



AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY BY USING DIGITAL PICTURE BOOK IN ENGLISH LEARNING

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Abstract

Learning vocabulary is as important as learning other skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Therefore, teacher must use creative, enjoyable, and interesting strategy to teach students vocabulary. By using digital picture book, teacher can make the learning activity more exciting and colorful to improve the students' vocabulary mastery. The objectives of the research are to describe the vocabulary mastery of the students taught using digital picture book, to describe the vocabulary mastery of the students taught without using digital picture book. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative. The gathered data in this research are using interviews to the fifth-grade students. Based on the findings, digital picture book help students to improve their vocabulary. The enactment of digital picture book shows that students are motivated to improve their vocabulary mastery.

Keywords: English learning, digital picture book, vocabulary mastery

Introduction

In this digital era, technology is very helpful for humans in various aspects of life, one of which is helping in the world of education. Since Covid-19 spread, students were forced to carry out online learning activities from home. This is where the importance of technology come so that students get an education even without having to go to school. In Indonesia, there are many schools that teach English. This is of course a good thing because it can help students to learn foreign languages from an early age. However, there are problems that are often encountered by students. Namely, the inability of students to participate in learning in the class. The problem that students often experience is the lack of vocabulary they have.

Vocabulary itself is one of the most important skills in English learning. Without vocabulary, people can't express their idea because vocabulary plays an important role in individual language skills. Vocabulary needs continuous growth and development. This is also supported by (Tahir, 2012) who stated that in English learning, vocabulary is one of the important skills in order to master English as Foreign Language. (Huyen & Nga, 2003) Also stated that it is one of the elements that can bind together the four skills of English such as speaking, writing, reading,

and listening. From the statements, vocabulary is a very important thing to learn and improve. Without it, students can't master the four skill of English very well.

In learning activities, as a teacher, of course they must be able to find a learning method that is interesting, fun, and not boring for students. Especially during this pandemic, many students complain because they feel bored and not interested in learning online. According to (Mustofa, 2007) teachers are the primary component in learning process, so that the quality of education is determined by the quality of teacher in fulfilling their duties. The troubles faced by the teacher were also supported by (Mukhlisa, 2021) it was revealed that English teachers has to use a lot of strategies to solve online teaching to motivate students.

One of the learning methods that teachers used to make learning more interesting is to use digital picture book media. According to (Lee, 2009) picture book is a well-known effective tool to be effective in improving vocabulary. Digital picture book is one of the media that can be used by teachers in learning. Teachers usually choose this media for students because of its easy-to-access use and this book is filled with lots of interesting and colorful pictures for students.

By using digital picture books in online learning, students can continue learning English to improve their vocabulary. According to (Hashemifardnia, 2018) the use of picture books in learning English can increase students' vocabulary because of the interesting pictures in the picture book. And also from (Ifadah, 2019) stated that using picture book help the students to increase their vocabulary. Based on these previous studies, the researcher ensures that this study is different from theirs. This study focuses on the effect of students' vocabulary improvement abilities after using a picture book.

Method

The author uses descriptive qualitative research to examine the students' vocabulary mastery using digital picture book. The students' abilities in pronouncing, spelling, and understanding the meaning of the words they learned are described and analysed using thematic analysis. The research instrument for this research were observation checklist and interviews. The interviews are conducted to three students and one teacher from SD Muhammadiyah Kleco.

The research subject in this study were the teacher and fifth graders of SD Muhammadiyah Kleco. This subject were selected because these students have experienced in using digital picture book as learning media by the teacher. The researcher only pick three fifth graders students out of 20 students in the class.

Findings and Discussion

The findings of this research explain the results of the interviews and observation with the students in SD Muhammadiyah Kleco. From the interviews it was found that the students more excited to learn using digital picture book as a media. This result is proven by the result of interviews from the students who said:

First Student

“Menggunakan buku bergambar sangat membantu saya dalam meningkatkan vocabulary saya. Buku yang digunakan juga sangat membantu saya dalam mengingat kata-kata yang dipelajari. Penggunaannya cukup mudah dan gak ribet”

“Using picture book really helped me to improve my vocabulary. The book used really helped me remember the words I learned. Using it is also very easy and not complicated”

Second Student

“Untuk saya penggunaan picture book itu cukup membantu. Gambar dalam bukunya menurut saya cukup menarik, jadi dapat membantu saya dalam mengingat kata-kata yang dipelajari. Penggunaannya tidak susah dan cukup simple”

“For me using picture book is really helpful. The pictures inside the book quite interesting, so it can help me to remember the words I learned. Using it is not difficult and quite simple”

Third Student

“Iya kak membantu, karena bukunya bergambar jadi bisa membantu saya untuk lebih meningkatkan vocabulary saya. Gambar bukunya lumayan menarik dan jadi lebih ingat kata-kata yang diajarin. Pakainya juga mudah”

“Yes it is really helpful, because the book has pictures so it can help me to improve my vocabulary. The picture in the book is also interesting and help me remember the word taught by the teacher. It is very easy to use”

Based on the results of interviews with 3 fifth graders students, it can be seen that students like to use picture books. They like to use it because the book used not only contains text but there are many pictures that can help them to remember and improve their vocabulary. The use of this digital picture book is also quite easy because students can open it from anywhere such as their cellphone. According to them, the pictures in picture books are usually interesting because of the colors used.

The Teacher

“Jadi pembelajaran menggunakan buku bergambar bikin anak-anak jadi lebih paham dan aktif. Karena mereka suka sesuatu yang bersifat visual. Menggunakan metode ini juga mampu meningkatkan vocabulary para siswa karena hal visual tadi jadi mereka lebih bersemangat dan focus dalam pembelajaran. Saya juga sering mengimplementasikan penggunaan media picture book dalam pembelajaran saya di kelas lain”

“So learn using picture books makes children more understand and active. Because they like something visual. Using this method is also able to increase students' vocabulary because of the visuals said, so they are more enthusiastic and focused in learning. I also often implement the use of picture book as media in my other teaching class”

From the results of the interview with the teacher above, it can be seen that when the teacher uses media such as picture books, the students become motivated and enthusiastic in following the lesson. The students also became more understanding of what the teacher taught. This is because students understand better if they learn using visual aids. Visual aid itself is one of the media that is quite helpful for students in learning new words with pictures, students learn English more simple in understanding these words.

Discussion

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, students have to do online learning from their respective homes. This makes the students not enthusiastic in doing learning, especially English subjects. Due to lack of enthusiasm in learning, this causes students to have little vocabulary mastery. Therefore, the teacher uses a picture book as a learning medium so that students become enthusiastic and understand the words being studied so that they can improve students' vocabulary mastery.

From the research findings that have been done. The students feel more enthusiastic about learning to use a digital picture book because it is easy to use, besides that the digital picture book does not only contain text but is filled with interesting and colorful pictures that can help students remember and understand the words they are learning. Thus helping them by improving their vocabulary.

The teacher interviewed also said that the use of picture books made the students active and focused because of the visual aid. This is also supported by (Kakavand, 2013) who stated that visual aid is a tool that can provide knowledge of certain material that other tool can't do. The teacher is also very happy to implement the use of picture books in the classes he teaches so that students can be more enthusiastic in learning English.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research findings and discussion above, it can be seen that the 5th grade students of SD Muhammadiyah Kleco experienced an increase in their vocabulary mastery when using picture books as a medium of learning. The teacher who teaches them also chooses this media because the students need visual assistance in learning so that they can better understand the vocabulary learned in class. So that the effect obtained from learning using picture books is that students become more active, enthusiastic, focused, and enthusiastic in learning English vocabulary.

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