbols of units or elements. This type of card is used for advanced learners.

Exact Flashcard Media Images

7. Flashcard Objects

An object flashcard is a type of card that contains an image of an object along with its name or function and definition. The types of flashcards based on this object are divided into two, namely inanimate objects and living objects. Inanimate objects can be cards that introduce means of transportation, fruits, food, stationery, sports equipment, the solar system, and others. As for living things, they can be in the form of animals, plants, and humans. This type of flashcard is generally used by early learners to introduce objects.

Image Media Flashcard Objects

8. Flashcard Name

In addition to some of the types of flashcards that have been mentioned, there are also several other types of flashcards. Among them is a flashcard. Flashcards have almost the same name or are similar to vocabulary flashcards, because they have the same function to add or introduce vocabulary. However, a name flashcard is a flashcard that emphasizes more on the name of a place or event. For example, the names of countries and capitals, houses and traditional clothing, historical events, days and months, or names of places of interest in the world, and so on.
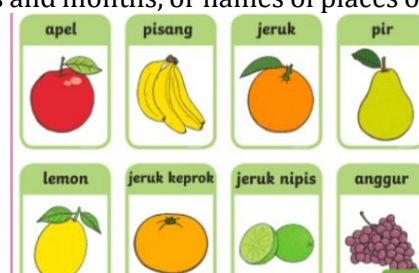

Image Media Flashcard Name

In addition, teachers also introduce children to flashcard media through: Professional Flashcards The following are professional flashcards that can be used to learn about various professions or jobs that can be done when they grow up. In addition, with professional flash cards, it also introduces children to social science, science, and other sciences.

Profession Flashcard Media Images

Things that must be prepared before using flashcard media, namely:
1. Prepare. Teachers need to master the learning material well, have the skills to use the media. If necessary, do it by practicing repeatedly even if it is not directly in front of the students. Also prepare other materials and tools that may be needed. Also check the order of the images, there may be something missing or the arrangement is not right.
2. Prepare the flashcard. Before starting learning, make sure that the number is sufficient, also make sure that the order is correct and whether or not other media are needed to help the learning process.
3. Prepare the place. This is related to the position of the teacher as the presenter of the learning message whether it is right in the middle of the students, whether the room is well arranged, also pay attention to the lighting or the intensity of the light in the room is good, the most important thing is that all students can see the contents of the flashcard clearly from all directions.
4. Prepare students. Students should be well arranged, including by sitting in a circle in front of the teacher, paying attention to students to get an adequate view, sitting in a circle, making sure all students can see well, in contrast to lining up backwards, there may be students who cannot see ahead because they are blocked by other friends, or too far away so that it is not clear.

How to use flashcard media, namely:
1. The cards that have been arranged are held at chest level and facing the front of the student.
2. Draw the cards one by one after the teacher has finished explaining.
3. Give the cards that have been explained to the students who sit near the teacher. Ask students to look at the cards one by one, and then pass them on to the other students until all students can see them.
4. If the presentation is in a game way, put the cards in a box randomly and do not need to be arranged, prepare students who will compete for example three people standing in a row, then the teacher gives an order, for example find the name of the horse animal, then the student runs to the box to pick up a card with a picture of a horse and written "horse".

The components of flashcard media according to Sri (2008:26-27) are as follows:
1. Simplicity
    The form of flashcard media should be concise, simple and limited to the important things only. The concept is clearly drawn and easy to understand and uses clear, simple and easy-to-read writing.
2. Unity
    The principle of unity refers to the relationship between the visual elements in the unity of its function as a whole. The form of unity can be expressed by elements that support each other, or by using clues such as arrows or visual tools such as lines, shapes, colors, textures, and spaces depicted in a page.
3. Emphasis.

The principle of emphasis refers to the emphasis on one of the elements that will focus the student's interest and attention. The principle of emphasis can be demonstrated through the use of a certain size, perspective image or with a certain color on the most important elements.
4. Balance
    There are two types of balance, namely formal and informal. Formal balance is a balance that is symmetrical. Meanwhile, informal balance is asymmetrical. The chosen shape or pattern should occupy a viewing space that provides a sense of balance even though it is not entirely symmetrical.
5. Visual Tools
    Visual tools that can help the successful use of the principles of visual media creation above include shape, color, texture, and space.

How to make flashcard media, namely:
1. Prepare a rather thick paper from the cardboard material. This paper serves to store or paste pictures according to the learning objectives.
2. The paper is marked with a pencil or marker and uses a ruler, to determine the size of 25x30 cm.
3. Cut the paper using scissors or a knife until it is exactly 25x30 cm. Make these cards, a number of images to be pasted or a number of materials that we need.
4. Furthermore, if the drawing object will be made directly by hand, then the base paper needs to be coated with fine paper for drawing, for example HVS paper or cardboard paper.
5. Start drawing using drawing tools such as brushes, watercolors, markers, colored pencils, or make a design using a computer with the appropriate size and then after finishing pasting it on the base
6. If the images to be pasted use existing ones, for example images that are sold in stores, in the market, then the images are cut according to size, then pasted using adhesive or paper glue.
7. At the end is to write on the part of the cards according to the name of the object in front of it. These names are common in several languages, for example Indonesian and English.

The wealth of a person's vocabulary in general is a reflection of their intelligence or level of education. The initial vocabulary that children know is obtained from speech in their environment, such as vocabulary that has main words and function words. Children master the main vocabulary first because it consists of nouns, verbs and adjectives, of the three main vocabulary, children are easier to master nouns because they are more concrete. Tarigan (2011:2), stated that "The quality of a person's language skills depends on the quality and quantity of vocabulary they have, the richer the vocabulary we have, the greater the possibility of English language skills among elementary schools.

Flashcard media is considered a media that causes fun and interest for students in learning vocabulary, because flashcards are a form of learning media in the form of picture cards that students like and can be presented in the form of games, thus flashcards are an alternative that can be estimated to help improve students' vocabulary skills, especially the ability to listen to vocabulary (Listening skills) and speaking (Speaking skills). Students will find it difficult to understand a material, especially for elementary school students who still find English lessons difficult and unfamiliar, because it is not a language that is often heard in students' daily lives. The training that can be provided by teachers is to provide questions by mentioning vocabulary or keywords about animals, plants, objects, fruits, and so on and correlate them with flashcard media. Teachers not only serve as educators but also as motivators for their students as well as being good examples and examples.

Conclusion

Language is a familiar thing to anyone. Language is used by humans to be able to communicate with others. Language can reflect a person's character. In today's era of globalization, students are required to be able to speak English appropriately. But it is difficult for

them to get used to speaking a foreign language because their vocabulary is not enough. Therefore, flashcard media is quite effective for beginners, increase vocabulary, and get used to English.

Flashcard media is media in the form of a card of a certain size that contains images or words to make it easier for students to operate it. How to use this media is fairly easy because just by listening to the directions given by the teacher. Flashcard media is a medium that can make students enthusiastic about learning, especially with English which is quite unfamiliar to them. Thus, this media can reduce the sense of learning boredom with methods and media that are commonly used in the learning process.

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