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Teaching Vocabulary Using Flash Cards to Young Learners

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ABSTRACT

Conventional learning methods that are often used by teachers to deliver vocabulary material are translation. This method is not effective in the process of learning new vocabulary in English for young learners because they will have difficulty memorizing each new vocabulary delivered by the teacher. For this reason, this article is write about the use of flash cards in the vocabulary learning process. Flash cards are appropriate for vocabulary learning for young learners because they are suitable for students who like the pictures in the learning process. Flash cards can also help students more easily remember new vocabulary in English and make students not get bored quickly in learning. Flash cards are also very cheap and easy to get by looking for the pictures we need through the internet or we can draw the pictures ourselves that we need in flash cards. The teacher can also invite students to participate in making flash cards so that students will not be bored in the learning process. Flash cards help the students to visualization of the word, so they not only hear the word but they can see the things of the words. This article will discuss about teaching vocabulary using flash cards to young learners which cover the student's pronunciation and understanding about the meaning of the words.

KEY WORDS : vocabulary, flash card, TEYL

I. Introduction

Today English learning is just for extra learning in

elementary school, it will make students have difficulties to study English in junior high



school. There are some schools still teach English although only for extra learning. Sometime elementary school with extra English learning just give the students the material without emphasizing the vocabulary.

Vocabulary learning for young learners is very important, because vocabulary is the basis for learning English. However, we know that many teachers still use the dictation method in their teaching. This will make students quickly get bored and difficult to memorize each new vocabulary taught. As a young teacher, we must have creativity in teaching so that students do not get bored quickly in learning new vocabulary.

Depend on ¹⁰Permendikbud No. 22 tahun 2016; “Proses pembelajaran pada satuan pendidikan diselenggarakan secara interaktif, inspiratif, menyenangkan, menantang, memotivasi peserta didik untuk berpartisipasi aktif, serta memberikan ruang yang cukup bagi prakarsa, kreatifitas, dan kemandirian sesuai bakat,

minat, dan pengembangan fisik serta psikologi peserta didik”. It means that the teacher should give space to the student, to make them more active and can improve the vocabulary.

Young learner has a unique learning character. They cannot just sit still in learning and tend to do an activity to channel energy, want to know new things, and practice their motor skills. To support this, the teacher must have creativity in managing the class and must be more creative in providing material to students so that students easily understand and memorize new vocabulary in English.

⁷Media that can be used to teach English vocabulary to young learners is to use flash cards as a medium. Why flash card? because students will be more interested and easier to memorize new vocabulary using pictures, this supports the ¹⁴teacher to be more creative in teaching English vocabulary to students. Teachers can create their own flash cards according to the learning theme.



Flash cards can be made by finding the pictures we need through the internet, and printing them on a piece of paper. Or we can also draw our own images that we need in our flash cards. Teachers can also invite students to make their own flash cards for learning. It can make the students have interest to study vocabulary and they can be easily to memorize the vocabulary.

This article will be talking about Teaching English to Young Learners, Techniques of Teaching Vocabulary, Teaching Media, Flash cards, Vocabulary

II. Literature Review

A. Teaching English to

Young Learners

Teaching vocabulary to young learners is very important, because vocabulary is the basic of learning English. Young learners also have very unique characteristics and need media to teach vocabulary in order to understand every material conveyed by the teacher.

The stage of young learners defied into three stage, there are:

a. Pre-school or Early School Years

This level is called kindergarten and reception (3 to 5 years old students). This is the first English classroom experiences. In this stage the students will limited motor skill, and students will have few language capabilities and will not be able to analyses language. In this stage the children's reading and writing skill is very limited, so the teacher can lead the learning holistic way like song, playing, explore, touch and move. It will be essential if the teacher success lead the students.

b. Early Primary School Years

Once our young learners get to the age of six, they start to become more analytical and logical in their thought



processes. For the next two to three years they will begin to see patterns in their own language and will start having awareness about language. For the teacher, the above has many positive implications. On a simple level, we can do more with this group than we can with the pre-school age group. We will be able to guide them into more independent activities, where they can work alone or in small groups such as collage making or design, where all have an input. While remembering to keep careful control, our role is one of monitoring and being a facilitator, much as it is with adult group work active.

c. Late Primary School Years

Once students get towards the end of primary school, ahead of

the move into secondary education (usually from 11 upwards), we find they quickly take on an increasing interest in the world around them. Mainstream schooling may already have an examination component by this age, so students will be conditioned to taking their learning more seriously and being tested on what they have studied. However, more focussed activities can be undertaken and with initial instruction and proper supervision, students can be left to work alone for longer periods. This gives them an opportunity to channel and focus their energies, working (at times) independently from you and the rest of the group. It gives them a real opportunity for individual learning, which will be successfully achieved, if you are in close



proximity to give support as and when necessary. As a result of this, differences in learning speed will become more pronounced. The secret with all our learner groups is flexibility. Sometimes you will achieve your lesson aims, sometimes you won't. Sometimes you will achieve them by a completely different method than you had anticipated. But you'll need to be current and up to date. No point trying to bring in a pop song listening from One Direction or the Spice Girls (aiming to cater to different generations of reader here); it will have to be something that is popular now. Which means your body of relevant material to support whatever course book they are following will have to be flexible and move with the times.

³ According to Scoot and Yterberg (1990), children have an amazing ability to absorb language through play and other activities which make the learning activity enjoyable. If the teacher uses the enjoyable activities, it will be memorable and the students will be having motivation to learn more

There are eight aspects as examining the children skills to learning effectively. The aspects such as, skill developments, evaluations, and assessments are explored through media rich content. Participation in this course will give you the opportunity to explore tools and activities that prepare children for lifelong learning. The characteristics of young learners are enjoying the fantasy and imagination (Pinter, 2006). From the definition there are seven characteristics of young learner:

1. Young learner gets bored quickly
2. Young learner is meaning oriented
3. Young learner like to discover things
4. They prefer concrete activities



5. They are more egocentric
6. They are imaginative
7. They imitate

Teaching English in elementary school is not easy than you think. As the teacher you must be creative and innovative to make your student understand with your material. Student in elementary school need more physical activities and something make them interested, such as; game, quiz, drawing, coloring, sport, and others activities. Philips (1995: 2-3) adds that the children dominant in physical. Children understanding come from ear, eye, and hand. As physical development of the students, better in English lesson involve active movement. This following part will discuss about the advantages using flash cards to teaching vocabulary.

The principle of developing material by Richards and Rogers (2001: 10) are

- a. The teacher should be carefully select the tough material;
- b. Should be imposing limits on what is to be taught;

- c. Arranging what is to be taught in terms of the four skills;
- d. Grading materials from simple to complex.

Visual media is very useful to young learners because it can make the students give more attention and maintain students interest. Visual media also can hone the student's analytical skills, and also can make the students see the concepts and get new examples.

B. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the basic of English learning, this is very important when we want to study English. Based on Burns and Broman (1975:295) vocabulary very important used by a person, class, or profession as the stock of the words can used. That's means vocabulary is very important part in English as the key of English. Like Harmer (1991:153) stated, "Vocabulary is the vital organ of language development". So, as the English teacher we should teach our student about vocabulary in elementary school because this is the basic of language teaching.



Teaching vocabulary to foreign language is not easy because its different with Indonesian vocabulary. If teach vocabulary to the students, we must teach the item of vocabulary, the pronunciation namely, spelling, meaning, and mastering vocabulary. So it will be difficult to the student. Doff (1990:19) have two kind of vocabulary:

- a. Active vocabulary : the students need to understand the words and also used themselves. To teaching this, we should giving example and give some questions.
- b. Passive vocabulary : the students just need to understand the word.

Traditionally, teaching vocabulary often involves pre-teaching lists of words, copying down definitions from the board, and children spending endless hours looking up definitions from dictionaries.

C. Flash Cards

Flash card is the media that use a picture to show the students about the meaning from the picture

in English. Flash card id very cheap because we can make by our own from printing the picture on a piece of the paper, and we can make it whenever we need the flash card.

Teaching vocabulary using flash card can make the students easy to understand, because they can see the visualization of the object and they can guest the meaning of the object in English. Depend on the characteristics of young learner, because young learner is very active and they like to study using picture because they will easy to understand.

Schmitt (1997:212) says that new words can be learned by the picture and meaning by the definition. So, flash card is the good media to teach vocabulary, because the student will be easy to memories the words and the meaning of the words.

Flash cards are the printed or drawn card with the word or picture. They have ideal size in order to be able to see the whole students in the class and be easy to handle them. Flash cards used to teach the new words. They help the students to understanding the meaning of the words, pronunciation and spelling,

memorizing the new words, practicing the structure and word order.

Flash card can use anytime and anywhere. Teacher can use the flash cards and save the time to draw the picture on the board. Gerngross and Puchta (2009:15) admit that flash card is the media that can be used to introduce the new words visually. There are the suggestion to using flash cards by educational principles:

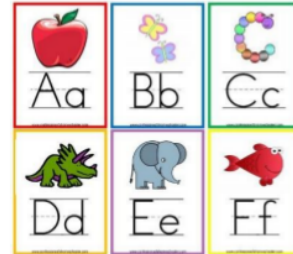
- a. To conveying the meaning of the new words to the foreign language can be use visually.
- b. Always applying listening and speaking principles.
- c. Used the combination of the sense to introduce the new words.
- d. Repeat the new words will be easy to make the students memorizing.

There are some kind of flash cards that can use to teaching vocabulary to young learners:

1. Alphabet

- Alphabet is one of the first learnings of a child

- Cards are small and durable, hence great for toddlers



2. [Number Recognition](#)

- Kids learn numbers faster with flashcards rather than worksheets
- Also great to learn to count



3. [Math](#)

- For kids to learn the 4 basic operations
- Can be used for regular drills with kids



4. Sight Words

- Makes learning new words faster and fun
- Gives kids a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment



D. Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learner

Flash cards is the media to teaching vocabulary to young learners. Flash cards is very effective because students like to learning by visual. Teacher should have strategies and technique to teach vocabulary using flash cards. Teacher should have creativity by using flash cards as the media of teaching learning. the example of

teaching vocabulary using flash cards is by playing game.

Here are the examples of how to present teaching vocabulary using flashcards to young learners:

1. Make the class half of circle with the teacher in the middle
2. Show the picture and say the word aloud
3. If the teacher say and the picture match the students should be stand up and saying the word aloud.
4. If the word that the teacher says with the picture that teacher show is not match the students should be keep sit down and keep silent.

Flash cards can be used to drilling vocabulary to young learner. Here is the example how to use flash cards to drill young learner's vocabulary:

1. Show the flash cards to the students
2. Say the word and ask the students to repeat the word
3. Show the flash cards regularly to make the



students remember the words and the picture

4. Test the students by showing the flash cards to say the words.

III. Discussion

Based on the theory above, in this section will write about the advantages and disadvantages of the flash cards. Indriana (2011: 69), the advantages of flash cards is easy to carry anywhere, flash cards help to memorizing and summarizing. Flash cards is very fun to use as media learning, it can be used to play game too. Therefore, Based on Komachali and Khodareza (2012: 137), the advantages of flash cards can be used to drilling new letters, syllables, words, and other information.

Beside of the advantages of flashcard, flashcard also have some disadvantages, like Asnawir and Usman in Inayah (2010:24), the disadvantages of flash carda is expensive because teacher need to take a long time to make their own flash cards. Flash cards is not big enough to students sit behind will not clear to see the picture and will misunderstand of teacher explanation. In addition, Suhaimi (2014: 12), states that disadvantages of flashcard are not all material can use flash cards, need require thought and preparation.

IV. Conclusion

Young learner has the unique characteristics, they will imitate what we do. Teaching vocabulary to young learners need media that can interest young learners to learning and easy to memorize. Flash cards can help young learner to learning vocabulary, because young learners like to learn with visual. Flash cards is easy to get and easy to make, because we can print or draw our own flash cards. We can ask our students to make the flash cards together to interest the students. We can use the flash cards to play game together with our students. So, flash cards are flexible use to teach vocabulary to young learners.

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