

**USING “THE SPELL-JAM” GAME TO TEACH ENGLISH
TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

PAPER

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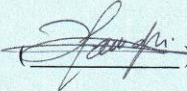
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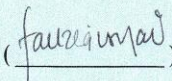
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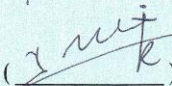
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ABSTRAK

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Pemerintah memutuskan di dalam kurikulum Sekolah Dasar untuk memasukkan pelajaran Bahasa Inggris agar siswa bisa mengenali bahasa asing sedini mungkin. Namun, berdasarkan observasi, proses belajar mengajar Bahasa Inggris di Sekolah Dasar masih memiliki banyak kesulitan. Di beberapa Sekolah Dasar, anak-anak jarang mendengarkan berbagai macam kosakata, mereka hanya terbiasa mengucapkan dan menulis kosakata tersebut, sehingga mereka susah menguasainya.

Berdasarkan kenyataan tersebut, makalah ini bertujuan untuk membahas teknik pengajaran Bahasa Inggris agar siswa dapat memahami dan mengeja kosakata berbahasa Inggris dengan menggunakan sebuah permainan, *Spell Jam game*. Permainan ini bertujuan untuk menambah dan meningkatkan minat siswa dalam belajar Bahasa Inggris, terutama untuk peningkatan keterampilan membaca (nyaring) dan penguasaan kosakata mereka. Keterampilan membaca dan penguasaan terhadap kosakata adalah keterampilan yang harus dikuasai oleh pelajar pemula, terutama oleh pelajar bahasa di Sekolah Dasar.

Dalam permainan ini, para siswa akan berlomba-lomba untuk mendengarkan kosakata yang akan disebutkan oleh *speaker* nantinya dengan ketentuan harus mengulangi dan mengeja kata tersebut dengan benar. Setiap kata yang disebutkan oleh *speaker*, bisa disebutkan dari 2-3 kali, sehingga dapat disimak dengan jelas oleh siswa. Permainan ini dapat mengasah keterampilan membaca dan mengeja kosakata pada siswa dalam pelajaran Bahasa Inggris dengan melihat kebenaran kata yang telah disebutkan dan terintegrasi juga dalam penguasaan kosakata mereka.

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The Writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, English is studied from elementary school up to university level. It is clear that the Government considers English as an important subject for students. The purpose is to prepare the students as early as possible to learn foreign language. Many experts suggest that teaching English to young learner is much better in the earlier stage. Young learner can learn faster than the adults because of young learner can have a better memory than adults, Colombus (2004). It also to recognize the motivation to learning the second language during the child's early years. As they being learned the new language, the students will be interested in learning the second language.

Additionally by learning English at the beginning, the children will be aware about the importance of it and also can make them easier in learning English in the next level. Logan (1974) showed that early exposure to a second language increase a child's capacity to learn language, even their first language.

In fact, teaching English especially at elementary school does not run well. Many children have low motivation in learning English. It seems that many teachers usually do not have interesting way in teaching. The children may regard learning English as a boring thing. Moreover, they also still

depend on the other person in learning. Besides, there are some parents who are busy with their work and they do not have any time to help their child to do the homework. In case of English lesson, not all parents can help their children because English is also a difficult subject for them.

However as an English teacher, she should create the variation of learning, especially for teaching elementary students. There are many teachers that use the boring methods in teaching, like during the lesson the teacher cannot control the class. She teaches English by writing some vocabulary on the whiteboard then asks the students to make a note and memorize them. On the other hand, teacher also gives them homework by asking them to translate Indonesian vocabulary into English. Because of the reasons above, the teacher should make a variation in teaching English for elementary student.

Besides considering about the techniques that the children like in learning, the teacher also should consider about the key or the first step in teaching them. Cameron (2002) expressed that the major part of teaching and learning for young learners will be oral. From that argument, we can say that the teachers should teach them through orally, and writing as support activity.

From the opinion above, the teachers can teach them by giving them the vocabulary and putting the vocabulary in a sentence and also describing what the meaning of that vocabulary.

In Powerful English Lesson (2011) stated that most people must hear a new word 30 times to remember it forever. To know a word and instantly understand it, you probably need to hear it 50-100 times. Based on the

description above, this method is very useful. After the teachers give them a vocabulary, the teachers can ask the children to say that words reached a clear vocabulary. The children will remember the word easily and also comprehend the listening skill of the children.

Reading is the basic foundation on which academic skills of an individual are built. It is an important skill that needs to be developed in children. Not only is it necessary for survival in the world of schools and universities, but in adult life as well. The young children are read to, the greater their interest in mastering reading. Reading out loud exposes children to proper grammar and phrasing (bbpadultreadingessayparent.html. 2012) It enhances the development of their spoken language skills, their ability to express themselves verbally.

Based on bbpadultreadingessayparent.html. (2012), the read-aloud technique is a research-based approach to comprehension and vocabulary development in preschool and kindergarten. The teachers can developed this approach in helping to share picture books with young children, especially children with few home literary experiences, in ways that will allow them to enjoy our most sophisticated literature.

After the teachers give them vocabulary, it is better for children to learn listening skill. Based on Olsen (2011) argument, children are given many directions over the course of a school day. In getting know the directions, the children should often listen the directions from teachers orally and does something depend on the teachers' directions. It is critical that

teachers provide practice in and modeling active listening skills. So, it makes sure the writer that, listening skill is the important skill that has to learn by the children.

As the good teachers, we have to know that there are many ways in improving that skill. Just like Olsen said, they are through asking the children to say aloud with a good pronunciation, repetition, etc. We should shuffle the ways above in improving the listening skill for the students in order to make the children more enjoy in learning that skill. And also, the ways above are the interesting, simple and funny way for the children that will not feel boring in learning process.

Elementary school students are the children who like playing. So, the teachers can create an activity in learning process like playing. White in Logan (1974) suggests that a group of young children need for activity demonstrated as they explore their environment by teaching and playing. They do not only need to be active, to achieve, master, they also need to be stimulated. The child must find the stimulation, new ways and new games to play and new things to do. Logan (1974) says "Play is an important in the Primary School". For the children, playing is fun. Play is one way from children in learning something in their life includes learning second language.

Dekoven in (2011) said that play is simultaneously a source of calmness and relaxation, as well as a source of stimulation for the brain and body. It is also needed in learning. In order to the children get their calmness and relaxation, it is better for teacher to put them play in the learning process

sometimes. So, the happiness and funny is a condition that is needed of children.

One of playing activities is game. Games also help in taking quick decisions in our life like which we have to take in the games. So, in another words, it can say that the game can be a media in teaching children that has many benefits for them.

Based on the description above, there are many games that are useful in teaching English for elementary school students. In this chance, the writer will offer an interesting game. It is through “Spell Jam” game. This game is fun and challenging the student. The Spell Jam game asks the students to learning while playing. This game is the word game that can encourage the student to repeat or say the word and even spell the word.

This game adapt dictation concept to improve vocabulary and other skills. But, although they have many difficult and unknown words, they will give some clues to get the word and then spelling out them. And the teacher can add some creativity to this game in order to get the interesting game. Finally, this game is really useful for student in improving their ability in listening and vocabulary.

B. Limitation of the Problem

Based on background of the problem above, there are some problems related to the process of learning English at elementary school. This paper is limited to the teaching reading but focus on vocabulary. The teachers should

have many techniques that can be used and matched. Using game can be an alternative to teach, especially for young learners. There are various games in teaching reading to elementary school students. One of the games that will be presented in this paper is the *Spell Jam*. This game is used at teaching reading and vocabulary at elementary school students.

C. The Formulation of the Problem

The problem of the paper is formulated in these following questions:
“How is the *Spell Jam* game implemented in teaching reading to elementary school student and what are the advantages of it?”

D. The Purpose of the Paper

Writing out this paper has some goals that the writer would like to reach. The purpose of this paper is to explain how to teach reading by using “Spell Jam” game at elementary school student and describe the classroom setting of this game in teaching reading and vocabulary. Besides, it also explains the advantages and the classroom implementation by using “Spell Jam” game.