

THE USE OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES AS THE WAY TO INCREASE STUDENT'S VOCABULARY MASTERY AT SMA TAMANSISWA BINJAI

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Submit, 30-11-2020 Accepted, 10-01-2021 Publish, 22-01-2021

ABSTRACT

The aim of the researcher was to find a technique that could increase the students's vocabulary. To find out whether interactive method by applying crossword puzzle can improve students' vocabulary. The researchers gives the students pretest and post test. The researcher use two cycles in this research. We can see that in the first cycle the number of students who got a score of 75 was 6.6% and in the second cycle the number of students who got a score of 75 was 76.6%. This technique add insight to the student's mastery of the English vocabulary and also it will not make the classes to be boring but also fun.

Keywords: Class Action Research, Vocabulary, Crossword Puzzle.

INTRODUCTION

Language is related to communication, people are using language in their daily life. Everyone in the world usually use the first language or the second language. By language all people, all students can reveal what they want to say. According to the article that can support our research Simamora, et.al (2019) explained that Language is a system of conventional spoken and written symbols by human as members of social group for interaction. English is a foreign language for Indonesian to be taught from elementary school until a lifetime. According to the article that can support our research Oktaviani, et.al (2019) explained that English is a king of the language in the world. Students must be invited to learn English to make it more fun with the games method. Therefore, a fun learning method will increase students' vocabulary to improve their English language. In accordance with the times, the formation of vocabulary also developed. Vocabulary is a factor in the formation of a language system that changes frequently. According to the article that can support our research Ramasari, M. (2017) explained that, almost students in Indonesia, who learnt English as Foreign Language, create their mindset for learning English as a negative stereotype.

Vocabulary is the first basic part in English. The more vocabulary they have learnt the more they increase their English skill not only in vocabulary, but also increase their speaking, reading, listening, and even writing. According to Sabiqoh (2016) states that crossword puzzle is effective teaching tool of terminology, definition, spelling, and pairing key concepts with related name, resulting in greater retention and memorization of facts. Vocabulary is easily understood and learned by children because there are no rules that children need to know like when learning grammar. The fact is that vocabulary mastery is still lacking because their curiosity is still low and they think that learning vocabulary is not interesting and not very important in learning. As explained above shows how important vocabulary is in language learning, we must realize that without our vocabulary cannot communicate, it is difficult to express something and interactions between people will never happen. Therefore vocabulary is one of the important things in language learning today.

In this introduction there are some articles that supported our research. According to the articles we have found that, Vocabulary has an important role in language teaching, because the mastery of vocabulary is very influential in language skills. Vocabulary is the total number of words as people know and use it in their Language activities, a group of words and meaning to communicate with others as a main part of Language. Mastering English is not as easy as taking something for granted. Learners have to go through many steps and parts of learning. One of those parts is learning and mastering the vocabulary in English. One of the language that we can use to communicate is English. The learning of

vocabulary is an important part in foreign language learning. The meanings of new words are very frequently emphasized, whether in books or in verbal communication. Teaching vocabulary at school aims to increase students vocabulary, but it's not easy to teaching vocabulary.

Based on the researcher's experience when researching in junior high school grade 7 obtained the results of interview data that researchers found difficulties in speaking English because they thought that English was confusing. English is followed by grammar so that it makes it difficult for students to speak English due to lack of grammar and vocabulary. What's more, an additional problem by most teachers relies solely on books using the old method of practicing vocabulary by simply reading and translating. So it makes student speak English incorrectly while pronouncing. The aim of teaching vocabulary is to develop students vocabulary so that students can speak, write, hear, and read English effectively.

Some factors which makes some words harder than others are: 1) pronunciation; Research shows that words that are difficult to articulate are more difficult to learn. Words that are considered difficult usually contain sounds that are not clear to certain groups of learners in the teaching, 2) spelling; Voice-spelling bungle will in general be a reason for blunder, either spelling elocution, and can add to word challenges. Words which contained quiet letters was more risky in the learning, 3) length and complexity; Long words doesn't appear to be more hard to learn short ones. Managing complex words additionally will in general be more troublesome than straightforward one., 4) grammar; Besides complicated is the grammar associated with the word. Grammar words are very problematic acts of phrases, 5) meaning; When two words have the same meaning, students will be confused to interpret them. Words that have multiple meanings can also distract students from learning.

Therefore, The teacher must use a fun method in teaching .besides the pleasant nature possessed by a teacher can also provide the effect of closeness between students and teachers. The more students feel close to the teacher, then what is conveyed by the teacher will also be more easily absorbed by them. Various methods can be applied to increase students' vocabulary. The researcher assumes that using crossword strategy is one way of teaching. In using crossword all activities in vocabulary will be done by students. Since it needs to spell the thing accurately to fathom the riddle, understudies will have the option to utilize words effectively, in light of the fact that they associate realities as puzzle hints with words that have to the spelling is known. Students become the main role to solve word problems and make crossword.

So this puzzle is very easy to make so it can be used in all languages, all subjects, and all ages. By making a summary of the words that are natural to students. Based on this statement, the researchers summarize, to help students by building and increasing student motivation to learn vocabulary, students can practice with answers and questions that have been arranged by educators to find the right clues so that we can use a method called crossword puzzle.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary is one of four skills in Language. The main problems students when mastery and learning English lacking in vocabulary. Skills in English including speaking, listening, reading and writing. So students afraid to learn English. Vocabulary is the basis for mastering all English Language Skill. The vocabulary is a unity of letters into words formed by a set of user communities. Sedita (2005) notes that vocabulary knowledge is important because it encompasses all the words that must known to understand ideas, to express ideas, and to communicate effectively In short, vocabulary is a the unity of letters which becomes the world taught in a foreign language. Vocabulary has the tools used to understand and master English. Vocabulary is a major component of improving all skill English. Indeed mastering vocabulary is difficult, not as easy as turning your palm requires a process in mastering vocabulary. This method can be used to improve and explore knowledge and interests students vocabulary.

This method can help students become happy with the language and thus, students' language will increase their enjoyment of the subject. The goal of the method allows students too add vocabulary because students produce vocabulary and meanings of the texts the use. The most common problem is that students have very limited grammar difficulties. When doing puzzle, students are trained to involve in the problem solving. Crossword puzzle will make the students feel fun, enjoy in their learning English. It can encourage students' to participate in their learning English. Based on the researcher's experience when researching in junior high school grade 7 obtained the results of interview data that researchers found difficulties in speaking English because they thought that English was confusing. English is followed by grammar so that it makes it difficult for students to speak English due to lack of grammar and vocabulary.

Indonesian vocabulary is all the words that are in Indonesian as registered in Indonesian dictionaries. How many words there are in Indonesia language can not be mentioned with certainty, because they are part of a language system that is very vulnerable to change and development. Crossword puzzle is a game that makes the learning process in the classroom attractive and fun. This game provides opportunities for students in practicing and repeating vocabulary and stringing a simple sentence pattern. Vocabulary is the oldest known term, a

translation of the Dutch term *woordenschat*. Vocabulary is all words in a language which is the wealth of the language. Franklin et al (2013) states that crossword puzzles game can significant increase students' motivation and students' interest in the topic at hand. Tricia, et al (2009) in their research found that crossword puzzle could influence positively in students' interaction, it pushes up students' interesting to be active in learning process. The main task of developing vocabulary is carried out by the teachers is to help students to see similarities and differences that they have never seen before. The development of vocabulary means more than adding new words to the vocabulary of our experiences.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher used Action Research method. This method began with some questions or question about a class experiences, problems, or problem challenge about vocabulary. This method called as reflective process that can make it easier for teachers to examine the aspects of learning and taking action to change and increase students' interest teaching and learning process. Qualitative data were obtained from observations during research in the learning process in the classroom. Questionnaires, interviews and student diaries are the media used by teachers to analysis the data. Quantitative techniques are used to analyze data from student research results. Then the writer will calculate the average test results. This is used to find out whether there is vocabulary mastery or not.

FINDINGS

Qualitative and quantitative data obtained from the first cycle until the last cycle. When cycle 1, researcher knew that students' vocabulary still low. They did not how to fill in the blank of the crossword puzzle because they did not understand. The mean of the cycle 1 was 62,3. Only six students who get score 75 above. Their grades was still low. In cycle 2, the students can improved their vocabulary and the mean in cycle 2 was 76,3. Only twenty three who get score 75 above.

From in cycle 1 to the cycle 2 were significantly improved. They can use crossword puzzle to improve their vocabulary. The researcher, also know qualitative data to conduct findings and discussions. students had weaknesses in answering the questions in cycle I because some of students are still looking the answer of the questions. students find it easier to learn with crossword puzzles. Based on the results of quantitative data, the researcher discovered the crossword puzzles method had improved the quality of their vocabularies.

Table 1 Student's Vocabulary Scores in Test I, Test II

| No | Initial name | Test 1 | Test 2 |
|----|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | RAA | 60 | 80 |
| 2 | MDP | 60 | 90 |
| 3 | DHPS | 60 | 70 |
| 4 | AWS | 50 | 80 |
| 5 | NA | 70 | 90 |
| 6 | NM | 80 | 100 |
| 7 | CN | 70 | 90 |
| 8 | IRH | 60 | 80 |
| 9 | DT | 60 | 70 |
| 10 | AN | 60 | 70 |
| 11 | TA | 70 | 80 |
| 12 | BP | 60 | 70 |
| 13 | EER | 60 | 80 |
| 14 | RL | 70 | 80 |
| 15 | FT | 80 | 100 |
| 16 | LSR | 60 | 80 |
| 17 | GN | 70 | 90 |
| 18 | WN | 60 | 70 |
| 19 | FE | 70 | 80 |
| 20 | LD | 60 | 70 |
| 21 | G | 70 | 80 |
| 22 | BA | 60 | 90 |
| 23 | MA | 60 | 80 |
| 24 | MIA | 60 | 70 |
| 25 | AFW | 60 | 80 |
| 26 | K | 70 | 80 |
| 27 | DFA | 60 | 100 |
| 28 | RY | 50 | 80 |
| 29 | R | 60 | 90 |
| 30 | P | 60 | 100 |
| | Total | 1890 | 2470 |
| | Mean | 63 | 82,3 |

The vocabulary used in crossword puzzles, there are student scores from Test I and Test II in the table below. the highest mean score was in test 2 among other tests. The students' vocabulary test scores were calculated based on the students' correct answers using crossword puzzles.

DISCUSSION

Based on the study, the researcher found some weaknesses and strengths in applying vocabulary self-collection strategy as a way to improve students' vocabulary mastery. It can be seen that in the first cycle the number of students who got a score of 75 was 6.6% in the second cycle the number of students who got a score of 75 was 76.6%. According to Salawazo et.al (2020) researchers provided the data based on the results of students' ability in vocabulary mastery based on vocabulary comprehension test. Students can pay more attention and focus on researchers well during the learning process, and students also respond to researchers by giving various kinds of questions when researchers provide opportunities for them to ask questions. Based on the result, of data analysis questionnaire, the researchers was found that lack of student interest to learning vocabulary English.

This part convers the discussion English vocabulary through crossword puzzle game. The implementation of crossword puzzle game got positive responses from students in their teaching learning process of vocabulary mastery. This proves that crossword puzzle can help student increase vocabulary

CONCLUSION

When finished what the researcher done in qualitative and quantitative researc, the researcher get some good results. Student scores increased from the first cycle until the second cycle. The observation show that students gave their atitudes, respons and can learn while playing with crossword puzzle. The researcher propose to English teacher that crossword puzzle as a solution when teaching English. This technique add insight to the student's mastery of the English vocabulary and also it will not make the classes to be boring but also fun. In addition, researchers may also be a very profitable source or information for those who are still doing research related to this research.

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