

**TEACHING VOCABULARY THROUGH SORTING ACTIVITY
TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

PAPER



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ABSTRAK

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Kosakata (vocabulary) merupakan faktor penting dalam mempelajari bahasa. Orang tidak bisa mendengar, berbicara, membaca, dan menulis tanpa mengetahui kosakata. Begitu juga dalam mempelajari bahasa asing seperti bahasa Inggris, kosakata memegang peranan yang sangat penting.

Namun tidak semua anak sekolah dasar mudah mempelajari atau mengingat kosakata dalam bahasa Inggris. Hal ini disebabkan oleh beberapa faktor diantaranya media pembelajaran yang kurang menarik sehingga anak cepat bosan, metode atau teknik mengajar guru yang tidak kreatif dan monoton, serta kegiatan belajar mengajar yang lebih didominasi guru tanpa melibatkan atau mengikutsertakan anak didik untuk ikut berpartisipasi.

Sorting activity merupakan salah satu strategi yang bisa digunakan guru dalam mengajar kosakata (vocabulary) untuk anak sekolah dasar. *Sorting activity* adalah semacam kegiatan dimana anak diminta untuk memisahkan kata, gambar, atau benda kemudian mengelompokkannya menurut tolak ukur tertentu. Dalam makalah ini tolak ukur atau patokan yang digunakan adalah anak harus mensortir atau memisahkan kosakata yang ada berdasarkan gambar yang sesuai dengan kosakata.

Kegiatan ini sangat cocok untuk anak-anak, disamping menggunakan media yang disukai anak-anak seperti gambar, *sorting activity* juga melibatkan anak secara fisik untuk memisahkan kata, gambar, atau benda yang digunakan dalam proses belajar mengajar, sehingga tercipta suasana dan kegiatan belajar yang menyenangkan bagi anak.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

English has been taught at elementary school and begun at the fourth grade. The teaching of English at elementary school includes all of the language competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills have to be mastered by students so that the aims of teaching English at elementary school can be achieved.

The mastering of the competencies above cannot be achieved without mastering vocabulary first. Vocabulary is as a root for students in learning a language, especially English. He or she cannot listen, speak, read, and write if he or she does not have enough vocabulary. In contrast, the more vocabulary students learn the more ideas they would have, so they can communicate by using their ideas more effectively. It is mentioned by Edge (1993) “Knowing a lot of words in a foreign language are very important. The more words we know, the better our chance of understanding or making ourselves understood. Besides, vocabulary knowledge relates strongly to students’ reading comprehension and overall academic success.”

Although vocabulary is a crucial part in English, the fact, many students are still unable to understand the number of words in English. Based on the writer’s experience as an English teacher at elementary school, when the

process of teaching and learning happened, many students look confused when teacher showed a thing and then asked them to say it in English. Sometimes, they answered it in their mother tongue and the other times they only shook their head, smiled, or just kept silent. Besides, they seemed ignore and did not pay attention to teacher's explanation. They looked busy with their drawing book, talking with their friends, or sometimes walked in the classroom when the teacher wrote on the white board.

The problems above happen because of some factors, the first, children are different from adult. They have very short attention span, cannot learn under pressure, and more curious to the subject if the topic and the activity are interesting for them. That is why, teacher has to be creative in presenting the lesson in order to catch their attention during the process of teaching and learning by using interesting media, method or strategy.

The last, children are learning better through physical activity. Children cannot sit and then listen to teachers explanation during the day in the classroom. This situation can make them feel bored. Children love to move a thing, drawing, singing, playing, and etc. That is why, involve them physically, such as singing together, moving things based on its similar shape, and so on, can attract them and create an enjoyable atmosphere in the classroom.

To solve the problems above, an interesting strategy is needed to teach elementary school. One of strategies that a teacher can use in teaching vocabulary to elementary school students is sorting activity. Sorting activity is an activity that requires students to sort objects, words, phrases and sentences according to set

parameters. This activity is very suitable for children, because in this activity children can learn something new through seeing it, hearing it, and sorting it directly. In short, they can learn by doing in the classroom and not only watching what the teacher does in front of the class from their seat.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, this paper is limited to teaching vocabulary through sorting activity to elementary school students.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The problem is formulated into the following question:

“How does an English teacher use sorting activity in teaching vocabulary to elementary school students?”

1.4 Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this paper is to give information about using sorting activity as a strategy in teaching vocabulary to elementary school students.