

**USING “SEPHONIC” IN TEACHING PRONUNCIATION
TO THE FIRST GRADE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

PAPER

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ABSTRAK

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Banyak siswa yang beranggapan bahwa belajar bahasa Inggris adalah hal yang sangat sulit dan membosankan. Hal ini disebabkan karena bahasa Inggris merupakan bahasa asing dan mereka takut untuk melakukan kesalahan. Hal tersebut terjadi karena berbagai faktor, seperti kurangnya penguasaan kosa kata dan grammar, pengucapan yang kurang tepat dan suasana belajar yang tidak dapat memberikan daya tarik kepada siswa. Permasalahan tersebut dapat ditemui pada semua aspek kemampuan dalam bahasa Inggris, terutama sekali dalam berbicara.

Untuk membantu siswa dalam belajar pengucapan, guru bisa menggunakan sebuah software. Di dalam sephonics, siswa akan mengetahui seluruh simbol vowel dan consonant dalam bahasa Inggris serta mereka dapat mengetahui bagaimana bunyi dari masing-masing simbol. Siswa juga bisa mendengarkan pengucapan kata-kata dalam bahasa Inggris. Sephonics hanya bisa digunakan di dalam ruangan komputer. Sephonics juga bisa di aplikasikan di sekolah bertaraf Internasional yang mana siswanya memiliki masing – masing laptop jadi mereka bisa belajar pronunciation di kelas mereka.

Berdasarkan penjelasan di atas, penulis menyarankan agar guru bahasa Inggris pada sekolah menengah pertama khususnya kelas satu juga dapat menggunakan sephonics untuk meningkatkan pengucapan bahasa Inggris siswa, sehingga siswa akan lebih tertarik untuk belajar, aktif, dan juga dapat meningkatkan keterampilannya dalam berbahasa.

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Finally, the writer hopes that this paper will be useful for English teachers, especially for those who are teaching English at Junior High Schools.

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Writer,

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

English language is important for all people in the world. It is very crucial for developing science and technology because many sources of knowledge are written in English. Considering importance of English, Indonesian government has taken English as one of the compulsory subject in the curriculum of junior high schools up to universities. Junior high school is a place where students can learn English language. In learning English language, students are expected to master four skills namely speaking, listening, reading and writing. In Indonesia, all of the skills are integrated together to build the students' competence in using English as written in the School Based Curriculum or KTSP for Junior High Schools.

According to KTSP, the aim of learning English in Junior High schools is to develop students' communication ability in oral and written form. The curriculum also stresses that the student have to be able to develop the own competence both oral and written communication in order to reach their functional literacy.

KTSP also explains the aim of language teaching is to help student to communicate and express feelings, attitudes, exchange facts and socialize in the language. The students can learn and practice the language well by practicing speaking.

They can also easily share what they think through speaking to tell it directly to others. Furthermore, speaking is more preferable for its effectiveness and efficiency in daily communication. This is supported by the fact that in learning process, the students are given instruction and explanation through speaking.

In order to speak English accurately and fluently, students have to master some components such as pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. One of the important components in speaking is pronunciation; as a result, the students have to learn how to pronounce the English words correctly. Before they are able to pronounce words correctly, they must be able to correctly pronounce each of the sounds that construct those words. In addition, in English language, one letter is used for many sounds and one sound may be represented by several spelling and the spelling of a word often gives little idea of its pronunciation. Because of that, learning pronunciation is very important for English language learners. The earlier they begin to learn pronunciation the more easily they master it.

However, most of the students are still not able to pronounce English sounds correctly, especially the sounds which are not used in Indonesian language. In Indonesian language have five vowels. They are a/i/u/e/o/. It is totally contrast with English. It has many vowels. They are

	Front	Central	Back
High	ɪ i:		ʊ u:
Mid	ɛ	ə ɜ:	ɔ:
Low	æ	ʌ	ɒ ɑ:

As a result, inaccurate or incorrect pronunciation gives different meanings of the word. For example, the word “three” is pronounced /θri:/, but some students still pronounce it /tri:/ which refers to the word “tree”. This happens because the sound /θ/ is not used in Indonesian language. This is only one out of other more examples of how students in junior high schools have problems in pronouncing English sounds. This fact shows that pronunciation must get serious attention from teachers in order to achieve the aims of teaching speaking as mentioned in the curriculum.

To overcome this problem, teachers may use their own technique or media. However, those technique or media do not seem to succeed to make the students able to pronounce English sounds correctly. They still depend on using the conventional technique such as drilling: asking the students to repeat the words until they can pronounce the words correctly. However, this technique may make the students bored because there is no variation in the way they learn good pronunciation. In fact, teachers can use the application of technology to teach pronunciation to the students.

Nowadays, technology has an important role in people’s life. The development of technology has already influenced all aspects of human’s life, one of them in education field. The improvement of technology in education field has already changed the ways of teaching-learning from conventional technique by introducing various learning media such as software program.

One of great software programs of learning English pronunciation is “sephonics”.

By using sephonics software program, the students will listen to correct pronunciation of all sounds in English language. Furthermore, through this program, they can also see the spelling of each sound they pronounce.

B. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem mentioned above, the problem of this paper is formulated into a question: “How is sephonics used by English teachers in teaching pronunciation to the first grade of junior high school students?”

C. Purpose of the Paper

This paper aims at applying sephonics in teaching pronunciation to the first grade of junior high school students.