

**PROBLEMS FACED BY TEACHERS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS**

**THESIS**

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## **ABSTRAK**

**Dewi Andiningrum:2008 “Problems Faced by Teachers in Teaching English to Young Learners at Elementary Schools in Koto Tengah Sub district”.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap masalah-masalah yang dihadapi guru dalam mengajarkan bahasa inggris untuk anak – anak di sekolah dasar di Kecamatan Koto Tengah. Permasalahan difokuskan pada masalah yang dihadapi guru dalam mengembangkan materi, media, dan teknik pengajaran.

Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah guru – guru Bahasa Inggris Sekolah Dasar di Kecamatan Koto tengah. Berdasarkan data yang diperoleh dari Dinas Pendidikan, terdapat 57 Sekolah Dasar Negeri di Kecamatan Koto Tengah dan dimana tiap sekolah memiliki satu guru Bahasa Inggris. Sampel dalam penelitian ini adalah 10 orang guru dari 10 Sekolah Dasar yang dipilih secara random.

Instrumen yang dipakai dalam penelitian ini adalah wawancara dan observasi. Dalam wawancara diberikan 18 pertanyaan kepada guru dan dilanjutkan dengan observasi kelas. Dari hasil penelitian, ditemukan bahwa dalam mengembangkan materi pengajaran, sebagian besar guru- guru Bahasa Inggris sekolah dasar menghadapi kesulitan yang berkaitan dengan rendahnya kemampuan siswa, keterbatasan sumber-sumber untuk pembuatan materi, kemampuan guru dalam membuat materi, dan kurikulum atau silabus yang tidak sesuai dengan kemampuan siswa. Dalam mengembangkan media pengajaran, dari hasil penelitian diketahui bahwa sebagian besar guru-guru menghadapi masalah yang berkaitan dengan kurangnya usaha dari guru tersebut dalam pembuatan media. Sedangkan dalam mengembangkan teknik pengajaran, masalah yang paling banyak dihadapi guru adalah berkaitan dengan tingkah laku siswa yang sangat sulit dikontrol di dalam kelas dan kurangnya motivasi siswa dalam mempelajari Bahasa Inggris sehingga mempengaruhi proses pembelajaran.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian di atas, penulis berkesimpulan bahwa sebagian besar guru Bahasa Inggris di Sekolah Dasar di Kecamatan Koto Tengah menghadapi permasalahan dalam mengembangkan materi, media dan teknik pengajaran.

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Writer

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Problem**

The importance of English in our life has been more obvious from time to time. Based on this fact, Indonesian government emphasizes the improvement in the process of teaching and learning English at school. English is taught as one of the important subject to be learned at any educational levels, in secondary school, senior high school and at university. It has also been taught in elementary school, though not as a compulsory subject, it is included in local curriculum as a local content. According to SK MENDIKBUD no. 060/u/1993, 25 February 1993 English is included as a local content at elementary school, and it can be started from the fourth grade.

Based on SK MENDIKBUD, most of the elementary schools in Padang started to put English as their local content which is taught once in a week. As one of the sub district in Padang, Koto Tengah also put English as local content in most of the elementary schools. Some of the schools introduced English lesson from the first grade, and the rest start English lesson from the third or fourth grade.

Teaching young learners at elementary schools is basically different from teaching adults. Young learners, which can be categorized as children, have some special characteristics which make them different from adults. One of their special characteristics is aggressive. Their aggressive behavior can be seen in their attitude in the classroom such as chatting with their friends when the teacher is explaining

something, and moving to another place or walking around the classroom to disturb their friends. So, teaching children needs extra energy and patience. In addition, Klein (2005) argues that children tend to change their mood every other minute and find it extremely difficult to sit still. Unlike adults, they like to study in an active environment and enjoyable way. Besides, Klein (2005) also states that children tend to show greater motivation than adults to do things that appeal to them.

Since teaching English to young learners is different from teaching adults, teachers should consider the characteristics of children to create a suitable teaching and learning situation for young learners such as the right choice of media, materials and also techniques in teaching. However, the fact found in the field based on the interview to some elementary schools' teachers in Koto Tangah sub district, the teachers sometimes got difficulties in teaching English to elementary school's students. It was found that sometimes teachers got difficulties in teaching because they got less support from the schools toward the teaching and learning English. This problem occurred because some of the principals of the schools regarded English subject as a local content, so it is not as important as the other compulsory subjects.

Another problem which was found is most of the teachers get difficulties in teaching because the students are really noisy. Besides, the social and economical factors sometimes also caused problems for the teachers because Koto Tangah sub district is included to the sub urban area and most of the population have low economical status.

Based on that fact, the writer assumed that the teachers who teach at elementary schools in Koto Tangah sub district often get some problems in teaching

English at schools. Therefore, it is worthwhile to conduct a research about the problems faced by the teachers in teaching English to young learners at elementary schools in Koto Tengah sub district.

### **B. Identification of the Problem**

As stated above, teaching English to young learners is really different from teaching English to adults. Children have their own characteristics that make them different from adults. There are some important aspects that should be considered in teaching young learners. Firstly, teacher should choose the suitable materials for young learners which can meet their needs. Secondly, teacher should find appropriate media that is really suitable to children's developmental stage. Thirdly, teacher also should choose suitable techniques in teaching children so that they can learn in such enjoyable ways.

Based on the fact found in the field, the teachers who teach at elementary schools in Koto Tengah sub district sometimes faced some problems in teaching English to young learners. The problems that they faced are related to the support from the schools, students' condition in the class, and the way they develop teaching materials, media and techniques that fulfill children's needs.

### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, this research will be limited on the problems faced by teachers in teaching English to young learners. There are three aspects that will be analyzed to identify teachers' problems. They are the use of media, materials and teaching techniques.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

The problem of the research is formulated in this following question:

“What are the problems faced by English teachers at elementary schools in Koto Tangah Sub district in teaching English to young learners?”

#### **E. Research Questions**

The problem of this research is elaborated in the following questions:

1. What problems do English teachers face in developing teaching materials for young learners?
2. What problems do English teachers face in developing teaching media for young learners?
3. What problems do English teachers face in developing teaching techniques for young learners?

#### **F. Purpose of the Research**

The purpose of this research is to describe:

1. The problems faced by English teachers in developing teaching materials for young learners.
2. The problems faced by English teachers in developing teaching media for young learners.
3. The problems faced by English teachers in developing teaching techniques for young learners.

### **G. Significance of the Research**

The research is done in order to give a significant contribution to the development of teaching English as a foreign language especially in teaching English to young learners. By knowing the problems, it can be a good input especially for teachers to choose suitable media, materials, and techniques to teach English to young learners.

### **H. Definition of Key Term**

1. Young Learners are children from the first year of formal schooling (5 or 6 years old) to eleven or twelve years old.(Nagy, 2007).

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the findings and discussions in chapter IV, it was found that the teachers who teach at elementary schools in Koto Tangah sub district faced some problems in teaching English to young learners.

1. In developing teaching materials, the teachers had problems related to:
  - a. Students' limited ability in learning English.
  - b. Teachers' difficulty in finding and collecting the sources to create the materials which are really suitable to the students.
  - c. Teachers' difficulty in creating their own materials to be used.
  - d. The curriculum which was not really suitable with the students.
2. In developing teaching media, the teachers had problems related to teachers' less effort in finding and creating the media for teaching.
3. In developing teaching techniques, the teachers had problems related to:
  - a. The students which were too hard to be managed in the classroom.
  - b. Students' low motivation in learning English.

Besides the problems which were described above, it was also found from the interview that the teachers never join any seminars or training about teaching English to young learners. The teachers' gathering (Kerja Kelompok Guru) which is held once in a week, also did not run well because only few teachers came to the meeting and there were also no guidance for the teachers in the meeting, as a result they did



not get anything it. Some of the teachers also said that they did not get enough preparation when they were still in university because they did not take educational program. And it was also found that there were some factors which affected the teaching and learning process in the schools such as the parents' economical status and students' society.

### **B. Suggestions**

Based on the conclusion above and concerning the significance of the research, the researcher would like to contribute her opinions as suggestions to this study.

1. It is suggested that the teachers, especially the teachers who did not take educational program, are given more training about teaching children to improve their ability and knowledge.
2. Based on the findings found in the interview, it is hoped that each school give more support to the development of English by giving material support such as text books, another sources that can be used by both students and teachers, and also financial support.
3. It is suggested that the teachers and schools' committee be more active in conducting the teachers' gathering (KKG) each week to help teachers in developing their teaching ability.
4. It is suggested that the teacher be more active and creative in creating the media that will be used in teaching.

5. It is hoped that the teacher be more creative and selective in choosing the techniques in teaching so that the students can learn actively.
6. It is suggested to the parents to give more attention to children learning so that the problems in teaching and learning in school can be decreased.
7. Related to the limitation of the research, it is hoped that this research can be continued by the next researcher.

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