

IMPROVING SEVENTH GRADERS' VOCABULARY USING FLASHCARDS AT SMP NEGERI 13 TARAKAN

Noftalia¹, Syarifa Rafiqa², Nur Asiah³

^{1,2}*English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Borneo
Tarakan University*

lianofta@gmail.com

rafiqa@borneo.ac.id

³*SMP Negeri 13 Tarakan*

nurasiah91@guru.smp.belajar.id

ABSTRACT

English language learners possess eight essential language skills: reading, writing, and speaking. When learning English, a thorough understanding and effective use of terminology is necessary right from the start. This study examines flashcards' efficacy in English classroom education, particularly for seventh-grade students. The research included a qualitative approach and involved a literature review. According to the study's findings, utilising this specific card game as an educational tool can provide significant advantages and aid teachers in delivering instruction more effectively. Furthermore, it possesses the capacity to improve student's proficiency in the English language and to motivate pupils to participate actively in classroom activities. This will facilitate favourable interactions between professors and students and between students and the learning medium.

Keywords: *Flashcard, Vocabulary*

INTRODUCTION

The key to the language is its vocabulary. Students should work on expanding their vocabulary before attempting to master the four linguistic skills, according to Newton (2016). Teaching language skills entails helping children with various pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary usage, and spelling challenges; speaking and listening comprehension are the most challenging for them. Many kids lacked vocabulary, which hindered their ability to write and talk. When pupils have a small amount of vocabulary stored in their memory, they cannot utilise language skillfully. The pupils cannot communicate with others or share their views without vocabulary. The researcher's observations indicate that the pupils' vocabulary is inadequate for expressing their language; in other words, they lack vocabulary. Vocabulary is an essential component of language learning, especially foreign languages, since without vocabulary mastery, we might not be optimal in communicating listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

In addition, in the teaching and learning process in the teaching and learning process, it is essential to increase student participation in the classroom to build students' attention to the problems they are facing. The seventh graders in the class always need help mastering vocabulary due to limited teaching media. They have limited teaching media. Therefore, to help them master language, researchers need to use appropriate teaching media (Widiastuti, 2014). Students' vocabulary learning engagement and mastery can be enhanced by using flash cards. This study is related to using flashcards in learning English, especially vocabulary, to improve students' understanding and vocabulary skills. The results of this study are expected to be helpful and provide a good learning experience and valuable information for teachers, students,

and researchers. This research can help teachers know the strategies to teach vocabulary; therefore, they can be used to improve students' understanding and skills in the English language.

Flashcards are among the media. For junior high school pupils, flashcards are an engaging medium for vocabulary instruction. According to Wahyuni and Yulaida (2014), flashcards can improve the vocabulary mastery of junior high school students in Indonesia. It enables students to learn more efficiently, enjoy the task, and participate actively in the educational process. Additionally, flashcards are educational resources that can support English teachers, mainly when teaching vocabulary. According to Hayter, et al., (2007), flashcards are usually attractive to junior high school pupils. For high school students with developmental disabilities, flashcards effectively increase correct responses and decrease errors in English language facts. They use flashcards to learn and gain knowledge about things included in the vocabulary, allowing pupils to expand their vocabulary.

It is also simple to make and adapt into a gaming medium. Flashcards were employed as a teaching tool in this study to help students' vocabulary. According to Perea et al., (2016), increasing students' vocabulary mastery through flashcards is vital, as speech is essential to teaching a foreign language.

Based on the above, the researchers considered that by utilising flashcards, students can enrich their vocabulary. Furthermore, the current research aim was to find an effective solution to improve the English vocabulary of junior high school children by using flashcard media. Using flashcard media will provide easy and effective English vocabulary learning.

METHOD

This research method uses qualitative methods, with the type of literature review research, by looking for theoretical references relevant to the system and the problems found. A literature review is a written summary of articles from journals, books, and other documents describing theories and information, both past and present, analysing the literature into the topics and papers needed. The type of data used was data obtained from the literature study. Literature study is a series relating to data collection methods with library data methods, reading and recording, and processing research materials. Data validity techniques used are source triangulation with data analysis techniques, namely by presenting, reducing, and concluding data (Miles, Huberman, Saldaña, 2014).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery is one of the basic components to master English as a foreign language at elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. In learning the four language skills (listening, speaking reading, and writing). vocabulary is one of the basic components that must be mastered. the more students master vocabulary, the better their mastery of English. by having a limited vocabulary, students will find it difficult to master all aspects of learning English, including the ability to be able to communicate with the foreign language properly.

2. Flashcard Learning Media

The growing body of knowledge is increasingly supporting the need for careful consideration when utilizing things nearby. Fitania and Puspitarani (2019) state that flashcards are also included in visual learning materials. In this case, it is explained that visual media can include images, books, encyclopaedia, magazine, quotation marks, books for reference, figures, clipping, transparent, projector, sketch, charts, posters, maps, globe, and a lot more. The teachers are supposed to understand and use the available resources so that they can be used to achieve the expected learning objectives. Learners who receive monotonous instruction also become bored and learn in an uninteresting environment. According to Bay, Purwanty and Kalalo (2019), in the question practice session, the discussion method was applied with the aim of encouraging participants to think critically, express opinions and increase confidence when speaking in public. Flashcard media is a card-shaped learning media and has two sides, namely the image and image description, which will help students to remember easily. The use of flashcards is done during learning, by showing flash cards one by one to students.

3. Advantages of Flash Cards

Flashcards media has several advantages, as revealed by Susila and Riyana in (Fitriyani & Nulanda 2017), among others:

1. Seeing from how to use it, flash card media is very practical, in using this media the teacher does not need to have expertise, this media also does not require electricity. If we are going to use it, we just need to arrange the sequence of images according to our wishes, make sure the position of the image is not reversed, and if it has been used, just store it back by tying it or using a special box.
2. It is easy to remember with the combination of pictures and text. Furthermore, it is enough for students to recognize the concept of something, to know an object, animal name or fruit name that can be helped by the picture, and vice versa to know the name of a term or concept by looking at the letters and text.
3. It is fun by considering picture card media in its use through games. For example, students are competing to name names through pictures from flashcards.

4. Disadvantages of using flashcards

1. Information limitation: Flashcards have limited space so the information expressed in flash cards is limited. This can be a challenge if there is a lot of information to be learned in one topic.
2. Risk of monotony: Excessive repetition using flashcards can make the learning process monotonous and uninteresting. This can decrease motivation and interest in learning.
3. Reliance on memorization: The use of flashcards tends to promote memorization without deep understanding. Therefore, it should be used as a tool to reinforce the understanding that has been gained through other learning methods.

Based on the description above, the selection of the right method and media is an alternative that can be taken, therefore learning is done using flashcard media to improve English vocabulary. with flashcard game media gives students to remember what students see because students cannot get learning through material alone, material memory in their brains so that the material in the language is often forgotten. children are not yet able to think abstractly so that the presence of images can clarify a problem. By using flashcards, teaching can be effective for students and can satisfy a teacher. This method is able to make students take the initiative to memorize all English vocabulary both the names of animals objects or letters in the flashcards. In addition, students also experience increased mastery in communicating with teachers and friends. Thus, learning vocabulary in English subjects is very important to do, so that students can master vocabulary and be able to use it in the English communication process.

CONCLUSION

Based on this research, the learning process using flashcard media can help improve junior high school student's mastery of English vocabulary effectively. Flashcard media can make it easier for teachers to deliver learning materials and for students to enhance their vocabulary mastery and make learning fun. Children are motivated to actively participate in learning activities so that positive interactions occur for both teachers and students. The results obtained in learning activities using flashcards make and implement or practice learning media to streamline the learning of English vocabulary of junior high school students, especially students of SMPN 13 TARAKAN. This research is expected to provide input to educators on using flashcards as a practical learning media in teaching activities.

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