



THE USE OF REWARD AND PUNISHMENT TO INCREASE YOUNG LEARNERS' MOTIVATION IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS FOREIGN LANGUAGE ADAPTED TO INDONESIAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

This paper explains about the use of reward and punishment to increase young learners' motivation in learning English as foreign language in Indonesia. The writer discusses about procedure and advantages of reward and punishment. Reward is an appreciation given by the teacher to the students who can follow the lesson well and finishing the assignment. Meanwhile, punishment is a bad treatment that is given to the students who do not focus in learning process, do not care of their assignment, and have bad habit during the class. Reward and punishment can be given through verbal and non-verbal form (action). Kinds of reward are mimic, gesture, compliment or positive feedback, point or sticker, and present. Kinds of punishment are warning, memorizing vocabulary, decreasing students' point, and moving students' seat. Besides to motivate student, reward and punishment also make the students become more discipline and study harder than before.

Key words: Motivation, young learner, reward and punishment

A. INTRODUCTION

Teaching English for young learners is different from adult because they have very different needs, interest, abilities and enthusiast in learning language. Young learners have their own way of learning, they like to play and have fun with their friends and everything around them. When they are enjoying themselves, they are not always aware that they are learning language. As children, their ability is very short. They can focus on the learning process just for ten minutes. After that, they start to get bored and feel the materials of the study are not important at all. Harmer (2001) says that unless activities are extremely engaging, they get bored easily, losing interest after ten minutes or so.

Young learners also need a motivation as their foundation in learning a language. Besides, Shoebottom in Long (2013) also explains five factors to increase English foreign learner in learning, those are age, personality, motivation, experience, cognition and native language. Some of young learners in Indonesia

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are lazy to learn English because they think that English is a difficult subject. This happens because the students are lack of motivation in learning a language. It is proven by the students' condition in learning process. Some of the students in the class are talking and playing around while the teacher explaining the material.

In addition, it is not wrong if the students keep playing during the class, because in their ages they really like to play something. This happens because in the learning process the students just learn, teacher just gives the material and task to them without giving them time to play. In learning process, the teacher makes the students enjoy their class and not make them stress. Cameron (2001) says that to make the learning process to be more effective, the teacher has to make the children in a good mood and avoid making them stressful.

Actually, the problem of students' motivation in learning English does not only come from the students, but it can be from the teacher. The teacher does not understand how to develop students' intellectual, social, and personality or motivation. Then, the teacher does not understand the strategy in teaching English. The teacher has no theories in teaching English, but when they know the theories, they could not implement them in the classroom well.

The writer chooses the use of reward and punishment to increase students' motivation in teaching English. Actually young learners really like to get something from the teacher as a reward. Teacher also says that there will be a punishment if the students do something wrong or disturb other students in the teaching learning activity. The students should not do anything which is breaking the rule of the class.

In Indonesia teacher will get some problems if they give punishment to the students. It can be seen in some cases that the teachers are sent into the jail because of giving punishment to the students. Actually the teacher gives punishment to the students to make them become more discipline and follow the rules of the school. In giving punishment teacher should give an educated punishment and not give a punishment which breaks their motivation and desire in learning. The high motivation is really needed by the students to keep them focus in their tasks and in learning English (Wiryetni & Saun, 2012: 198)

This is an educated strategy that could motivate students in learning a language and a guidance how the teacher treats the students during teaching learning process in the classroom. The reward and punishment are given by the teacher should have good effect for the students. The teacher should not give reward and punishment that make student lazy to learn English.

Motivation in language learning consists of some aspects and Gardner in Long (2013) seems support this idea. He says that motivation for language learning contains of four aspects: the purpose, the effort, the desire to get the purpose and the attitude. By giving motivation to the students, it can make them enthusiastic in learning and they can learn a language better. Without motivation, nobody can achieve the purpose of learning.

As Ilegbusi (2013) states in his journal, student will motivate for working hard in learning process to get the reward if they know that they will get a reward if they can complete their task. Reward that is used by the teacher to increase students' motivation can be something real and make them interest or the teacher

can use verbal reward. This is also supported by Brown (2001), reward for student can be in every kind of things. Students' intrinsic motivation can be increased by giving some rewards in the learning process; it depends on how the ways of the teacher in using it. The teacher should use the external reward in the term of informing rather than controlling, so the students do not rely on the rewards to increase their motivation in learning English as foreign language.

In teaching learning process, punishment is used as reinforcement for student to do not doing the wrongness again. Actually punishment can be used for making student discipline in learning and protect them from doing something wrong. Punishment is used to motivate student to be better, to make them discipline, and to reduce their negative behavior. Echols and Shadily (1992) explain that punishment is a mistreatment for student because they do something bad.

B. DISCUSSION

1. Reward

Reward is an educational strategy which can be used to make the students feel happy in learning a language and also can be used to give motivation to the students for learning better. Teachers should use reward in order to maintain a positive learning environment and to promote appropriate classroom behaviours. Reward for the students should be real but it does not have to be something expensive. In this case, the teacher's creativity is really needed. So, the teacher can make something special for the students. There are some kinds of reward that teacher can use in the class:

a. Non – verbal reward

Non- verbal reward is a kind of reward in the form of gesture and mimic of the teacher. Gesture and mimic cannot be understood by every student, because teacher does not say it directly to the students. Only certain students can understand it. Gesture can be like applause, two thumbs up, clap students' shoulder, and shaking hands. Mimic can be like smile and gaze. It can increase students' interest in learning and make them become more active to share their ideas.

b. Compliment or positive feedback

Compliment or positive feedback from teacher shows that the teacher appreciates students' action and achievement in the class. They are an easy reward to be used by the teacher in the class but it gives the big effect to the students in learning language. As extrinsic motivation, compliment or positive feedback should be given in the right way because they can increase students' spirit and their confident in the class. Here are examples of compliment that teacher can use in the class, the word "great, good for you, excellent, very good, and etc" can be used by the teacher for student who can answer teacher's question and the answer is correct. Meanwhile, the words "thank you for caring, thanks for helping, you are a good friend" use for students who care of their teacher and their friend. The word "spectacular, outstanding performance, marvelous, and etc" can be used for students' performance in the class, like singing, storytelling, and others.

c. Point or sticker

Point or sticker can be used as a symbol of the students' result in learning. Every student in the class will get different number of point or sticker. If the students had the lowest point in the class, they have to be more active in the class than before to get the higher point. Teacher can give five points or one star if the students can focus during the learning process, ten points or two stars if they actively participate in the class and fifteen points or three stars if the students can do the task well and correct. Teacher can give different kind of sticker depends on the level of the students. For kindergarten student, teacher can give sticker which looks like pet, doll, and car. For elementary school student, teacher can give sticker which looks like Barbie, hello kitty, star, and sun for girl students. For boy students, teacher can give sticker which looks like kinds of ball and flag from every country.

a. Present

Present is a kind of reward in the form of things like candy, pencil, pen, eraser, etc. The present does not have to be something expensive, it can be something that is cheap or the teacher can make it by her own (handmade). Students will feel happy when the teacher gives them a present. They will keep it and tell it to their friends about the present and they will also tell it to their parents about the present from the teacher at home. The present can make students enjoy their learning process and breaking of their stress in the class.

Example for reward:

Level : Grade 1 and 2 of Elementary School
 Aim : The students will be introduced to new vocabulary
 Skill : Speaking
 Language : Put and take and close
 Time : 5 minutes
 Media : box, train, plane, bus, ball, doll, truck, car, card.

Teacher: Everybody stand up, please! (The teacher stands up among the students and introduces some toys and asks the students to say it.

Students: (Follow the teacher)

Teacher: Do you have toys at home? What kind of toys do you have? Have you ever save your toys in the box? How do you do it?

Students: Yes mam. (Answer the teacher's question)

Teacher: Today, you will sing Take it song (The teachers sing "take it" song first by demonstrated it.)

Take it (kalau kau senang hati)

If I say taking a ball, take it

If I say taking a car, take it

If I say taking a doll, and then put them on the box

If I say closing the box, you close the box

Students: (The students follow the teachers sing "take it" song.)

Teacher: The teacher changes the toys and then the students have to sing it. (The teacher asks one student to sing by seeing the toys.)Teacher can give present to the student who can sing and say the correct name of the toys.

Reward can be given to the students after the students finish their activity

in the class. Teacher should inform the students before the class begins that they will get a reward after the class if they follow the class well, give their participation in the class, focus in the learning process and if they get the highest score when doing some activities. Reward can be given to the students whether it is individually, in pair or in a group. It depends on the agreement between the teacher and the students before the class begins.

2. Punishment

Punishment is a consequence following a bad behaviour that students do in the class. Punishment in the classroom needs to be implemented with care, should be educated and should never be used to single students. There are some kinds of punishment that can be used by the teacher in the classroom:

a. Warning

Warning is an easy punishment to the students in the class. Teacher can give warning to block students' bad behaviour during learning process. Teacher can say "do not disturb your friend! Be quite please! Stop talking please!" By warning the students, they will not disturb the learning process of other students and do not disturb the teacher's concentration. Students will think that the teacher does not like if they are disturbing her during the learning process. They also think that something they had done in the class is not good and breaking the rule in learning. Students will not do it again and focus to their lesson.

b. Memorizing vocabulary

Memorizing vocabulary is a kind of educated punishment. Teacher can use this punishment to punish students and to ask them learning new vocabulary. The purpose in giving this punishment is to make the students know that they are wrong and they should get punishment. By memorizing new vocabulary, it can increase students' English vocabulary. Even though they get punishment; they still learn English. It can make the students more discipline in the class and it will make them have many additional vocabularies.

c. Decreasing students' point

This kind of punishment is not physical punishment, but it also gives the big effect to the students. In reward, students can increase their point when they focus, active, and do the task well, but in punishment they will decrease their point if they break the rule. Teacher can reduce students' point if they have bad behaviour in the class. The teacher tells to the students if they do not focus and keep talking in the class, they will lose five points. If they do not do their assignment well, they will lose ten points and if they disturb their friend or their teacher, they will lose fifteen points.

d. Moving students seat position

Sometimes during the class, students will talk to each other while teacher explains the lesson. It will disturb teacher's concentration and other. Moving students' seat position can be used for the students who always talking in the class during the learning time. This punishment gives positive impact to the students, not only they can think that they wrong, they also will get along with other students in the class. When students move to the other seat, they can learn together with their other friend. It also teaches the students to care to their other friend and widen their social life.

Example for punishment:

This punishment can be used for the student who fights in the class. Before they get the punishment, teacher should ask their problem.

Teacher: Why are you fighting? What is the problem James? Ken?

Students: (Answer the teacher question).

Teacher: Do you know that fighting is wrong?

Students: Yes mam.

Teacher: Okay, shake your hand and do not do it again.

Students: (Shake their hands)

Teacher: As the punishment, both of you should be memorizing ten vocabularies about the name of wild animals and show how the animal look like.

Students: Yes mam.

In memorizing new vocabulary, teacher can choose what kind of vocabulary that they have to memorize. Besides, this is also effective in increasing students' knowledge about vocabulary that they do not know before. This punishment is very educated for students and easy for teacher to use in the class.

Punishment gives to the students to make them wary to do the mistakes. Punishment can be used by the teacher directly when the students do something that is not suitable with the rules of learning in the class. Generally, punishment is necessary; it should be the least restrictive type of punishment. Before using any punishment strategies, it is important to check with the school's policy on appropriate classroom management strategies and what is and is not permitted in your specific school.

3. Advantages of reward and punishment in teaching English for young learner

- a. Reward and punishment can be used to motivate students in learning a language. Students can be more active in the class if they get something as the reward
- b. Reward also helps students to prepare for and participate in the class discussion that needs a deep understanding and focus on material. Then, it encourages the students to participate in the class as a person or group.
- c. Punishment can help students to be more discipline and change their bad behavior in the class activity.
- d. Punishment also reminds other students to not do the same mistake like their friend did.

C. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that motivation plays important role in learning English for young learner. Motivation is something that students need to make them enthusiastic in learning a language. Teacher can use reward and punishment to increase students' motivation in learning. By giving a reward, students will be focus in learning process and make students compete with the other students to get the reward in the class. Punishment also makes other students to be careful in make a mistake in the class. By using reward and punishment, it is hoped that learning objective could be achieved by the students.

In using reward and punishment, the writer suggests the teacher to pay attention to the kind of reward and punishment that will be used. The teacher also needs to choose the right time to give the reward and punishment. The teacher should give information to the student that they will get a reward if they want to be active in the class and they will get a punishment if they do something that could break the rule of the class and also for their bad behavior. The teacher must be able to make the students enjoy their class and happy with the material.

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