

**USING CUE CARDS MATERIAL IN TEACHING ENGLISH
AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

PAPER

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ABSTRAK

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Makalah ini membahas tentang penggunaan *cue cards material* untuk siswa tingkat sekolah dasar. Pembelajaran bahasa Inggris untuk siswa sekolah dasar adalah sebuah pelajaran tambahan yang termasuk dalam muatan lokal. Oleh karena itu, pembelajaran yang diberikan kepada siswa bertujuan untuk membantu siswa mengenali bahasa Inggris secara sederhana. Salah satu materi yang bisa digunakan untuk pembelajaran bahasa Inggris siswa tingkat sekolah dasar adalah dengan menggunakan *cue cards material*. Materi yang terdapat pada *cue cards* dapat membantu guru dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris sehingga memberikan dampak yang positif dalam proses belajar mengajar. Ada tiga tahapan yang dilakukan guru, yaitu *pre*, *whilst* and *post teaching*. Dalam *pre-teaching*, guru dapat memberikan beberapa kata yang berhubungan dengan pelajaran. Hal ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kosa kata dan mengaktifkan background knowledge siswa. Pada *whilst-teaching*, guru memperlihatkan gambar – gambar sesuai dengan topik yang diajarkan. Pada setiap gambar tersebut terdapat kalimat sederhana yang akan diajarkan guru. Pengajaran yang dilakukan disesuaikan dengan kemampuan yang akan dicapai. Pada tahap *post – teaching*, guru akan memberikan latihan sederhana yang bertujuan untuk menguji pemahaman siswa.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

English is one of the important subjects that is used as a communication language all over the world. Thus, mastering English can expand the human knowledge because if people are able to speak English, they can get more information and knowledge from many sources in the world. Consequently, knowledge and information will increase the quality of human resources. Due to the importance of mastering the English language, we can see that English has been considered as one of the compulsory subjects in our educational curriculum. English has to be taught in the school from elementary up to university level.

In relation to teaching English as a local content for elementary school student, the focus of teaching English is learning by playing. Elementary school students are children in the age of 6-12 years old; having children as our students is different from adult because they have different interest and attitude. These young learners dislike to be under pressure, they will learn better if they are interested in the lesson.

Lynne Cameron (2003) says that teaching English to elementary school students brings a number of challenges. Students need something new while studying in the classroom. The lesson that teacher uses should bring an interesting environment, so that the students can enjoy their class. Besides, the teacher should

be able to create an interesting media in order to gain students' attention in learning English.

Similarly, teaching English to young learners or to elementary school students should be matched with their cognitive and language development. Active learning through interesting and meaningful games, puzzles, problem solving tasks will grow the children's positive attitudes toward English rather than reliance solely on paper and pencil tasks that on the rules of grammar (Scott and Treberg, 1992). Thus, the teacher must be aware with activities that they want to use in the classroom.

On the other hand, the English teacher cannot create an interesting situation in the classroom. Sometimes, they do not use media which can make students interested and pay attention to the materials. Also, the teacher only focuses on the materials that are included in the text books without any combination or improvisation to give more related example of materials.

In order to solve the problem above, it is important to find effective and innovative ways for the teacher to improve the students' interest in learning English. The writer tries to propose *Cue Cards Material* in teaching English to elementary school students. *Cue Card Material* is a good method in teaching English for children because in this activity the teacher gives some pictures to the students. The pictures given by the teacher consist of some words. The purpose of this picture is to help students understand the meaning of words. The pictures can be used in teaching about describing pictures of person, telling about activities, explaining family tree, and many more. It depends on the topic of the lesson.

Cue card is a great method for teaching elementary school students. The combination of words and visual cues can help children's mind piece together a word. The teacher can create the material by themselves. It will help the teacher to grasp how words look are sound. These activities allow students to improve their ability in learning English while having fun and not feeling pressured, and the method can be used through different levels until students can understand completely about the lesson.

B. Identification of the Problem

In the background of the problems, it has been discussed that in the teaching English for elementary school students is found a problem. The writer identifies that there is a problem that can make the students do not feel interested in learning English. The students need something new while studying in the classroom. The students enjoy learning by playing, so that the teacher should create or find an interesting material that help students understand the lesson but do not make them bored while learning.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Related to the background of the problem above this paper is focused on the problem of the elementary school students ability in learning English.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background above the problem can be formulated as follow:

“How can *Cue Cards Material* be used in teaching English to elementary school students?”

E. The Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this paper is to show and to explain to the teacher how to use cue cards material in teaching English for elementary school students.