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CRITICAL REVIEW OF TASKS IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOK "WHEN ENGLISH RINGS A BELL"

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Abstract

Textbook plays an important role in English language teaching. Therefore evaluating a textbook is needed. It is interesting to analyse the newest textbook provided by the government due to it is used as a compulsory textbook. This study used a framework proposed by Littlejohn (2011). It is a subjective analysis level. The study focused on three key aspects of tasks; (1) what is the learners expected to do; (2) who are the learners to work with; and (3) what is the content focus for. This was a qualitative content analysis study. The data of the research is "When English Rings A Bell" textbook. It is used on the seventh-grade level. The data was collected using the analysis tasks sheet. The result of the study has shown that the tasks presented were relevant to the requirements regarding Littlejohn's framework. Based on the findings, it suggested that the materials developer should enrich presented ELT materials with various tasks.

Keywords

Textbook, tasks, framework

1 INTRODUCTION

English language teaching has many important components but the significant constituents to the learners in the classroom are the textbooks and teaching materials. According to Richards (2010) as an essential component in most language programs, textbooks sometimes serve as the basis of language input that learners receive and language practice in the classroom. Therefore they are often used by language educators to achieve the goal of language teaching. Textbooks are the guideline for both the teacher and students in language instruction. For that reason, textbooks should provide good tasks for the learners to facilitate them in the learning process. Hence, the various materials and tasks in EFL textbooks are primary to engage the learners in communication and to require the learners to use language. The tasks are used to help language learners in language practice. Morever Rozati (2014) defines a task is a piece of meaning-centered work that makes learners comprehend, produce and communicate in the target language. In addition, Nunan (1989) refers task is a piece of classroom work involving learners in understanding, directing, producing, or interacting in the target language while their attention is on the meaning rather than the form. Thus, tasks have an important role in language teaching and learning process. Not only can be given in the written form but also in the spoken form which will enhance students experience on using the target language.

The various tasks are commonly provided on the textbooks.However, not all EFL textbooks provide good tasks for EFL learners. Good textbooks should help learners feel at ease and attract learners' curiosity, interest and attention. The layout of textbook presentation, tasks, activities, text, and illustrations should be friendly so that they feel comfortable when learning and seeing the textbooks (Tomlinson, 2003). Textbooks should closely reflect the needs of the learners, the aims, methods, and values of the teaching program (Cunningsworth, 1995). Therefore, textbooks evaluation is an effective way which can aid teachers in the selection and adaptation of materials. In addition, he also states that textbook evaluation would involve selection of material examining whether they reflect the ends of the learners, the aims, methods, and values of a specific teaching program. Through the evaluation of a textbook, teachers know the content of the book, its strengths, and weaknesses which will facilitate them to adapt it to suit the course aims, learners' needs, and teacher beliefs. Based on perspective above, it is needed to analyse textbook "When English Rings A Bell". It is substantial because they are the newest EFL Textbooks used in Indonesia and those books are used on a large national scale as compulsory textbooks in public Junior High School. Chambers (1997) states when teaching materials are to be used by a large group of teacher and students it seems sensible for these materials to be evaluated by all or must of those who will be involved in their use. By examining the textbook, the teacher know the content of the textbook, its strengths, and weaknesses.

There are three things should be considered as the key aspects of tasks analysis according to Littlejohn (2011). They are: (1) how; a process through which learners and teacher are to go; (2) how classroom participation concerning with whom the learners are to work; and (3) content that the learners are to focus on. Therefore, this study conducted a critical analysis of the tasks in the textbooks "When English Rings A Bell" proposed by Littlejohn's framework (2011). The objective of writing this article is to find out whether the tasks in EFLTextbook "When English Rings A Bell " has fulfilled good textbooks criteria according to Littlejohn's theory.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The roles of Textbook In The EFL Classroom

Textbooks remain a staple within school curricula worldwide, presenting teachers and students with the official knowledge of school subjects as well as the preferred values, attitudes, skills, and behaviours of experts in those fields (Shannon, 2010). Therefore, textbooks become the main source of learning to EFL classroom. Cortazzi & Jin (1999)mentioned that The textbook can be teachers, a map, a resource, a trainer, an authority and an ideology. Hence textbook can be a major source of cultural elements besides providing linguistics and topical contents. Morever, Hutchinson and Torres in Chaisongkram (2011) claims that textbook is an almost universal element of English language teaching. No teaching-learning situation until it has its relevant textbook. Others theorists, Cunningsworth (1995) identified which textbooks have for serving several additional roles in the ELT curriculum. He argues that they are an effective resource for self-directed learning, an effective resource for presentation material, a source of ideas and activities, reference source for students, a syllabus where they reflect pre-determined learning objectives, and support for less experienced teachers who have yet to gain in confidence.

In addition, (Anshari & Babaii, 2002) supported the roles of a textbook that they have the idea that textbooks are the framework which manages and times the programs and in many situations, textbooks can serve as a syllabus. In the eyes of learners, if there are no textbooks, learners will have no purpose in learning and will not take the lesson seriously, because they are out of focus and teacher-dependent. For a teacher, textbooks mean security, guidance, and support. They provide ready-made teaching texts and learning tasks, and they are a cheap and easier way of providing learning materials. Therefore, textbooks have crucial parts in teaching-learning instruction, they assist the teacher and learners in language practice because they provide the skill, tasks, and activities.

2.2 Tasks for EFL Learning

Task-based learning has been developed over the years and is widely researched, despite the abundant literature on tasks, there are theorists describe in different views of tasks. According to Breen and Candlin in Littlejohn(2011) task refers to any proposal contained within the materials for action to be undertaken by the learners, which has the direct aim of bringing about the learning of the foreign language. Then Skehan in Littlejohn (2011) mentions that tasks are the activities which have meaningful as their primary focus. Success in tasks is evaluated in terms of the achievement of an outcome, and task generally bears some resemblance to real-life language use. Then Nunan in Richards (2002) defines that the communicative task is a piece of classroom work which involve learners to comprehending, manipulating, producing or interacting in the target language while their attention is principally focused on meaning rather than form. He also mentions that tasks will contain some form of data or input (this might be verbal, e.g. a dialog or a reading passage or nonverbal, e. g a picture sequence). The task will also have implicit or explicit a goal and roles for teachers and learners.

Morever, Littlejohn (2011) states communicative tasks is aimed to develop learners' knowledge of foreign language and their ability to use this knowledge in communication. Material plays a role as the input of teaching and learning activity. It refers to anything which is in the form of media, which is provided by books writers and used by the teachers and students as the input in the language learning. The material is a vital part of learning source consisting of tasks and activities, which enable the students to have to participate. Prabhuin Richard (2010) states that a task is an activity which requires learners to arrive at an outcome from given information through some process of thought, and which allows teachers to control and regulate that process.

The role of tasks has received further support from some researchers in second language acquisition (Richard 2003). Engage learners in task work provides a better context for the activation of learning processes than form-focused activities and hence ultimately provides better opportunities for language learning to take place. Language learning is believed to depend on immersing students are not merely in "comprehension input" but in tasks that require them to negotiate to mean and engage in naturalistic and meaningful communication (Long and Crookes in Richards, 2003).

Based on the various definition of tasks, it can be concluded that the tasks are materials for classroom work which contain some of the data used to help the learners to achieve the purpose of learning through meaningful activities. The task is helpful to the learners since it is more learners centred whereas the teacher may provide language forms needed for communication in the pre-task phase, moreover, they are encouraged the students to be engaged in language learning.

2.3 The Characteristics of Tasks

According to Ellis in Tomlinson (2011), there are four criteria of task for English language teaching activity. First, the primary focus should be on meaning. It means that the learners should be concerned with processing both semantic and pragmatic meaning of utterances. Second, there should be some kind of 'gap'. The tasks need to convey information, to express an opinion or to infer meaning. Third, learners should largely have to rely on their own recourses - linguistic and non-linguistic in order to complete the activity. The learners require to use their own linguistic form so the task materials do not dictate what linguistic form are to be used. Fourth, there is clearly defined outcome other than the use of language. It purposes that the language serves as the means for achieving the outcome, not an end in its own right. Morever. He (2003) also identifies six major criteria of tasks. They are scope, perspective form, authenticity, linguistics skills, psychological process, and outcome. Scope refers to a teacher's working plan of the tasks. It stresses pragmatic usage of language than semantic drills. Perspective form focuses on meaning for learners in doing tasks. The authenticity of the tasks emphasizes a connection of the tasks with the students'lives outside of the classroom, linguistics

skills refers that concerns a focus on language form, psychological process means a cognitive process of the learners in doing the tasks, finally output concern a specific product that the learners have produced.

Morever Richard (2003) describes eight characteristics of good tasks. They are first one way or two way, second convergent or divergent, third collaborative or competitive, fourth single or multiple outcomes, fifth concrete or abstract language, sixth simple or complete processing, seventh simple or complete language, eighth reality- based or not reality-based. Each characteristics means that the first tasks involve the exchange of information in one way exchange or two-way exchange, second tasks involve the learners achieve a common goal or several goals, third tasks include the learners collaborate or compete to carry out a task with each other on a task, fourth tasks there is a single outcome or many many different outcomes are possible, fifth tasks require the learners to use of concrete language or abstract language, sixth tasks demand the learners relatively simple or complex cognitive processing, seventh linguistics demands of the tasks are simple or complex, eighth tasks involve the tasks mirrors a real-world activity.

2.4 Types of Textbook Analysis

The use of EFL materials is widespread since textbooks provide EFL teachers with guidelines concerning syllabus, methodologies, and the materials to be taught. Thus the selection of suitable textbooks for a particular context demands a careful investigation. Before analyzing of a textbook, it is primary to conduct a preliminary analysis of the context in which the material is going to be used. According to (McGrath, 2002) analysis is a process which leads to an objective, verifiable description whereas evaluation involves the making of judgment. When a comparison is made between the descriptions of a context with the description of the textbook, evaluation is feasible. Therefore, the analysis of the textbooks should be made by looking at the specific required set of criteria or elements. There are three types of evaluation of teaching materials according to the literature of English Language Teaching(Anjaneyulu, 2014). They are as follows:

a. Pre-use predictive evaluation by (Ellis, 1997; McGrath, 2002; Tomlinson,2003) which involves making decisions about the potential value of materials for their users.

b. In-use or whilst-use evaluation by (McGrath, 2002; Tomlinson,2003) which involves measuring the value of materials while using them or observing them as being used. c. Post use evaluation by (McGrath, 2002; Tomlinson,2003). According to McGrath, measures the actual effect of the materials on the users. As Tomlinson (2003) states post use evaluation can measure the actual outcome of the use, adaptation or replacement of materials can be made.

2.5 Level of Textbook Analysis

Three level of analysis textbooks proposed by Littlejohn in Tomlinson (2011). They are as follows:

a. At the first level of analysis or objective description the focus on the physical aspects of materials and how they appear as a complete set or book.

b. At the second level or subjective analysis the focus of analysis on the actual role of learners in the classroom activities, whether language form or meaning is focused, a form of activities and classroom participation and finally the contents of the tasks. c. The third level or subjective inference examines the implications derived by evaluating the overall aims of the materials, content, tasks selection and sequencing, teacher and learner's roles demands of learners' knowledge, effects skills and abilities and the role of materials as a whole.

2.6 EFL Textbook "When English Rings A Bell"

"When English Rings A Bell" is EFL textbooks for secondary level students. It is written by SitiWachidah, YuliRulaniKhatimah, and Diyantari and published by Ministry of Education. They are as teaching materials in applying the curriculum 2013. Based on the permit dikbud no 71 years 2013 both students' and teachers' textbooks are provided by the government as compulsory foreign language textbooks used in all Junior High School in Indonesia. The books mostly consist of based tasks learning. The tasks are formed through six components according to learning guideline for Junior High School (2016). They are The goal, input, activities, setting, teachers'role, and learner's role.

Furthermore, those textbooks are divided into eleven chapters, each chapter focusses on a particular theme and consists of four integrated skills. The chapter begins with page 'opener' It gives the students the opportunity to predict the chapter will be about. The opener includes pictures, theme and the purpose of learning. The activities of the learners are given through tasks based on the scientific approach of language learning. In addition, there are some steps in scientific learning provided in the textbook. They are observing and questioning, collecting information, associating and communicating.

3 METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether the tasks in the textbooks "When English Rings A Bell" has fulfilled the criteria based on Littlejohn (2011) theory. Therefore, the researcher conducted content analysis study. Content analysis as a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from data to their context (Krippendorff, 1980). There are three levels of analysis of language teaching materials according to Littlejohn's theory. It can be seen in table 1. They are as follows:

The levels of analysis	
1 'What is there'	'objective description'
- Statements of descript	0 1
- The physical aspect of	f the material
- Main steps in the instr	ructional sections
2 'What is required of users	' 'subjective analysis'
- Subdivision into const	tituent tasks
- An analysis os tasks:	what is the learner expected to
do? Who with? With	what content?
3 'What is implied	'subjective inference'
- deducing aims, princip	ples of selection and sequence
- deducing teacher and	learner roles
1 1 1 1 1	1 ,

- deducing demands on learner' process competence

 Table 1 Levels of Analysis of Language Teaching Materials

Level-two analysis was presented in this research. It is subjective analysis. In this level analysis, the tasks are analyzed in term of what is the learners expected to do? who with? and with what content?. Each task was reviewed in three categories based on the questions for the analysis of tasks proposed by Littlejohn's framework (2011). Each of those question has subsection questions. The first question concern to the teaching learning process, it consists of three features; turn take, focus and mental operation. The second question concern to classroom participation, the tasks require learners to work individually, group and whole class. The third question is the content focus, they are input for the learners and output from the learners. They consist of form, source and nature. The data was collected by using analysing tasks sheet. It was taken from the tasks provided in the first semester of the textbooks. The result was presented into the table of each aspect of tasks in the textbooks.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION 4.1 RESULT

a. What are learners expected to do?

As previously mentioned that The first question concerning the process, It contains three subsections. First is turn-take. It is about the scripted response, initiate and not required. Second is Focus about language system, meaning and the relationship of meaning/system/form. The third is mental operation. It refers to the cognitive process.

Table 2 presents a conspicuous features concern to what are the learners expected to do from chapters 1 to 4 in the first semester of the textbook.

The result of task analysis	
Aspect What are the learners expected to do?	Total %
1.1 Turn-take Initiate Script respond Not required 1.2 Focus	1 99
Language system Meaning Meaning/system/form Relation	58 42
1.3 Mental Process Repeat identically Repeat with substitution Repeat with expansion Apply general knowledge Express their own idea Categorize	45 40 4 4 4 3

 Table 2Analysis Tasks
 on EFL Textbook in term of the learning process

The aspect of what is the learners expected to do or the process of learning discourse found that 99% of the tasks required the learners to take scripted response, then 42 % of tasks required the learners to focus on language system, 58 % of tasks expected the learners to focus on meaning, then 45 % of tasks required the learners to repeat identically, and 40 % of tasks required the learners to repeat with substitution and 15 % tasks required the learners to do various tasks such as apply general knowledge, express their own ideas, and asked the learners to categorize.

b. Who with?

The second question concerns the classroom participation of the learners in doing the tasks. They work tasks individually, in pairs/groups or with the whole class.

The analysis result	
Classroom participation	%

Individual	36
Group works	44
Teacher and learners	20

Table 3 Analysis tasks on ELF Textbook In Term ofclassroom participation

For the distribution of classroom setting, table 2 indicated that that 44% of tasks expected the learners to work the tasks in group works, 36% of tasks expected the learners to work the tasks in individually, and 20% of tasks are asked the teacher to select learners to work the tasks.

3. With what content?

The third question asks about the content focus. It is about the learners' input and the learners' output.

The result of task analysis			
Input for learners	Input %	Output	%
Form	-	-	
a. Words/phrases/sentences in	45	40	
written	10	45	
b. Words/phrases/sentences in oralc. Extended oral discourse	40	45	
d. Extended written discourse	15	-	
	-	15	
Source			
a. Textbook			
b. Teacher	60	60	
c. Learner	5	5	
	20	20	
d. Outside course			
	15	15	
Nature			
a. Non-fiction			
b. Fiction	55	55	
c. Song	35	35	
-	10	10	

 Table 4 Analysis Tasks of EFL Textbook In Term of Content Focus

In the aspect of content focus in term of input for the learners, it is found that 45% of tasks are in form of words/phrases/sentences in written, 40% of tasks are in form of words/phrases/sentences in oral and 15% of tasks are found in form of written extended discourse, moreover the sources of the input described that 60% of tasks expected the learner to use the textbook as the main source than 5% the teacher contribute to give the materials, 20% of the learners as the source in learning, and 15% is the materials from the outside course. In the nature of materials, 55% materials are non-fiction, 35% is fictions and 10% song.

In the aspect of content focus in term of output from the learners, it is identified that 40% of tasks are in the written form of words/phrases/sentences, 45% of tasks are in the oral form of words/phrases/sentences, 15% of tasks are in the oral extended discourse. Moreover, the source from the textbooks shown that 60%, 5% of their teacher, 20% from the learners and 15% from the outside course. The nature of output from the learners indicated 55% is non-fiction, 45% is fiction and 5% is the other nature.

4.2 DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher analyzed the tasks in the textbook"When English Rings A Bell" as a currently compulsary textbook used for the seventh level of Secondary School.The purpose of the study was to identify the tasks whether they have fulfilled the criteria proposed by

Littlejohn's framework (2011) or not. In analyzing the tasks in the textbook, it used three aspects of material analysis as the subjective analysis level. The questions for analyzing tasks are used as the guidance in analyzing the tasks. The result indicated that what are the learners expected to do? It concerns to the teaching-learning process that contains three subsections which allow us to focus in detail on what precisely learners are expected to do.

First, turn-take feature relates to the learners' discourse role and discourse control. This feature consists of the initiate, script response and not required. The result of the study shown that most of the tasks were required that the learners produce the scripted response, it meant that the tasks expected that the learners produce the response by using language largely supplied by the materials on the textbook. For example, comprehension questions or drills. Then it was fewer tasks require the learners to initiate during the course. It meant that the tasks asked the learners to 'initiate' using language not supplied (e.g. Free discussion, debate, free writing, asking their own questions). Moreover, Not required tasks are not available in the textbook. Not required meant that the tasks asked the learners are not expected to initiate or respond. They are not required to take any direction interactive role at all (e.g. the learners listen to a grammar explanation).

Second, focus feature refers to whether the learners are asked to attend to the meaning of the language, where the learners are to concentrate their attention, it concerns to language system which focuses on rules or patterns, meaning, which focus on the message of the language being used. The finding identified that most of the tasks required the learners should attend the language system, then the meaning. Third, mental operation feature, it refers to the cognitive process, the learners interact with and engage the material which a thought process takes place. (e.g repetition, deducing language rules or broader processes such as negotiating and so on). The finding showed that most tasks require the learners to repeat identically dan repeat with substitution and few tasks ask the learners to do others cognitive process in the course such as apply general knowledge, categorize and express their own ideas. The result indicated that in the learning discourse, the learners' role is scripted response. The learners are drilled based on the tasks provided in the textbook. They should concentrate in the language system, and meaning and the cognitive process of the learners in doing the tasks provided, they are required to repeat the tasks identically, after that they are practiced to repeat with substitution, and there are some others which expected the learners to give their general knowledge and their ideas.

The result of Who with? The question asks about classroom participation: who are the learners to work with. They work in groups/pairs, individual or the whole class. The finding has shown that most tasks required the learners to do the tasks in the group, then more the tasks require the learners to do the tasks in individual work, and then the least, the tasks require the teacher help the learners in conducting the tasks. Findings show that the tasks in the textbook are mostly 'learners centered'

The result of With what content? The question asks about the nature of the content of the input and of the learners' output: is it written or spoken? Is it individual words/sentences/ or extended discourse? then, where does it come from? the

materials, teacher, or learners themselves. Then what is its nature - is it grammar explanation, personal information, fiction, non-fiction, general knowledge and so on. The finding indicated that the inputs for the learners most in words/phrases/sentences in written form, then more in words/phrases/sentences in the form of oral, few input in the written extended discourse. Most source of the tasks come from the materials from the textbook, then some materials come from the learners, and some materials come from outside the course and fewer tasks come from the teacher. The nature of the tasks, it is found that most of them are nonfiction, then more tasks are fiction and few tasks are songs. The result of output from the learners, the finding indicated that most in form of words /phrases/ sentences in oral tasks. then more in form of words /phrases/sentences in written form, few outputs from learners are in form of oral extended discourse. Then the source of output from learners found that most are from the textbook, more are from the learners, some from the outside course and few sources is from the teacher. The nature of the tasks. it is found that most of them are non-fiction, then more tasks are fiction and few tasks are songs. It is summarized that the content of tasks in the textbooks show most tasks in form words/phrases/sentences and in writing, the most source of tasks supplied by the materials in the textbook, and most types of contents are nonfiction.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The study focuses on the analysis of tasks in the textbook "When English Ring A Bell" revised 2017, as a compulsory textbook used in the government school in Junior High School. It was identified that the tasks in the textbook have fulfilled the criteria of textbook based on the Littlejohns' framework.However, in each aspect of tasks, there are strengths and weaknesses of the tasks in the textbook. It is found that in the teaching-learning process, the tasks are more to scripted response, so the learners asked to practice based on the tasks given, they do not try to explore their ideas, and the learners are not expected to initiate their ideas. Then the focus on learning is a balance, there is language system, meaning and form, therefore, it reflects learning the language as communication, moreover, the learners learn language through drills by repeating identically and repeating with substitution in the cognitive process. In a classroom setting, the tasks required the learners to learn cooperatively, and individually. In the content focus, the input obviously, in words/phrases and sentences in written form and source of the materials are most presented in the textbook, and the nature of the materials are balanced non-fiction and fiction. Furthermore, the output from the learners, it is in words/phrases and sentences in oral form, the source is most presented in the textbook and the nature of output are balanced non-fiction and fiction. As a critical review that this textbook needs various tasks to be presented in the textbooks.

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