

TEACHING VOCABULARY THROUGH MEDIA “CRAZY FACE” AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRAK

This article discussed about the learning media which is unique and little bit crazy. Through this crazy face media, students will be directed to write the vocabulary in English. In the beginning of learning process, teacher will show the media (picture) to the students. Furthermore, the teacher will show how to pronounce and write the word on the picture. Crazy face media is intended to help the teacher for teaching english to young learner. Besides that the students are hoped to be motivated in learning english and they will change their opinion about the difficulties of learning vocabularies.

Key words: Vocabulary, Media *crazy face*

A. Introduction

Teaching vocabulary to elementary school students who categorized as young learners is not an easy task. Generally, for Elementary School the teacher still faces difficulties in teaching vocabulary to the students. Teachers should give the materials and the activities that appropriate with the students' development where students learn better through playing or fun activities. Then, selecting media, the teachers should consider their characteristic and the way they learn language which makes the learning process become fun and interesting.

The problems also come from teacher side. Many teachers get difficulty in enriching student's vocabulary because they tend to have lack of creativity in creating the classroom atmosphere becomes more attractive for the students. In fact, when the teacher reads or explains the word, phrase or simple sentence, it will be hard for the students to know the meaning of vocabulary. It is caused by the teacher always translates the word into Indonesian or asks the students to find the meaning in dictionary. The result is students become passive and not interested in the lesson.

According to Piaget (Kathy and Roberta: 2003) baby and children are programmed by nature to learn with unique way based on their brain and body development. Playing is very important and special parts of childhood. Playing, it

is related activities of making writing pattern, coloring and illustrating, where young children have an opportunity for creativity in the early stages of learning English. In playing, children also need media to support their activities. Additionally, media is important to assist children intelligent. The existence of media helps to predict student's intelligence.

Vocabulary affects the four skills; they are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. If learners have enough vocabularies in learning English, they will be easy to master the language skill. According to Richards and Renandya (2002), vocabulary is core component proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read, and write. The more words someone knows, the better she or he will understand the text. Thus, vocabularies are substantial part for comprehension. A reader cannot understand a text without knowing what most of the words mean.

As the character of young learners, they cannot listen longer and cannot handle more abstract ideas but may be willing to speak, sing or move. Personalities also become more noticeable and you will see noisy and never quiet classes. They often enjoy 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 games. Game is one technique that can improve young learners' language ability (Kramer:2000). The teacher should select the game which appropriate with student's cognitive, physic and emotional development. Kurniawan (2004) says that elementary school students are very interesting to play. So teachers can teach them by playing and using game.

Young learners are defined as children between ages 5-12 Linse (2005). In Indonesia students in Elementary school are around 6-12 years old, so that Elementary school students are including as young learners. One of the children's characteristics is enjoyable playing. Playing is most important part in their life. Moreover, children do not only like playing but also productive and creative. In a learning process, there are two important elements which are the method of teaching and the media. Medium refers to anything that carries information between a supplier and a receiver. There are several kinds of media; real thing, verbal, graphic still picture, motion picture, audio, program, and stimulations or games. Real thing is the real object that can represent the material. Using picture, graphic still picture or motion picture is included in pictures to support learners to understand the lesson.

One of the main media functions as a tool for learning which influence climate, conditions and learning environment organized and created by the teacher. According Hamalik (In ArsyadAzhar, 1996:15), argues that "the use of instructional media in teaching and learning and a desire to generate new interest, motivational and learning stimulation and even carry psychological effects on students".

As Essley (2008) stated that engaging learners with drawn picture seems one of the effective strategy to develop their ideas. Moreover teach them visually will be useful for primarily visual learners as they grasp the more abstract ideas in writing. In addition according to Walter (in Halimatus, 2009) the instruction in the

classroom will be helped contextualized by visual or realia. Furthermore Kellner (in Halimatus, 2009) suggested teachers to use photograph in the teaching of writing rather other types of pictures since, using photograph will help students overcome their reluctant to write. In addition, Raimes (1983) pointed out that picture is one of valuable resource which can be used in classroom practice in order to provide a stimulating focus for student's attention. Therefore, pictures are powerful teaching aids that can inspire students at all levels to create both expository and creative composition. Crazy face is a media learning English vocabulary to help students understanding the pronunciation and writing words with a particular theme. Besides media crazy face is a faces illustration (human, animal, or thing) as long as were parts of a complete face. According to Martha Stewart (2008: 23) *Crazy Face* popularized by Saxton Freymann, an illustrator of children's books. Crazy Face is a card game popular among children in Europe. *Crazy Face* is a set of cards such as: Rummy cards, dominoes, card Picture Series, Poker, etc. Every card or cards games have characteristics and unique characteristics mainly from design drawings. Like the famous Rummy card with a picture of King, Queen, Jack and his Joker, Domino with its circle-dots (polka) with various quantities, then Crazy faces have card drawing designs with a wide range of drawing funny faces.

Based on the quote above, Crazy Face cards have 12 pictures of fruits and vegetables that have eyes, nose, and mouth in funny pictures children are expected to be enthusiastic, even just by looking. In this case the focus is only parts of face or only parts of the face. 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. 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.

B. Discussion

The professional teachers in teaching have to prepare, and consider everything related to the teaching and learning process. Young learners learn better through play or fun activities. Moreover, teaching English to young learners should be natural and realistic that young learners learn as they are doing in real life. It can be done by using media that they will learn naturally and become more motivated in learning Vocabulary.

1. The Implementation of Teaching Vocabulary by Using Media *Crazy Face* for Elementary School

A. Preparation

Before starting to teach students in writing through media crazy face, the teacher should do some preparations. The preparations are related with the materials, the media, and the time used for teaching vocabulary. These preparations are really needed in order to make the teaching learning process more effective and efficient. All of the materials, the media, and time

provided must be appropriate with teaching objective that is enabling to students writing.

In this case, the teachers need to prepare the media *crazy face* that can be taken from website www.thingamababy.com. The teacher can take the media *crazy face* in this website by online, then, the pictures have been printed and prepared for all students before the class starts. And if the teachers wants to make *crazy face* by own self, they should explore their imagination in order to create funny pictures can be human, animal, or an object based on the topic that will be taught.

B. Procedure

Method of teaching English by using media *crazy face* 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 vocabulary procedure by using media *crazy face* with the topic “parts of body especially parts of human faces”.

1. Pre Teaching

As the first phase, there are several activities which the teacher does. First, 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.

The next activities in this stage are warming up. As warming up, the teachers build students' background knowledge about the field they are going to study. The teacher can ask some question to lead them to the topic. For example: *what kinds of fruits do you like?* By giving this question, there will be various answers from the students; they try to convey their favorite fruits. After that, the teacher leads students to know the media *crazy face* by showing a funny picture of the topic and giving some questions and sharing the experiences related to the title, students may be required to answer some questions. At this stage, the teacher introduces some vocabulary related to the topic.

2. Whilst Teaching

Whilst teaching phase consist of three stages which are exploration, elaboration, and confirmation. In exploration, the teacher introduces some vocabulary related to the topic “*parts of the body especially parts of human faces*” by using media *crazy face*. In this stage, teachers ask students to look at the media *crazy face* by looking the visual images and the vocabulary written on the picture. The teachers hold or point out parts of face on the picture which is begun by spelling the pronunciation and rewrite it in white board, for example; E-

Y-E (mata), N-O-S-E (hidung), E-A-R (telinga), H-A-I-R (rambut), T-O-O-T-H (gigi) and so on. Then, the students are guided by the teacher in writing and spelling the vocabulary by using the media *crazy face*. After this stage finished and the teacher has been sure that all the students understand about the lesson, it comes to exercises.

In elaboration, the teacher divides students into 5 groups consist of four students each group. Then, the teachers distribute the media *crazy face* to each group with the size 30x30 cm. The teacher asks the students to complete the task and then discusses the correct answer together. There will be various kinds of task that the teacher should prepare in this stage. The teacher can prepare simple tasks for instance fill in the blank, matching pictures with words and so on. The various kinds of task are aimed to train the students and also to avoid the students getting boredom.

In confirmation, the teacher gives feedback evaluation to their activity in reflecting students' groups. This is aimed to explore the students' comprehending about the lesson.

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 asks students to complete task individually. The teacher can prepare simple task such as arrange the words based on the *crazy face* pictures (the examples of the task can be seen in appendix). This activity can make the students more understand the lesson and the teaching learning process becomes more fun. After all the students finish, teacher ask to students about the activity they have done before. This activity is recalling train the student's memory and telling and experience.

C. Conclusion and Suggestions

Crazy face can be one of alternative in learning English vocabulary. Teachers can create a more diverse picture "Crazy" than that exemplified and designed by writer. By using this media, the students will easy to express and share ideas. It helps the students to learn new vocabulary items through the challenge pictures as the main part of this media. They can answer some questions based on their level which provide some new words to be learned. The students have a lot of opportunities to play with their friends while they are on the process of learning. Therefore, media *crazy face* can help teacher in teaching vocabulary or students in enriching their vocabulary. Teacher has opportunity to create new play or design that is supporting the teaching learning process.

In order to make the students eager in studying English, especially in vocabulary, writer would like to give some suggestions that may be useful for English teachers. Writer wants to recommend English teacher to

use appropriate media in teaching vocabulary than the traditional one (the teacher only teaches the students by English textbook and later ask students to answer those questions, which relate with the topic that is being taught) because today's education demands the teacher to be attractive and creative in learning process. In addition, the teacher should encourage themselves to create new and creative ways of teaching by using various material and media, so that the students more interested in learning English vocabulary. It is suggested using media *crazy face* as one of media that can be used in teaching English vocabulary. Hopefully, the teacher would use this media to increase the student's interest and motivation in learning English vocabulary.

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