ENRICHING THE VOCABULARY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BY USING TREASURE HUNT GAME

PAPER

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ABSTRAK

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Pengajaran bahasa Inggris telah dimulai sejak dari sekolah dasar. Inti pengajaran bahasa Inggris pada sekolah dasar adalah pengenalan dan penguasaan kosakata serta menumbuhkan minat siswa dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, setiap guru dituntut untuk lebih kreatif dalam mengajarkan bahasa Inggris pada siswa sekolah dasar terutama dalam meningkatkan kosakata siswa. Makalah ini menjelaskan salah satu teknik yang dapat digunakan dan dilakukan guru dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris untuk menambah kosakata siswa yaitu dengan menggunakan permainan berburu harta karun "*treasure hunt game*".

Penerapan permainan ini adalah guru meminta siswa untuk menebak dan mencari sebuah benda. Benda tersebut (berupa kartu) disembunyikan di dalam kotak. Permainan ini dilakukan secara kelompok sehingga siswa juga dapat bekerjasama dengan teman-temannya dalam memecahkan petunjuk yang diberikan oleh guru.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Vocabulary as one of the language components plays an important role in learning English because it will influence the four skills of English. Nunan (1991) states that in the early stages of learning and using a second or foreign language, one is better served by vocabulary than grammar. Therefore, teacher should teach vocabulary first to the beginner in the first level of learning English instead of grammar.

Based on the writer's observation in some of Elementary Schools in Padang, there are some problems faced in teaching English in Elementary School, especially to enrich the student's vocabulary. First, the students get difficulties in memorizing the vocabulary which is given by the teacher because the teacher just give the vocabulary directly through the pictures and the students are asked to repeat the vocabulary once.

Second, the teacher still uses the translation method in teaching vocabulary. The students are given a list of vocabulary and also the list of the meaning. This method makes the students learn passively. Consequently, the students are difficult to remember the vocabulary. Third, some teachers teach English especially vocabulary only based on handbook and the teacher only has some variations of using media. As a result, the students feel bored to study.

In teaching vocabulary, the teacher can use several media, such as through real object, realia, pictures, and using games. Using game is one of the teaching techniques which can catch students' attention and encourage the students to be active in the classroom. Through game the students try to practice the language and enhance their motivation in studying. Moreover, Ismail (2006) says that game is an effective way in learning process because the students will have a chance to express their idea and understand about the game with their perception.

Game can also be structured to maximize English language use. According to Linse (2005) by using game in teaching vocabulary the students will get many opportunities to use the words and responds to complex questions that include the words. Watkins (2001) suggests one of the vocabulary games that can be used by the teacher in the classroom called Treasure Hunt Game.

Treasure Hunt Game is a game to find something hidden. The way of using Treasure Hunt Game according to Watkins (2001) is the teacher prepares a series of cards as the object that should be found; the cards should be based on the theme that has been thought. Then, the teacher reads the first clue. After that, the students try to guess what the object is and the students have to search the object. When the object is found the teacher reads the others clue and the process continues. One or more prizes may be provided at the end of the game. Based on the problem above, it is considered that Treasure Hunt Game can be used in teaching English, especially to enrich the Elementary School students' vocabulary. By using this game the students are expected to memorize the vocabulary better. In this paper, the writer uses some cards; called Treasure Cards, and a box as the media for using Treasure Hunt Game. Moreover, for the implementation in the class, the students are asked to find the hidden things through Treasure Cards from the box, and show them in front of the class.

B. Limitation of the Problem

The problem in this paper is limited to the use of Treasure Hunt Game to enrich the Elementary School students' vocabulary.

C. Formulation of the Problem

The problem will be formulated in the form of question "how does the teacher use Treasure Hunt Game to enrich the students' vocabulary in Elementary School students.

D. The Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this paper is to describe the procedures of using Treasure Hunt Game to enrich the Elementary School students' vocabulary.