

TEACHING ENGLISH INTEGRATIVELY BY USING LEARN ENGLISH KIDS BRITISH COUNCIL WEB FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstrak

Tujuan penulisan artikel ini adalah untuk (1) menjelaskan bagaimana cara menggunakan website www.learnenglishkidsbritishcouncil.org/en dalam mengajar bahasa inggris secara integratif kepada siswa SD (2) menjelaskan tentang manfaat website ini dalam pengajaran bahasa inggris secara integratif. Di awal pembelajaran (*pre-teaching*) guru membangun ketertarikan siswa dalam belajar dengan memutarakan sebuah lagu dan mengajak mereka bernyanyi bersama. Setelah itu, (*whilst-teaching*) guru mengajak siswa bermain *matching game* dari cerita pendek yang akan mereka tonton. Selanjutnya, guru mengajak siswa menonton cerita pendek dan mengerjakan *worksheet* tentang cerita tersebut. Setelah itu guru mengajak siswa mendiskusikan kronologi dari cerita dengan bermain *picture series* dalam kelompok. Di akhir pembelajaran, (*post-teaching*) guru mengajak siswa bermain *flash cards* dari cerita tersebut. Siswa akan senang belajar bahasa inggris melalui fitur fitur yang ada dalam website karena mereka belajar melalui lagu, cerita pendek, dan permainan.

Key words: Website, Song, Short Story, Worksheet, Teaching English Integratively

A. Introduction

Since 1994, English has been determined as one of local content for young learners or Elementary School students in Indonesia. It is written on the decree of education and culture ministerial No. 060/U/1993 that teaching English for young learners can be started earlier at 4th grade of Elementary School. Based on *KTSP 2006 (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan)* teaching English for young learners is aimed to prepare the students to get ready to continue their English lesson to Junior High School. These regulations, thus, make many

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Elementary Schools in Indonesia concern with teaching English as local content for their students.

Teaching English to Elementary School students who are categorized as young learners are significantly different from teaching English to other levels of learners in Junior High School until the University. The differences appear because teaching English to young learners should consider several aspects. The aspects include the understanding of young learners' development where young learners learn better through playing or fun activities. In addition, in choosing media, the teacher should consider their development and the way they learn language that makes the learning process become fun and interesting.

As the characters of young learners, they are curious about learning something. They love to play and learn best when they enjoy themselves seriously. They also like to think what they are doing in real work, even though they have very short attention and concentration span (Scot 1990). One of fun activities that make young learners enjoy in learning is through stories. Most of the children love stories, they are familiar with narrative conventions, and they are curious about what will happen next in the story. As Wright (2004) states that stories are an ideal introduction to the foreign language as they present language in a familiar and memorable context. Moreover, stories can motivate children, stimulate children's imagination and arouse children's interests. It is similar with Cameron's (2001) opinion that says stories offer a completely imaginary world, created by language that children can enter and enjoy learning language as they go. So that stories could help in learning English and it could be more fun.

Based on the writer's observation in some Elementary Schools, the teaching learning process runs into uninterested and does not have interesting activities. The teacher seems difficult to find out the way to teach English and the way to work with young learners and engage them to the learning process. The teacher still teaches the students with lecturing method. The teacher writes down the material on the white board, gives a long explanation about it, asks the students to copy it to their notebook and then do the exercises. Therefore, it can be understood why the learners can not use what they have learnt from the teacher to be practiced in their daily life successfully.

Furthermore, the other awkwardness is found that the teachers tend not to use any media in teaching learning process. Many teachers still prefer to stick with one module that is popularly known as LKS (*Lembar Kerja Siswa*). This module contains some short explanations and examples of the materials followed by some kinds of exercises. These teachers teach expressions from it, explain a little about it, and leave the students with it. In fact, in teaching English especially for young learners, the teachers should use various kinds of media that can help and make teaching and learning process become more fun so the students are interested in learning.

From the explanation above, it is known that the teacher should consider the specific characteristic of young learner firstly before planning a lesson. In general, Elementary School students demand a fun classroom where they can be actively involved, experience a real life and play it. Of course, none of these criteria can be fulfilled by the old lecturing method, which only uses paper and

pencil. Since it is impossible for students to be actively involved in the lesson, experience the real life and play only by using paper and pencil, so the teacher needs to facilitate the students with some media that will support the learning process.

As an aid to the learning, media allow teacher to create a fun atmosphere in the classroom and enjoyable learning experience for students. The media itself can be found as pictures, cards, video, realia, puppets, newspaper, brochures, internet, etc. Teacher should be able to determine which media will be used, which media will effectively support the learning process. Furthermore, teacher has to make sure that the media will increase the students' interest to the lesson and help them in learning.

From many kinds of media mentioned above, internet is one of well-known media to be used in teaching English. One of the websites that can be used as an effective media in teaching English for Elementary School students is www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en. This website is a free English learning website for kids who learn English as second or foreign language that established by UK government. This website provides the users especially for the teacher, parents and the students some features in learning English. There are short stories, songs, poems, book reviews, film reviews and games. Here, the writer focus on using flashes of short stories and songs in the website in teaching English integratively.

The purpose of this article is to (1) explain about how English teachers use Learn English Kids British Council Web in teaching English integratively for Elementary School students, (2) explain the advantages of Learn English Kids British Council Web in teaching English integratively for Elementary School students.

Richard and Platt (1997) state that integrated skills is the teaching of the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in conjunction with each other as when a lesson involves activities that relate listening and speaking (oral language) to reading and writing (written language). They also add that people in their daily life rarely use language skills in isolation but in conjunction. Therefore, it is better to teach a language by integrating the skills.

Moreover, the aim of integrated English teaching is to achieve well-rounded linguistic competences. As Ward (1983) says that many activities go on in English classes are rather short and find it rather difficult to concentrate on one activity for a very long time. Therefore, it is better to collaborate some skills in teaching learning process. It is related to Bell (1990) states that integrated skills activities bring together reading, writing, listening, and speaking in a natural and realistic way, and balanced method for students to practice and develop their language skills.

In addition, in teaching English to young learners through various fun activities, it should be better by integrating the four skills as Ward (1983) says that many activities that go on in English classes are better by integrating the skills than concentrate on one skill for a very long time.

Besides that, in teaching young learners the teacher also should consider the material. The materials are given to elementary school students should have

correlation to their needs and familiarize them to English and also should support them in learning English in junior high school. It is related to the regulation of education ministerial No 41/2007 that the materials and the classroom activities should be based on the standard process that facilitate the learner to optimize their potency and their development.

Nowadays, surfing on the Internet has been the most popular way to learn English for many people, because it is convenient as well as entertaining. Moreover, internet is mainly a free resource as media in teaching and learning English. Many websites provide beautiful illustrations to learn English and supply amusing games and online language exercises to attract users' attention thereby helping them learn English effectively. As Frey (2002) states that, the Internet is awash with activities that offer many new ways of teaching and learning. It is similar with Warschauer's (2001) opinion that states internet can support language teachers to integrate Web resources into the language classroom because it provides variety of hyperlinked multimedia documents and computer-mediated communication tools that makes teaching and learning process becomes easier and more interesting.

One of Internet sites that can be used as media in teaching English is www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en. This is British Council's website which is established by UK Government for children around the world who are learning English as a second or foreign language. Based on this website' description, this website provides the users especially for teachers, parents and children some sections in teaching and learning English. There are *games, listen and watch, read and write, make, explore*.

B. Discussion

1. The Implementation of Teaching English Integratively By Using Learn English Kids British Council Web For Elementary School Students

a. Preparation

The first thing that has to be done by the teacher before implement this technique is preparing the material. In this case, the materials are flashes of short stories and songs with the worksheets that can be taken from website www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en. The teacher can teach directly by online, he/she has to open the website first. After seeing the home page, the teacher can take option "watching and listening", and then choose the short story and song that he/she wants to play. On the other hand, if the teacher teaches offline, he/she can take the flashes of short stories and songs by saving the page or downloading the short stories and songs from link that has been provided on that website.

For downloading the worksheets, the teacher has to register first by creating a new account and then following the instructions. the teacher can click "create new account" on the right side on the home page, then fill the register form until there is a confirmation. After finished, the teacher can log in and download the worksheets. Moreover, in teaching, the worksheets have to have been printed and prepared for all students before the class starts.

The second is preparation; the teacher has to prepare some things that support in implementing teaching English integratively by using Learn English Kids British Council Web. For example there should be a laptop, a projector to play the flashes of short stories and songs, and also screen and sound system. Without those things teaching and learning process cannot be accomplished well. Besides that, the teacher has to make sure that the class is provided electricity supply.

b. Procedure



Method of teaching English integratively by using Learn English Kids British Council Web adapts three phase technique as government established. That are pre, whilst, and post teaching. Whilst teaching phase consist of three stages which are exploration, elaboration, and confirmation stages. This is the model of teaching English integratively procedure by using Learn English Kids British Council Web with the topic “thanking people”. The summary, the expressions and related vocabulary are clearly explained in appendix 1.

1. Pre Teaching

As the first phase, this activity is also known as the opening activity which gives students an overview about how the lesson will look like. Since the first impression has a great effect, it is important for teacher to do it perfectly enjoyable and motivating. Started by greeting the students and asks about their condition, these in order to warm up the situation and the teacher should make sure that the way they greet and asks about their condition is encouraging the students to learn.

After greeting the students, the teacher builds students’ interest in learning by playing a song “ten little aeroplanes” and invites them to follow and sing the song together.

Here the lyric of the song.


 

Ten little aeroplanes

One little, two little
Three little aeroplanes
Four little, five little
Six little aeroplanes
Seven little, eight little
Nine little aeroplanes
Ten little aeroplanes flying high.

Ten little, nine little
Eight little aeroplanes
Seven little, six little
Five little aeroplanes
Four little, three little
Two little aeroplanes
One little aeroplane flying high.

Song



Listen to this song <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/ten-little-aeroplanes>

www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids
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2. Whilst Teaching

Whilst teaching phase consist of three stages which are exploration, elaboration, and confirmation. In exploration, the teacher continues the activity in pre teaching. After students enjoy the song, the teacher tell the students that they will watch a story of *The Princess and The Dragon*. Before they watch the story, the teacher invites students to play matching game of the story first. This activity is aimed to build students' vocabulary related to the story they are going to watch.

In this activity, the teacher becomes the operator of the game which operates the laptop infront of the class and asks students to mention the words with the matching pictures. If the word is match with the picture, there will be a notice that say *well done*. After the game is finished and the teacher has been sure that all the students understand about the general vocabulary of the story, it comes to watch the short story. The example of matching game page can be seen in picture 2.



Picture 2. Example of matching game

In elaboration, the teacher plays the short story of the princess and the dragon by using projector in front of the class for the first time and instructs the students to pay attention to the video. After watching the short story for the first time, the teacher asks the students whether they understand the story or not. After that, the teacher distributes one of worksheets of the story. Then, the teacher asks the students to notice the worksheet for some minutes and asks them to answer it as they can. Then teacher plays the story for the second time to make the students more understand and can answer the worksheet. After that, the teacher asks the students to complete the worksheet and then discusses the answer together. The worksheet of the princess and the dragon can be seen in picture 3.

BRITISH COUNCIL <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish>
LearnEnglish Kids
Stories

Write the words:

I'm the _____

We live in the _____

I'm the _____

I'm the ugly _____

I live in the _____

I'm the beautiful _____

I'm a _____

I'm the friendly _____

This is a bag of _____

dragon ogre princess gold king
knight castle queen tower

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Picture 3. Worksheet of The Princess and The Dragon

This activity integrates listening and writing skills and is aimed to build students' listening, writing, and vocabulary of the story.

In confirmation, the teacher invites students to discuss the chronology of the story and the expressions that the characters used by playing pictures series in groups. The teacher divides students into five groups consist of four students for each group (with 20 students in the classroom). This activity is aimed to explore the students' comprehending about the story and integrates reading and speaking skills that they are involved actively in the discussion. Picture series of The Princess and The Dragon can be seen in picture 4.



Picture 4. Picture series of The Princess and The Dragon

Here the example of the activity:

1. The teacher asks students to sit in each group and then distributes the pictures series to each group.
2. The teacher gives students ten minutes to arrange and write down the serial number of the pictures series.
3. After all of groups are finished, the teacher invites them to discuss the correct arranging by pointing a group to tell the chronology of each picture alternately.
4. At the end, the teacher invites the students to discuss the expressions which the characters used in the story and explain about it.

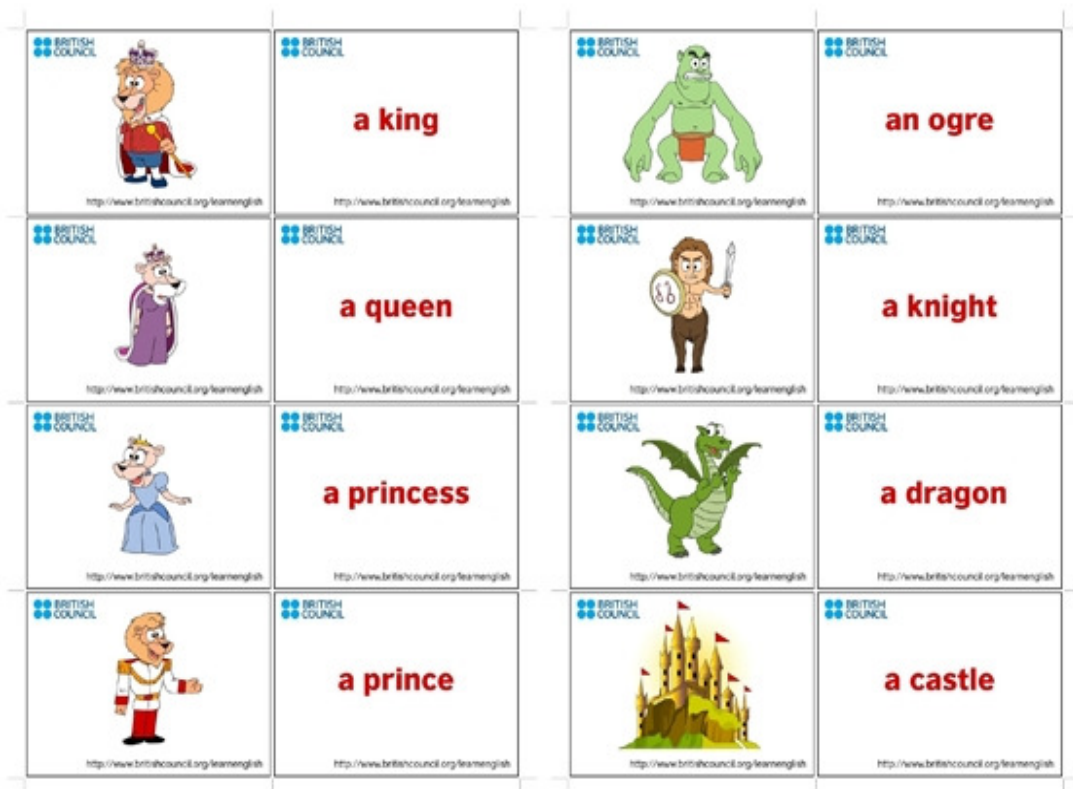
3. Post Teaching

As the closing phase, teacher should make this phase as memorable as possible in order to make students remember the day's lesson and wait for the next lesson. In this phase, the teacher invites the students to play game that is playing flash cards in groups before. Then, the teacher prepares the flash card of the story. This activity can make the students more understand the lesson and the teaching learning process becomes more fun.

Here the example of the activity:

1. Teacher prepares the second worksheet, which are flash cards of the story for each group.
2. Teacher puts the pictures of the flash cards on the board in front of the class and the words are missing on the box for each group.
3. Students line up next to the table and are ready to match the words with the pictures alternately.
4. After every student is ready to the game, teacher gives a clue to start it.
5. The students play the game, every student get twice turn to match the words with the pictures.
6. Group who firstly matches all the pictures with the words correctly will be the winner of the game.

After all of groups are finished, teacher and students check and correct each group work. Then teacher gives a present to group who's winning the game. The example of the flash cards can be seen in picture 4.



Picture 4. Examples of The Princess and The Dragon flash cards

2. Advantages of Teaching English Integratively By Using Learn English Kids British Council Web For Elementary School

Using Learn English Kids British Council Web in teaching English integratively for Elementary School students has several advantages as follow:

1. It can be an alternative instructional media in teaching and learning process.

2. It makes the learners interested to the lesson because it is a fun learning activity.
3. It not just stimulate their visual sensory but also motor sensory.
4. It makes the classroom atmosphere become enjoyable.
5. It provides many stories, which is the theme is appropriate to young learners' character and the curriculum.
6. It encourages the learners willing to what the story told.

C. Conclusion and Suggestion

The use of Learn English Kids British Council Web as a media in teaching English integratively seems to be promising. Learn English Kids British Council Web is free english learning website that is established by UK government for children around the world who are learning English as a second or foreign language. This website can be an alternative media in teaching English to young learners because it not just shown an entertainment, but also teaches the viewers especially young learner throught features that is provided this website such as short stories, songs, poems, games ,etc that appropriate with young learners' development.

The writer proposes several suggestions in using Learn English Kids British Council Web in teaching English integratively to young learners:

- a. For the creator:
It suggests to the creator to enrich the theme of the story that suitable to young learners' characters, behavior and development in order the user can use this web continuously.
- b. For the teacher:
It is better for the teacher to use Learn English Kids British Council Web as an instructional media in teaching English because this web frovides many features that appropriate with young learners' characters, behavior, and development.
- c. For government:
It suggests to the government to facilitate every school with internet network, projection tools, portable computer and laptop and the like, so that the teacher can be easier in teaching and getting the sources and teaching and learning process becomes better and more interesting.
- d. For the parents:
It suggests continuing to browse this website at home as self evaluation in order the learners can use the language in their daily speech.

Note: This article was written based on writer's paper that is supervised by Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A.

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