

TEACHING ENGLISH BY USING GAME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

In Indonesia, English begins to be taught in primary school from the first grader by adjusting to children's ability. Teaching English by using games is one of the best ways to teach children. Games can be used to draw students' attention to learn English. But, firstly, teachers should consider that a game must have an educational purpose and value, such as Whispering words game, Word family game, Words search game, Board race game, Hot seat game and many more. The teachers only need to determine the type of games that fits the particular topic of learning and learning purpose.

Keywords: Teaching English, Games, Students

INTRODUCTION

The world is progressing and developing all the times, so people are required to be able to improve self-ability in facing this global era, especially ability in mastering English. For several years recently, English has entered in all aspects of human life. Many information and knowledge can be accessed easily and free on the internet which generally uses English in presenting it. Even, people can connect and communicate with new people around the world by using English through various medium, like social media, online discussion forum, market place websites and so on. English really makes people easier in doing some activities. So, considering that mastering English is a skill that must be possessed by people nowadays, English learning becomes so popular day by day for many people, especially for young learners.

Learning English is not easy, it takes a great effort to learn it, as there are many things should be learned in learning a new language, such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and so on. Many researches states that the most appropriate age to learn a new language (second language) is when the learners are still children. As stated by Kliesch (2017:48) language learning can be more effective and effortless by younger learner, as children are like 'linguistics sponge' which means that children soak up language like a sponge, they learn a new language faster and more successfully than adult. Therefore, English can be introduced to children as young as possible since children already have basic comprehension about their mother tongue language.

In Indonesia, English is taught in formal education since in primary school to university. English is included in the curriculum as a

compulsory subject, so it becomes as important as the other subjects. English is even included in one of the subjects that is tested in the state exam (UN) in junior high school and senior high school. Indeed, many parents send their children to take English class in the public course or take the private course to make their children master English well and pass the English subject in the school.

English begins to be taught in primary school from the first grader by adjusting to children's ability. As a new learner, they start to learn the basic English, like number, alphabets and simple vocabulary and continue to learn about grammar in the higher grades. As English is not easy to learn, it needs good cooperation and effort between teachers and students in the teaching and learning activities. As it is also stated by Yamin (2017:82) learning involves various interrelated aspects and through a complex process. A teacher plays the most important role in this process, especially in teaching English to primary school students. This is because not all young learners are interested to learn a new language, so a teacher should make an innovation in creating an effective English learning by making an active learning. It makes students fully involving and participating in learning process. Another important thing is a teacher also should create the interesting teaching method in such a way to attract the students' attention to learn English.

There are various kind of teaching methods in teaching and learning process, such as teaching by using media, roleplay, lecture method, discussion method and many more. But not all of teaching methods can be applied and suitable for primary school students as they are English new learner. Teacher should decide the best teaching method in teaching English in order to attract children's attention, one of the ways is by using games to teach a specific material. Teacher may design a game activity and then asks the students to join the learning activity together in the class, for example; a teacher asks the students to play 'whispering words game' to teach listening skill or play 'guessing things game' by using flash cards to teach vocabulary and so on. These games have own purpose based on the goal of study. On the other hand, teacher may create any other games based on the goal of study that will be targeted, but teacher should consider that a game should have an educational purpose and value. The game is not only for warming up or spending spare time, but also has purpose and benefit in teaching English.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Teaching English to Primary School Students

The young and adult learners have the different characteristics and ability, so each have the different treatment in teaching and learning process. Teaching English to young

learners need an extra effort. Teachers need to consider some aspects in teaching children or primary school students, like the ability, mood and needs. The teacher should have a good teaching skill and make a well preparation before start to teach English to them. Many aspects must be considered, first, teachers should make sure that the class are set as comfortable as possible to make students feel happy and ready to learn, so the students will enjoy and like to learn English, because not all of students are interested to learn a new language. Then, the teachers should design a creative and fun learning teaching to attract students' attention to learn by making an activity that will involve student to be active in the class. These are the teachers' task to create a teaching and learning process as interesting as possible in such a way to make the lessons delivered effectively to the students. Therefore, various skills are required for creating active, innovative, creative and fun learning to teach primary school students.

Teaching English Method by Using Games

Teachers should have a creative method to teach English, especially when English is not the children's first language. There are various kind of teaching method, such as, teaching by using media, roleplay, lecture method, discussion method and many more. But among all of these methods, teaching by

using media is the most appropriate method to be applied in teaching English for primary school students. The teachers may use a media in teaching, because media can be used as a learning tool in making the teaching and learning process to be more interesting. These are various teaching media can be used, such as: flashcard, poster, film, video, music, whiteboard and many mores.

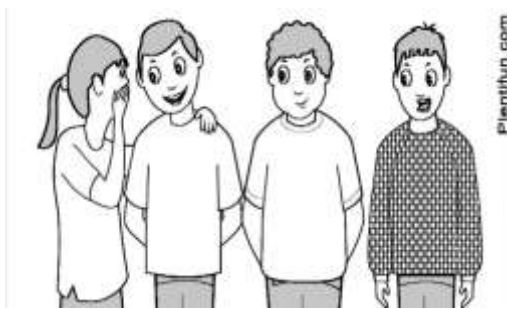
This learning method can be combined with many activities in teaching English, for example, playing games by using media. Games can be used to attract students' attention to learn English by making them involve in active learning. This is also create a fun and creative learning. Learning through playing games also motivate students to learn as playing is a child's natural way in learning. According to Harfield (1999: 7), a game is an activity that has rules, a goal and an element of fun. Games should be regarded as a part of syllabus. Teachers must add learning materials in creating a game based on the goal of study. A game should has an educational purpose and value, it is not only for warming up or spending spare time. Teachers must add learning materials in creating a game based on the goal of study.

These are some games that can be used by teachers to teach English to primary school students:

1. Whispering Words Game

It takes several people to play this game. Teachers can invite some students to line

up in the front of class and then the teachers can whispers a message to the first player. The first player must whisper the message to the next player until the last player. At the end of the game, the last player must announce the message loudly. Ultimately, the class will know who made a mistake by whispering the wrong words. This game aims to practice students' listening skill. Students are also taught to be focus and be able to work together in group.



2. *Word Family Game*

The role of this game is first, teacher will asks students to choose one word and then everyone has to write in a piece of paper as many as possible words that have the same rhyme with the word chosen. For example the word 'Cat', so the answers could be 'hat, bat, mat, sat, rat, etc'. This games can be used to help students improve their vocabulary.

3. *Words Search*

To play this game, a teacher should draw a grid of 10x10 squares in a paper and place some words within the grid. Words can go up, down or diagonal. Then, create a list of words on the side of the grid. Next, teacher asks student to work in a group to find the words quickly. The fastest group completing this game correctly will be the winner. This game aims to help students to improve their literacy skills.



4. *Board Race Game*

In this game, teachers should make some questions first and then divide the students into two groups. The students have to run to the white board and write the answers. Every student can take it in turns until the questions is fully answered. The fastest group completing this game correctly will be the winner. Students enjoy to play this game because they have to win and get to play against each other team. This game aims to practice students' focus and cooperation among students.

5. *Hot Seat*

First, the teacher put a chair in front of the class and divide students into several group. Then, the teacher asks the first group to play, one player sit on the chair and the teacher hold a flashcard behind the hot seat, this could be a picture or a word. The group who plays must help their friend who sitting on the hot seat to guess the picture or word on the flashcard. They can give a clue of the answer. This game has benefit to increase students' cooperation and also improve students' vocabulary.

6. *Category Writing Game*

Teachers writes some category words in a small piece of paper, such as: Colours, Foods, Drinks, Animals, Fruits and so on. And then put the papers in the bowl. Then, teachers divide students into several groups and ask each group to take a piece of paper and write down as many words as they can based on the category they get. This games aims to practice students' vocabulary and spelling.

These kinds of games are suitable used for teaching English to primary school students. This activity provides an amazing learning experience for students, because it is so enjoyable and also

beneficial. Teachers can choose the type of games fits the theme or the learning goals and then apply it in the class.

CONCLUSION

Teaching English for primary school students need a great effort and creativity. Teachers should think about the best teaching method and strategy to be used in teaching English as it is not students' first language. There are various kind of teaching methods in teaching and learning process, such as teaching by using media, roleplay, lecture method, discussion method and many more. But not all of teaching methods can be applied and suitable for primary school students, teachers should wisely choose the right teaching method can be applied for them in teaching English. So far, teaching English by using games is one of the best ways to teach children. Games is a competitive activity played in a specific context according to the rules, in which players face a challenge to achieve an objective and compete each other to be a winner. Thus, games can be used to draw students' attention to learn English by engaging them to be involved in active learning. This activity also motivates the students to learn, as playing is a child's natural way in learning, so students can play and study at the same time. There are various kinds of games can be used in teaching English, such as Whispering words game, Word family game, Words search game,

Board race game, Hot seat game and many more. The teachers only need to determine the type of games fits the topic of learning and learning goals. Teachers also should consider that a game must has an educational purpose and value. It also should increase students' ability in teaching English.

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