

USING SONGS TO TEACH ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS

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Abstract

This paper explains about the implementation of using songs to teach English to young learners. The songs that can be used are popular songs for young learners. At the beginning of the activity, teacher introduces the lyrics that will be sung. The lyrics of the song should be compared with the topic. The activity of singing a song can be followed by another activities which the activities can improve their confidence. There are some advantages in teaching English through songs like various activities in the classroom, fun, and alive, also the young learners be active and confidence. Then, songs can improve the young learner's skill in memorizing new words and pronouncing clearly. Using songs as the activity in teaching English help the teacher to build an active and interesting class.

Key words: Teaching English, Young Learners, Songs

A. INTRODUCTION

Teaching English for children is different to adults. Children learn English with an enjoy and fun way. Because they have to learn English in young age, they are easily to get bored and feel difficult if the material is too hard. That is why the teachers have to make the classroom condition more alive and fun to achieve the goal in the learning process. The English teachers do not only have to teach well, but also must know the things which are related to teach English for the children. Teachers can design creative lessons that get students moving around and speak with their friends.

The children, in this case, the students of elementary school in aging 7-12 years old or are known as young learners, have some characteristics. They are love to ask questions, have low concentration, so wide kinds of activities are needed, and build confidence in expressing themselves. Their language focuses are all the bases of English; those are listening, speaking, writing, reading, vocabulary, and also grammar. They learn English by using particular facts and examples to make them understand. Therefore, they still learn it by concreting lessons with the daily life and some abstracts.

There are three important things that teachers must know in teaching English to young learners, those are; what young learner wants, how young learners behave, and what to focus on. It is important to make the classroom activity

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relaxing and fun. Young learners will perform better in their classes if they behave well and have a good understanding of basic principles.

There are many obstacles in teaching young learners. First, they are easily to get bored if the material is difficult and too hard for them. Based on the writer's observation, the classroom will be alive if young learners learn through playing and doing. On the contrary, teachers often use monotonous ways in teaching such as not using media and also not applying various activities in the classroom. Thus, classroom activities cannot be fun and enjoyable.

As a good teacher, teaching English must be guidable and facilitating the young learners because it can improve their achievements. Then, teacher must know what the young learners need in learning a foreign language. Young learners can learn the target language optimally if the methods maintain the characteristics of them. Young learners are interested when they do more activities because they have huge learning potential. Besides, the young learners are more often enthusiastic and lively as learners.

Young learners are generally very enthusiastic about songs, especially if they can sing along and followed by active games. The teachers have to provide lots of encouragement and positive feedback. This means learning through songs can be used to incorporate the classroom activity effectively into English lessons as a good practice in teaching pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and all four skills. Some songs are good for doing something and good for singing. This is due to their major of study and it is suitable as material and classroom activity during the class. The variety of activities and numerous practices could help the young learners not just fun and enjoyable in learning English, but also make them fluent in learning English. There were some studies which had been conducted related to the song in teaching English. One of them was the study conducted by Nanda and Narius (2012) that focused on the use of western song in improving students' speaking.

In other word, the activities should be simple enough for young learners to understand what is expected of them and to feel satisfied with their work. On the other hand, the young learners will have a sense of achievement that will develop motivation for further learning, and it will be memorable if an activity is enjoyable.

B. DISCUSSION

Young learners acquire their first language, and most probably, second languages as well. Krashen and Terrell, (1983: 18) state that acquiring a language is 'picking it up', for example, developing ability in language by using it in natural process, communicative situations. In this case, the teachers must comprehend the concept of acquisition and teaching English. Acquisition can be defined as a process of having language naturally or sub-consciously.

Songs have an important role in the development of language to young learners in learning a second language. Most young learners enjoy singing songs, and they often become a welcome change from the routine of learning a foreign language.

Songs are precious resources to develop young learners' abilities in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They can also be used to teach a variety of language items such as sentence patterns, vocabulary, pronunciation, rhythm, adjectives, and adverbs.

Phillips (1993: 26) defines music and rhythms are essential parts of language learning for young learners. It should give experienced songs that just cannot get out of young learners' head. In addition, music and rhythm make it creative and enjoyable activities in learning process.

During the implementation, songs can be useful activity in teaching English as a foreign language because they give students the opportunity to listen to the teachers. Then, songs can be a challenge for students because they are often faster than an instructor's speech. However they can also be enjoyable and serve to reinforce certain aspects of English.

a. Preparation of Using Song in Teaching English:

In teaching English to the young learners, many vocabularies can be taught by introducing the simple topics for them such as public places, using of public places, great jobs, and pet animals. In this case, teachers can make new lyrics based on the popular song for young learners. Before the activity begins, teachers must prepare the media, those medias can be MP3, video, cassette, speaker, and also realia that can be used in follow-up activity. Then, the material must interesting them and also teachers use popular children songs. If the preparations are completed, teachers will begin the teaching process.

There are some examples of song with the lyrics that related to the topics to young learners as stated below:

1. A. Public Places. In this topic, teachers teach the students about kinds of public places. This song created by *K1-2012 English Class*. (Rhythm: 'Let It Go' song).
2. Public places. In this topic, teachers teach the students about the using of each public places. This song created by *K1-2012 English Class*. (Rhythm: 'Bintang Kejora' song).
3. Great Jobs. In this topic, teachers teach the students about kinds of the great jobs. This song created by *K1-2012 English Class*. (Rhythm: 'Satu Dua Tiga' song).
4. Pet Animals. The title of song is "My Fact Cat". This song is written by Mar David Gibson.

b. The implementation of this strategy will be discussed as follows :

Using songs to teach English is to make the young learners memorize new words easily. Besides, songs provide many possibilities for constant repetition and revising as important mechanisms of the language acquisition. Words in songs are meaningful to the young learner, which influences the acquisition in a positive way.

This part describes about the implementing song in teaching English for young learners at 5th grade and 6th grade. At the beginning of activity, there are some preparations that the teacher has to do before presenting the lesson in the classroom. In order to create more interesting teaching and learning process for the young learners, the teacher should master and comprehend what they are going to teach.

Before sing a song, teacher will give some commands to young learners when the classroom activity begins. So that, the young learners will follow what the teacher says. To make sure that the teaching English through songs effectively, teacher should know the meaning of words in the song is clear and easy to understand with the young learners. Then, the meaning, lyrics, and rhythm of the song are easy to remember, and the song suitable with children in the terms of age, speed, or meaning. And the language in the song is bright; it is similar to the language they use in the classroom, at home and their daily life.

Here, the writer takes the song with the title "Public Places" created by K1-2012 English Class with rhythm 'Bintang Kejora'. In this part, young learners will learn about the name of public places and also the using of each public places. Many public places in the lyric of the song. They can be a hospital, a restaurant, a zoo, a market, a post office, and a bank. There are some steps in implementing song in teaching English to the young learners as stated below:

First, teacher gives the lyric in a piece of paper.

Public Places

('Bintang Kejora')rhythm

Created by K1-2012 English Class

When you all are sick, you can visit the hospital

When you are hungry, you can visit the restaurant

When you want to see the animals, you go to the zoo

And those are public places you can visit whenever you need

When you want to buy something, you go to the market

When you want to send letters, you go to post office

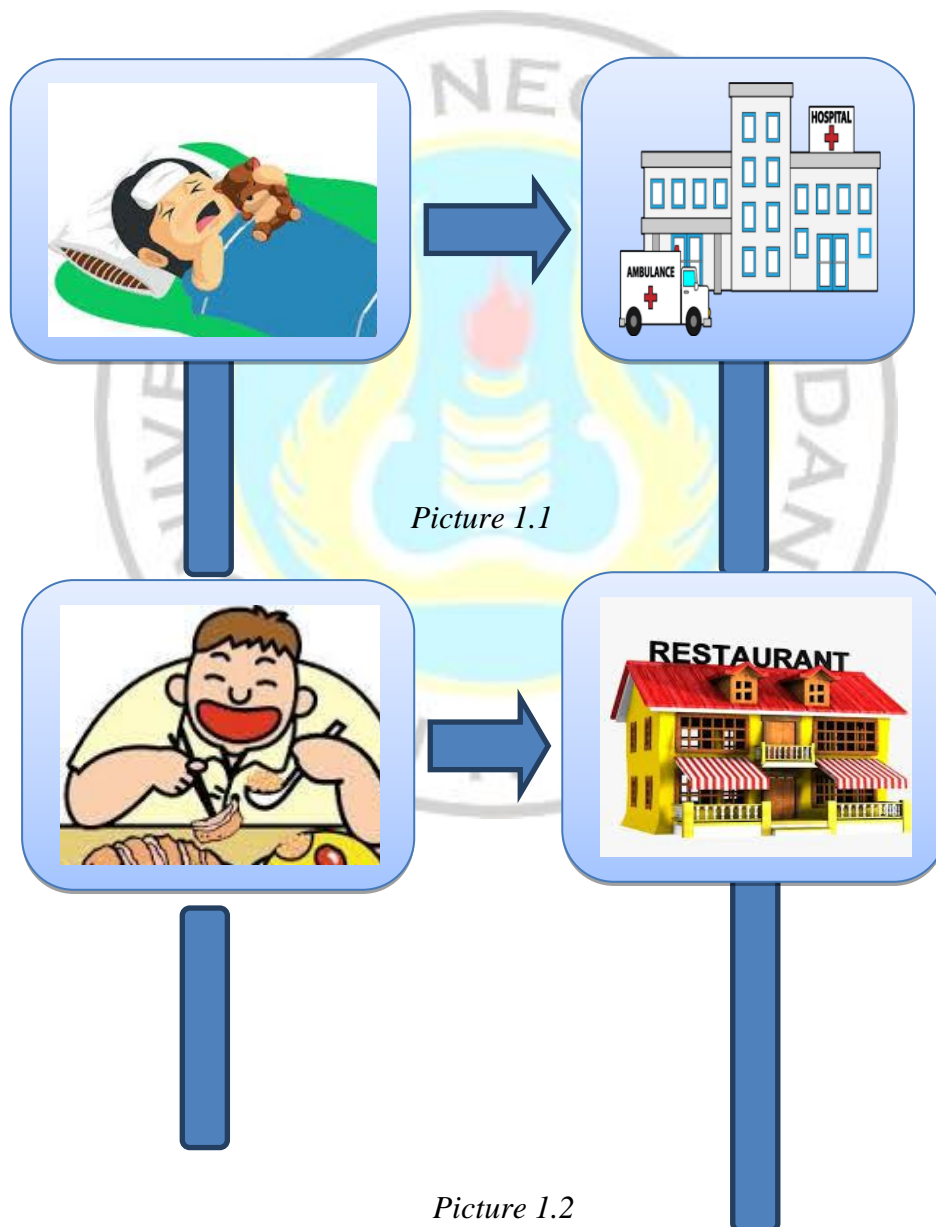
When you want to save money, you can go to the bank

And those are public places you can visit whenever you need

In this step, young learners see the lyric that they will sing later. The lyric helps them to observe the new words that will be discussed.

Second, after the young learners get the lyric, the teacher will sing a song without music. Here, they can see the lyric and just listening while the teacher singing a song. It helps them to absorb the rhythm of the song.

Third, after the teacher sings a song, the teacher uses pictures to make the young learners memorize the new words easily. The teacher shows the pictures about public places to make them can see what public places they learn. The pictures that the teacher used it must interesting them and creative. It can be like the pictures bellow.



Fourth, based on the public places in the lyric of song, teacher reads aloud the vocabularies and asks the young learners to repeat what the teacher says. Teacher can use the pictures above for doing this activity. For example,

Teacher : “This is a hospital”
Students : “This is a hospital”.
Teacher : “A doctor works in the hospital”
Students : “A doctor works in the hospital”
Teacher : “Sick person goes to the hospital”
Students : “Sick person goes to the hospital”

From the example above, the young learners know about the hospital and the things that related to the hospital.

Fifth, the teacher and the young learners sing a song together with the music. This activity can improve their speaking skill and to participate actively and also give them a chance in learning process.

Sixth, it is time to make the young learners to do the action with the song. The actions are point and raise the picture. In this activity, the teacher hold all of the pictures while children sing a song together, the student who knows the picture that appropriate with the lyric, she or he can point and raise the picture.

Seventh, after the young learners point and raise the picture the teacher explains about public places again and asks them some questions related to the public places. For example, the teacher asks, “Where will you go if you are sick?” and they answer, “I will go to the hospital.” This helps the young learners understand more and memorize the words easily.

Eighth, if the young learners seem understand, the teacher can play the song again and sing it together with the learners loudly. This activity repeats what they have learnt about the public places and makes their pronunciation and intonation clearly.

In conclusion, the teacher reviews the activities that have been done consistently. The teacher reviews about what they have learnt. It helps the young learners to develop and achieve the knowledge. It is possible to get them an ongoing song book for adding new songs and improving their vocabulary items.

C. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Conclusion

Using songs to teach English to young learners is the best way to make the classroom activity be alive and also can improve the young learners to learn English. It helps them to sing, to talk and to express their ideas through learning by playing and learning by doing. Then, it makes the young learners can be more interested and active while they singing a song. When they sing a song they will be enjoyable and helps them to memorize new words easily. In addition, teaching is not only giving a million of exercises but, also creating activities that would make the young learners become more interested.

2. Suggestions

Based on the discussion previously, it can be suggested as following;

1. The teacher should be able to create interesting classroom activity by using song during teaching and learning process. Songs help the teacher to attract young learners' interest, in order they have to full attention to the lesson.
2. The teacher should give motivation to express and to explain their idea to build their achievement through songs. Because when the young learners listen to songs they get a positive atmosphere in classroom.
3. Songs aim to improve young learners to practice their skills in learning English.
4. At the end of classroom activity, the teacher gives feedback to the young learners. It can be a reward. It is aimed to get them more confidence.

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