

	<p>OMNICODE Journal (Omnicompetence Community Development Journal) ISSN. 2809-6177 Volume 1 Issue 1 December 2021 pages: 43-47 UrbanGreen Journal Available online at www.journal.urbangreen.ac.id</p>	
---	---	---

Creating English Environment at Elementary School in Barito Kuala, Kalimantan Selatan

Tenny Murtiningsih

English Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin

Ica Lisnawati

Nursing Study Program, Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Banjarmasin

*corresponding author: tennymahatma@gmail.com

Keywords:

International language, Habit, vocabulary, English environment

ABSTRACT

Language is a habit. As a habit, language is used everyday . We can use language as spoken language, written language and even sign language. As one of international language, English has to master well. One of the effort to make it happen is having English environment. This community service wants to describe about English environment in elementary school. This community service was done at elementary in Batola, South Kalimantan. The participants were the teachers from two (2) elementary schools in Batola, South Kalimantan. The result of this community service, the teachers have known how to create English environment at their school and practice it well in their school's community.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a part of communication. Communication can be developed by spoken and written, even by creating a written symbol as a sign. Through communication, we can express what we mean to other people. Having good communication can develop interpersonal ship in the community. Communication also can develop mutual relationship among us . So we can develop our relationship with other by having good communication.

English is as one of international language. As an international language, English must be master well. English mastery can be reached at formal school, courses and even from the community. In this case, English learners must struggle to master the language. Because mastery language can not be gotten instantly. It needs a process. That's why, it is important to have English in our daily conversation, even just in a small talk or vocabulary enrichment. It can help us becomes familiar in English.

Now a day, the using of English is almost in every community sector. We can find that English is used at school, office, restaurant, hospital, and some public areas. The using of English can be as simple instruction, direction to certain place , name of places or even at their daily conversation. We must appreciate this effort well. It is as an effort to make English becomes familiar in the community. This effort tries to develop English as a habit in their community.

Actually developing English as a habit must be done for children also. This early age is the best step to learn language. Learning language in the early age can give much benefit. It is because the early age is a gold period or sensitive period to learn language (Soviyah, *et al*, 2018). The children in their early age can absorb the language easily. Their age makes them easily to learn language. It happens also in learning foreign language.

Teaching English for children in the early age usually does by giving some vocabularies or simple phrase. It is because mostly children are easy to accept the new vocabulary. Next, teaching English for children as young learner must be interesting and makes them motivated to learn. Cameron (2001) stated that the teacher must know how the children learn and think. The teacher has to find out what makes the children interested in and how they use the language for. Therefore the teacher needs to be creative to find the strategy to teach English for them. How to make the children interested in their learning and know how the children use the language are important in teaching English for children.

The idea above also supports by Dinar, *et al* (2017), she stated that English mastery for the children in a golden age can be supported by some factors, namely teaching method, teaching equipment and the material. It means that the teacher must have great teaching method to make the children interested in her class. It also needs to combine with teaching equipment and the material. When the teacher has all of them, it will help her to run the class well.

Since vocabulary is the early language acquisition for children, the children as a young learner have to master some vocabularies. They need to know, remind and master some vocabularies first before practicing to speak up. As Thornbury (2002) states that children usually labelling the thing first before they start to speak up. It means that the children have to get some vocabularies for the first time, before they start to speak up. Having great vocabulary acquisition can support good speaking skill for the children.

There are some techniques to introduce new vocabulary for children, namely by having game, labelling the thing, drilling, etc. The teacher can use those techniques by having some English activities which is done inside or outside of the classroom. The teacher needs to create the strategies to support vocabulary enrichment for the children at school. One of them is having English environment at school.

English environment needs to have for supporting English learning at school. English environment can be developed by having some activities at school, for example : greating the children at school, having simple daily conversation at school, labelling some rooms in English, labelling some equipment at the class in English, facilitating some English books at school and many more. Having English environment at school needs a commitment from all of school community members, not only the students but also teachers and headmaster. It is because developing English environment must be supported from all of school community members. They have to agree using English as their habit at school.

METHOD

This community service was taken at elementary schools in Batola, South Kalimantan. It invented the teachers from two (2) elementary schools in Batola, South Kalimantan as the respondent. This community service gave more information how to create English environment at school. So it will help the children to increase their English ability.

To conduct the research, the team of community service invited teachers from two (2) elementary schools in Batola, South Kalimantan. There were 15 teachers from both of schools to join in this community service. They gathered in one class together. First of all, the team gave some information about the important thing why English must be learned in the early age. Second, to discuss the best strategies of teaching English for children. Third Dealing English environment at school. The last practicing to have English environment at school.

RESULT

The first step from this community service, the team gave an important information why English has to give in the early age. It really needs to share, supposed to they have the same perception about English need nowadays. All of the participants agreed that English is important for in life, and of course for the children also. Having a good English will help them to have communication in this modern area. So the effort to improve English ability must be done, for example having small talk at school, join in an English class, having English day program, etc.

The second step, the team invited the participants to discuss about some strategies to teach English for children at school. Having an appropriate strategy to teach is important. An appropriate strategy to teach can help to achieve the goal of teaching learning process. In this case, it is needed the teachers' skill in teaching at class. The teacher has to create the class interesting for the children. So the children will be motivated to learn. And as the result the children will be easy to understand the material.

All of the participants were enthusiastic. They gave their idea about the strategies to teach English at school. Their idea were teaching English by using game, pictures, telling story, song, watching cartoon film and many more. All of them were interesting and possible to give for the children. It just needed time scheduling and creativity of English teacher. From this discussion step, it showed that the teachers really cared of English development for the children, even though not all of them are English teachers. It means that they have awareness about the important thing of English. That's really surprising for the team.

The next step was dealing English environment at school. After the participants had the perception that English is important for children and it needed better strategy to teach for children. Next the team offered another strategy to develop English ability for children. That is having English environment at their school.

In this step, the team gave some information why English environment needs to create at their school. One of the reason is to make English as habit at school. As we know, creating English environment at school must be supported from all school member, not only the children, but also the headmaster and the teachers. When all of school member have awareness to use English in daily activity, even just greating. It is really fascinating.

So having English environment needs exemplary from the headmaster or teachers to the children totally (Rahmad : 2008). The headmaster and the teachers should try to use English in daily activity. They can use their English in greating, giving instruction or in a small talk. Hopefully, the children will take them as English role model at school. It is difficult at first, but when it can be done from the small thing. It is not possible that they can get better English. As the language motto that language is habit. So by having English as habit, it can help the improvement of their English ability.

Having English environment not only needs the exemplary from the headmaster and the teachers. But it also needs the facility to support this idea. In this fourth step, the team shared what the facilities to support English environment. There are several equipments that can support English environment at school. They are giving name for some classroom, things in the classroom, instruction that is typed and pasted in public area at school, some English book, etc. All of those facilities must be given in the correct place, for example : 'library' (at the library), canteen (at the canteen), bookcase (at the bookcase) through the rubbish here (at the dust bin) etc.

All of them will be seen by the children everyday at school. It will expose to the children everyday at school. The children will see, read and understand the meaning of each vocabulary. And the result the children will get new vocabulary acquisition naturally. It will help the children to improve their language skill.

When all of school members use English everyday at school and it also facilitates by related property, it means that English environment really works at school. Both of the components must synergize to create English environment at school.

Based on the explanation above, all of the participants understood. They understood that English environment can not be reach individually, but it really need the cooperation among the school members. So it will give good impact to the children. Beside that having English environment must be facilitated by some property that support the English area at school.

The last step was practicing to have English environment at school. There were some activities here, example asked the participants to have daily conversation about school life, have some school instruction and mention name of rooms at school. These activities were really needed to support English environment at school.



Figure 1 : Giving information why English needs to teach in the early age.



Figure 2 : Class discussion



Figure 3. After community service finished

CONCLUSION

Developing English ability in the early age is important to do. The teacher can do it by giving vocabulary enrichment. Teaching vocabulary for the children must be interesting, so the children are interested in and motivated to learn. When the children are interested in and motivated in English class, it will bring them easy to understand. One of the solution to increase English ability is through English environment at school. English environment at school offers different strategy to learn English.

REFERENSI

Cameron, L. (2001). *Teaching Language to Young Learners*. UK: Cambridge University Press.

Dinar Martia Azizah, Anesa Surya/ DWIJACENDEKIA. 2017Jurnal Riset Pedagogik 1 (1) (2017) 10-18.

Implementasi pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris SD berbasis budaya di
yogyakarta

Rahmat. 2008. Membangun kultur berbahasa Inggris di sekolah.
<https://gurupembaharu.wordpress.com/2008/05/25/membangun-kultur-berbahasa-inggris-di-sekolah/>

Soviyah, Ratri Nur Hidayati, Arum Priadi. 2018. Implementasi pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris SD berbasis budaya di Yogyakarta. Jurnal Pemberdayaan: Publikasi Hasil Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat Vol. 2, No. 3, Desember 2018, Hal. 487-498. ISSN: 2088 4559; e-ISSN: XXXX-XXXX

Thornbury, S. (2002). *How to teach vocabulary*. Longman Essex.