



TEACHING PRONUNCIATION TO FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH CHILDREN ENGLISH SONG

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Abstract

This paper is aimed to discuss about the use of children English song to teach pronunciation to first year of junior high school students. It is known, Junior high school students just learn English; they may have some difficulties in the process of learning. Feeling difficult to pronounce word in English can be one of those problems. In order to solve this problem, teacher should have good solution to help their students. One of the solutions that can use by the teacher is using Children English song as the media to teach pronunciation. Teaching pronunciation through children English song help the students to be familiar with the English pronunciation, they can also imitate how the singer's pronounce word in English. So that, the students can makes their pronunciation better. Learning pronunciation by using song also make the students motivated to learn because it is fun and enjoyable.

Key Words: Song, Pronunciation, Children English Song

A. INTRODUCTION

Teaching pronunciation done by the teacher in leaning speaking. It is known that pronunciation is one of the micro skills of speaking that the students need to understand in order to have a good communication. Mairi (2016:162) said that good speaking fluency make one's English proficiency much better, sound slicker more natural and more impressive for the listener. It also provides more effective communication due to the absence of speaking disturbances. Pronunciation is the way in which a word or a language is spoken. According to Hornby (1995:928) pronunciation is the way in which a language is spoken, the way in which a word is pronounced, the way a person speaks the words of a language. Similarly with Hornby, Farmand and Pourgharib (2013:841), "pronunciation is the way we pronounce a word, especially in a way that is accepted or generally understood". Students who have good pronunciation will be easy and feel confident in Speaking English.

However, based on the observation in one of junior high schools in Pasaman, the writer found that there are some difficulties that the students have

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when they speak English especially about pronunciation. *First*, most of students pronounce words as it is written not as it is pronounced. This maybe happen because the teacher did not pay attention to their students' pronunciation, or the teacher itself does not have good pronunciation. *The second* problem is the students are shy to talk in English. They are afraid of making mistakes in grammatical or pronunciation, so they choose to keep silent rather than try to speak up. According to Fitrawati (2015:12) students feel worried to make mistake while speaking. Before starting speaking, students have already paid too much attention to what is going to say, whether the utterance is correct or not. Students also have problems with their proficiency in English. It includes the ability in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. All of those problems make students afraid to speak English. Meanwhile, the students cannot have a good pronunciation without doing practice.

Based on the problem above, the writer is interested in using an authentic material which is in this case is song to be a model of good pronunciation. According to Kusri (2012:5) Songs provide examples of authentic, memorable and rhythmic language. They can be motivation for students' to repeatedly listen to and imitate their musical heroes (singer). Moreover, using children English songs in EFL classroom is believed can successfully bring an effective learning process because learning by using children English song is enjoyable and not will be bored. Brewer (2005:45) song can motivate, inspire, and build students' enthusiasm. The intrinsic motivation seems to stimulate students feeling and give them the desire to learn.

Students who learn English through song will get knowledge about new words and pronunciation. According to Siskova (2008:33) in Kayyis (2015:37), song can be used to understand and produce language, remember words over time and be able to recall them readily and also strategy development for coping with gaps in word knowledge. So, by using song students will learn pronunciation unconsciously. Students who have listened to a song and try to sing it means that they have learn how to pronounce the word whether they realize it or not.

B. DISCUSSION

1. Teaching Preparation

The first step that determines the success of teaching and learning process is planning. In this step, teacher prepares everything needed to teach such as teaching material, media, and lesson plan. Teacher can also prepare some rewards to the students who are able to give their best participation in teaching and learning process.

Furthermore, the teacher has to prepare appropriate media in teaching learning process. Media is a tool that is used by the teacher to deliver material. The function of media is to help the teacher in teaching and learning activity. It helps teacher to give lesson to the students' easily.

2. Procedure of Teaching Pronunciation through Children's English Song

Based on 2013 curriculum, the teaching procedures are divided into pre teaching, whilst teaching and post teaching. In whilst teaching, there are five

stages that have to be accomplished. They are observing, questioning, associating, experimenting, and networking.

1) Pre Teaching Activity

Pre-Teaching activity is the beginning phase in teaching and learning process at the classroom. Pre-teaching is also known as the opening activity which gives the students overview about what the lesson looks like. In this phase, teacher starts to use prepared material and media to support teaching process. Besides, in this phase, the teacher checks the students' attendance. After checking the student's attendance, the teacher then does the process of students' background knowledge activation to stimulus their creative and cognitive thinking. The teacher also asks some questions related to related to the topic that will be learned. After asking the questions about what they know related to the process of describing people, the teacher informs the students the topic that they are going to learn and also the objectives of the lesson.

2) Whilst-teaching Activity

a. Observing

Observing is activity where the students observe the information that has given by the teacher. There are various ways that teachers can use to give the information. One of them is showing a video related to the topic. The teacher can show a video about how to describe people. The students should watch the video carefully because it will give students prior knowledge about how to describe people. For example, the teacher asks the students to watch a video. After the song is finish, teacher and students will discuss together about the song. Teacher explains that the topic that they are going to learn is describing people. After that, the teacher tells the students about how to describe people.

b. Questioning

After the teacher guides the students to finish their observation, the students are allowed to ask whatever they still do not understand about the topic. It can be about the information that has been delivered before and difficult words found in the song video. Teacher can pay attention to their student's pronunciation while they ask question or give the answer.

c. Experimenting

In this stage, the students explore their own knowledge and skill in learning process. Teacher will ask one by one of the students to say short description about their friends in the class. If the description is wrong the student will sing a song like in the song video given. During play the game teacher also give information about how to spell word in English. Teacher makes sure that the students can pronounce the words well by doing repetition.

d. Associating

Famous Person/Idol	Differences	
	Characteristics	Physical Appearance
A		
B		
C		

In this stage, teacher asks student to watch a song video about describing people and try to analyse both of them to find the differences. The song video can play twice to help the students understand more.

e. Networking

After the students have finished, teacher asks them to present their answer in front of the class. Teacher will pay attention to the student’s pronunciation, grammatical errors, and their intonation when speaking. Teacher will make it true if the students were wrong. After all of the students finish to practice, teacher gives the feedback about the students performed and evaluates it.

3) Post Teaching Activity

In post-teaching activity, the teacher asks the students if the song videos are helpful or not. The students can also give confirmation to the teacher if they find difficulties in describing people or not. Then, both of the teacher and the students conclude the lesson and also retell about the lesson. The teacher can also give additional information.

3. Discussion of Teaching Pronunciation through Children English Song

Many of children English songs are sung by a native speaker. People assume that a native speaker has a good pronunciation. So, when she/he sing a song, it will be clearly and understandable for the listener. By listening to the children English song, students can imitate the singer’s pronunciation so that they know how to pronounce words in English. The student’s pronunciation will be increase if they are often to listen to the song and try to sing it repeatedly.

Children English song is a good media to teach pronunciation because it can increase students’ motivation to learn English. Children’s English songs usually have cheerful music; it can make students feel happy and excited in learning process. Students who feel happy and excited in learning mean that they have big motivation to learn.

Children’s English songs also have some repetition of similar sounds and words. The repetition of similar sounds and words help the students to understand more about how to pronounce the words. If the students still confuse in the first lyric, they can listen it again in the next.

C. Conclusion

Pronunciation is one of the micro skills of speaking. Students need to understand about it in order to have good communication skills. Due to the fact

that the students face some problems in pronouncing English words, the teacher has to solve these problems by using the appropriate media. One of the media is children English song. Song as an authentic material can be a good model to pronounce English words.

Children English songs usually sing by a native speaker. People assume that a native speaker has good pronunciation, so when the students listen to the song and try to sing it repeatedly, they can increase their pronunciation unconsciously. Moreover, students who learn by using song will have fun and enjoy the class. Enjoying the class means that the students will be motivate to learn. It will easy for the teacher to teach if the student have big motivation in learning. Children English songs also contain the repetition of similar sounds and words. It is really helpful for the students to become familiar with the sounds and words.

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