

ENGLISH LEARNING MEDIA AT SMP NEGERI 8 PALOPO

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Abstract

This paper describes the performance and the weaknesses of the English learning media created by student of English Education Study Program and applied at SMP Negeri 8 Palopo. This English learning media can improve the students' vocabulary and the teacher and students of SMP Negeri 8 Palopo give positive response toward this English learning media but still there are many suggestions to the author. So, after analyzing this media, it is found that the performance of this media have weaknesses such as: the material, exercise, pronunciation, and picture.

Keywords: English learning media, vocabulary, the weaknesses.

Abstrak

Tulisan ini menjelaskan hasil unjuk kerja serta kelemahan pada media pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang diterapkan pada SMP Negeri 8 Palopo. Media pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris ini dapat meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata siswa. Selain itu, para guru dan siswa merespon secara positif penggunaan media tersebut. Setelah dianalisis, media pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang digunakan masih memiliki beberapa kelemahan, diantaranya: isi materi, kegiatan latihan, kegiatan *pronunciation*, dan gambar yang tersedia.

Kata kunci: media pembelajaran, Bahasa Inggris, kosakata

Introduction

According to Saputra (2013:4) on his journal stated that Macromedia Flash Professional 8 (Macromedia Flash Player 8) is a program to create animated and professional web applications. Not only that Macromedia Flash 8 is also widely used to make up games, cartoon animation, and applications such as interactive multimedia product demos and interactive tutorials. Macromedia Flash is combination of learning concept with the audiovisual technology capable of generating new features that can be used in education.

In order to support all aspects in foreign language, especially in English skills (listening, speaking, writing, and reading), the students need something to

do. One of them is understand the meaning of words. The words mean vocabulary. Vocabulary is one aspect of language which is important in learning language because vocabularies carry meaning which is used in communication. It means vocabulary is essential thing that has to be learnt by the students in order to master English well.

Aryani (2015) created an English learning media by using Macromedia Flash Professional 8 (Macromedia Flash Player 8) in providing learning materials for teaching English vocabulary at SMPN 8 Palopo. She applied this media in teaching English vocabulary. As a result, she found that the use of learning media which is designed by macromedia flash professional 8 in teaching English vocabulary is effective for the students at the eighth grade students at SMPN 8 Palopo. It is proven by there is a significant difference between the students' mean score in pretest and posttest. In pretest, students' mean score is 35 and the students' mean score in posttest is 83. Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the following problems:

1. To what extent does the media support the teacher's need in teaching vocabulary
2. What are the weakness of the English learning media in teaching English vocabulary at SMPN 8 Palopo?

Review of Related Literature

Use of Technology in Teaching English

In Madhavaiah (2013:4) explained that as the use of English has increased in popularity so has the need for qualified teachers to instruct students in the language. It is true that there are teachers who use 'cutting edge' technology, but the majority of teachers still teach in the traditional manner. None of these traditional manners are bad or damaging the students. In fact, till date they are proving to be useful also. However, there are many more opportunities for students to gain confidence practice and extend themselves, especially for ESL students who learn the language for more than just fun. For them to keep pace with ELT and gain more confidence they have to stride into the world of multimedia technology.

The Growth of ELT through Technology

In Madhavaiah (2013:4) explained that at 21st century is the age of globalization and is important to grasp on various foreign languages and English language comes first. English Language Teaching has been with us for many years and its significance continues to grow, fuelled, partially by the Internet. Graddol's study (2000) suggests that in the year 2000 there were about a billion English learners- but a decade later the numbers doubled. The forecast points to a surge in English learning, which has peaked in 2010. The same study indicates that over 80% of information stored on the internet is in English. For the first time there are more Non-Native than Native users of the language and diversity of context in terms of learners, age, nationality, learning background etcetera has become a defining characteristic of ELT today. With the rapid development of science and technology, the emerging and developing of multimedia technology and its application to teaching, featuring audio, visual, animation effects comes into full play in English class teaching and sets a favorable platform for reform and exploration on English teaching model in the new era. It's proved that multimedia technology plays a positive role in promoting activities and initiatives of student and teaching effect in English class.

Technological innovations have gone hand in hand with the growth of English and are changing the way in which we communicate. It is fair to assert that the growth of the internet has facilitated the growth of the English language and that this has occurred at a time when computers are no longer the exclusive domains of the dedicated few, but rather available to many. With this there has been a very significant proliferation of literature regarding the use of technology in teaching English language. Mostly these writings unequivocally accept technology as the most essential part in teaching. In a sense, a tendency to emphasize on inevitable role of technology in pedagogy to the extent of obliterating human part of teacher by technology part has been very dominant. And as a result if we neglect or ignore technological developments, they will continue and perhaps we will never be able to catch up, irrespective of our discipline or branch. For this reason, it is important for language teachers to be

aware of the latest and best equipment and to have a full knowledge of what is available in any given situation.

Teachers can use Multimedia Technology to give more colorful, stimulating lectures. There are many techniques applicable in various degrees to language learning situation. Some are useful for testing and distance education, and some for teaching business English, spoken English, reading, listening or interpreting. The teaching principle should be to appreciate new technologies in the areas and functions where they provide something decisively new useful and never let machines take over the role of the teacher or limit functions where more traditional ways are superior. There are various reasons why all language learners and teachers must know how to make use of the new technology.

Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary supports all of the English skills. It should not be neglected by anyone who learns a language. Then, knowing words is the key for understanding and being understood.

Hornby (1974) stated that vocabulary is the total numbers of words of language, which are learned so thoroughly that they become a part of child understanding, speaking, reading, and letter writing. Then, Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008:495) defined as:

- a. All the words that a person knows or uses
- b. All the words in a language
- c. List of the words with their meaning.

Burn (1975:295) explained that vocabulary is stocks of words used by person, class or profession. Vocabulary is the main part in sentences, very important to be mastered. We cannot organize or deliver our idea in sentence without words. McCarthy (1990: viii) also stated that it is the experience of most language teachers that the single, biggest component of any language course is vocabulary. It means that vocabulary is the first priority in learning English.

The Importance of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is crucial for getting meaning from a written or oral text and the very basic knowledge to study language. It plays important roles to support other language skills. In every lesson, teacher has to introduce new words and ask

the students to practice them, making clear the meanings and the ways in which each can be used. Vocabulary is the first step to be taught before teaching other aspects of language, it means that vocabulary has important role in English teaching including reading, speaking, listening, and writing.

Nation (1990:p.6) said that if a learner has sufficient vocabulary then another component is easy. It means that vocabulary knowledge is only one component of language skills, but vocabulary knowledge enables to improve the language use. Besides that, McCharty (1990: viii) stated that the importance of vocabulary in language learning is as follows: “no matter how successfully sounds of L2 are mastered, without words to express a wider range of meanings, communication in an L2 just cannot happen in any meaningful way. According to Burns and Broman (1975: 295), the position of an individual in society may be determined by the extent of his knowledge of words and how to use them in manner appropriate to a particular place, time, and situation.

Wilkins (1972:111) stated that without grammar very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It has to be realized that the student’s ability to read, to write, to listen, and to speak is conditioned by their vocabulary. In reading ability, vocabulary helps learners in comprehending the text. In writing, it helps them to expand their ideas based on the topic sentence that they want. In listening, they comprehend and understand what other person speaks. In speaking ability, vocabulary facilitates the learners to explain their ideas orally. In addition, Coady & Huckin (1997:5) argued that vocabulary is central and critical importance to typical language learner. It makes vocabulary becomes the basic element to master the four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Without having adequate vocabulary, a language learner will not be able to master the language skills.

There are some reasons why vocabulary is taught as proposed by Nation (1990:2). The reasons are because of: (1) the considerable research about vocabulary informing that vocabulary related to useful words can give the learners useful skill, especially speaking; (2) the small vocabulary of the learners; (3) the importance of vocabulary in language learning. The learners feel that many of

their difficulties in receptive and productive language use are the result of an inadequate vocabulary.

From the explanations above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is very important in language learning to support other language skills. The skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Research Design

In this research, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative design. She conducted her research on 18th June 2015 at SMPN 8 Palopo. She analyzed the documentation from her student such as: English learning media created by Aryani Mulkar and English Textbook used by the English Teacher at SMPN 8 Palopo.

There are two steps of procedure in collecting data. Firstly, the researcher observes the performance of the English Learning media. Secondly, the researcher tabulates the percentage of the vocabulary need based on the English Text book used by the teacher at SMPN 8 Palopo. Also, the researcher tabulates the target vocabulary based on the text book used by the teacher at SMPN 8 Palopo.

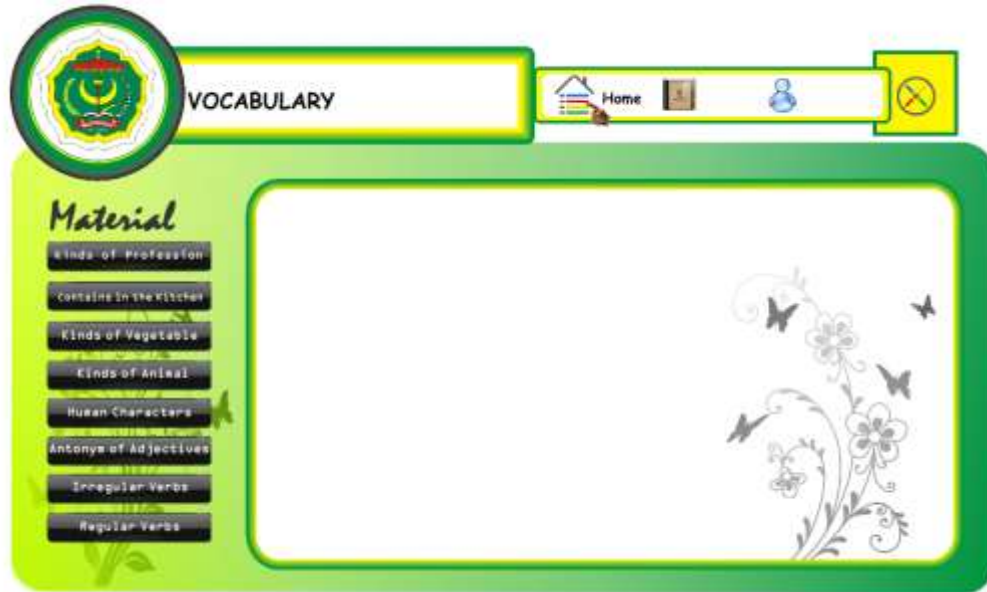
Findings and Discussion

The Performance of English Learning Media

The opening of this English learning media provides start button to begin the class and X button to stop the class. The students will be attracted by the sound of this opening performance.



Picture 1: The layout of opening performance



Picture 2: The layout of list of material

The above picture shows us the performance of 8 English learning materials. Those are:

1. Kinds of Profession
2. Contains in the kitchen
3. Kinds of vegetables
4. Kinds of Animal
5. Human Characters
6. Antonym of Adjectives
7. Irregular Verbs
8. Regular Verbs

Every single vocabulary is presented into 2 languages, Indonesia and English completed by picture and sound the pronunciation.



Picture 3: The layout of vocabulary related to Profession theme



Picture 4: The layout of vocabulary related to Kitchen theme



Picture 5: The layout of vocabulary related to Vegetables theme



Picture 6: The layout of vocabulary related to Animals theme



Picture 7: The layout of vocabulary related to Human Character theme



Picture 8: The layout of vocabulary related to Irregular verb



Picture 9: The layout of vocabulary related to Regular verb

The weakness of the media based on the teachers' need the following media:

1. Material.

- a. It does not provide exercises related to every kinds of material.
- b. Monotonous;
- c. The material only consists of 3 parts of speech, such as noun, verb, and adjectives.
- d. The material of regular verb does not provide the change of verb (add – s/es for 3rd person).

2. Picture

Some of the represented picture is not equivalence of the vocabulary.

3. Pronunciation

It does not provides the phonetic transcription

Conclusion

The English learning media provides three parts of speech, those are: Noun, adjective, and verb. Every single vocabulary is completed with picture and soun of pronunciation. However, there are some weakness of this media. The materials do not cover all of parts of speech. No exercises for the students. It does not provide phonetic transcription.

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