

**USING REMOVABLE OBJECT IN A PICTURE AS A
MEDIA TO TEACH ENGLISH TO
YOUNG LEARNERS**

Paper

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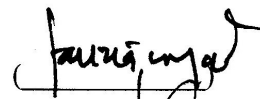
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USING REMOVABLE OBJECT IN A PICTURE AS A MEDIA TO TEACH ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS

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ABSTRAK

Pada saat sekarang ini, di Indonesia, Bahasa Inggris telah diajarkan di level pendidikan dasar, seperti Sekolah Dasar (SD) dan pada usia dini, seperti Taman Kanak-Kanak (TK). Bahkan, pada tahun mendatang Bahasa Inggris dimasukkan sebagai muatan lokal. Dalam mengajar anak-anak, perlu diperhatikan perkembangan psikologi mereka. Anak-anak pada usia SD dan TK lebih tertarik kepada sesuatu yang kongkrit yang dapat mereka temukan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Untuk itu, guru perlu menciptakan pembelajaran yang kongkrit di dalam kelas dengan menggunakan media pembelajaran yang atraktif dan menarik. Salah satu media yang dapat digunakan untuk merepresentasikan kehidupan sehari-hari siswa adalah media gambar. Dalam makalah ini akan dibahas mengenai “Removable object in a picture” sebagai media pembelajaran. Keunggulan dari media ini adalah mengurangi jumlah gambar yang digunakan sebagai media dalam pembelajaran, karena hanya dibutuhkan satu buah gambar. Sedangkan untuk gambar dengan situasi yang berbeda, hanya diperlukan perubahan objek tertentu pada gambar tersebut. Pada makalah ini juga akan diuraikan cara membuat dan memperagakan “removable object in a picture”, serta topic-topic apa saja yang dapat diajarkan dengan menggunakan media ini.

Key words: Picture, Media, Young Learners, Drill

A. Introduction

Considering English as the important language that should be mastered to face the global era, almost all of countries in the world promote English as an important subject that should be learned and taught in schools. In Indonesia, the government suggests that English should be taught in every level of education. It means that English is started to be taught in elementary schools even in kindergartens. As a result, English subject has been taught to elementary school students since 1994 (Yunita, 2009). However, there are just several elementary schools put English in their curriculum. For that reason, the government issued “Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan No. 23 Tahun 2006” about

“Standar Kompetensi Lulusan Satuan Pendidikan (SKLP)” for English subject at elementary school.

The goal of teaching English started in lower level of education is to facilitate students to master English well. Although, there is no evidence that learning English to younger learner will result better English. But, there are many people believe that learning English started from young period will make it easy to master English.

Beside the essential of learning English on the childhood, there are many problems raise while teaching English to young learners. The problem may come from the effort of the learner, the material given, even the problem raised on the way of teaching. So that, to teach young learners, it is required a qualified teacher who has background knowledge of English and knows how to teach English to young learners.

As a child, it is difficult for them to focus or concentrate to an activity for a long time. As stated by Cheng (2010), children on age 6-8 years old have attention span of 15-20 minutes. They will focus to an activity no more than 20 minutes. Then, it is difficult for them to sit while studying in the class. They tend to walk around in the classroom or play game with friends. Schindler (2006) tells that teaching English to young learner is a challenge because they tend to mumble, squirm, wander off, babble and play while studying in the classroom. Well, of course they do, they are children. These are children energies. Teacher has a challenge to take benefit by organizing

their energies rather than taking a risk by forbidding them. Therefore, teacher should let their energy and enthusiasm work for him.

To let students' energy and enthusiasm work for learning process, it is required activities that take their interest. The appropriate way to take their interest is by using media in teaching. One of suitable media to take young learners attention is by using picture. According to Shin (2006), one way to capture children attention and keep them engaged in activities is to supplement the activities with lots of brightly colored visuals, toys, puppets, or objects to match the ones used in the stories that are told or songs that are song. The use of picture in teaching young learners will allow the comprehensible input of a language to them. They will understand easily the language by looking at the picture.

Then, to teach language to the beginner, it is better to use the concept of drilling in teaching (Lindsay and Knight, 2006). Teacher gives example of a language first, after that they assign students to practice by ordering them some changes of the language. It will be easier for teacher to explain language and give some exercises based on the concept of drilling by using picture. Thus, teacher needs some pictures in different situations. As a result, it will take a lot of preparations and times to prepare some pictures that are needed as the media in teaching.

Unfortunately, teacher finds some problems while preparing such media in teaching English to young learners. First, it needs much money to prepare because there are some pictures used. It is dilemmatic for teacher to

use their own resource to prepare media. Then, it needs much time to prepare a media. As a result, teachers argue that they do not have enough time to prepare a media. They have many classes that should be taught and their time is spent to prepare teaching sets of equipment, exercises, and check children's development.

However, a media is important in teaching language to young learners. Besides, it makes teachers easy to work with children who have different styles than adults in learning. It also gives a chance to students to understand language easily. Ultimately, teacher needs a media that is cheaper, easy to be prepared and then helps the teacher deliver the materials. It means that, although there is no budget from schools, the teachers do not have much time to prepare a media and the big amount of materials that should be given to students. Teachers still have a chance to prepare the cheaper, easy, and minimalist but interesting media. To help teachers prepare such kinds of media, this paper will introduce a media that can be used to prepare an interesting activity which allows teacher to reach the goal of teaching young learners. The media is called "Removable object in a Picture".

The purpose of this media is to reduce the amount of pictures used as media in teaching young learners by using the concept of drilling in the classroom. The picture that is needed to show the different conditions or situations is only made by doing a little change on the object on the picture. It is only needed a picture and some object pictures that will be changed to the picture when the situation or condition explained is also be changed.