IMPROVING STUDENTS VOCABULARY MASTERY BY USING FLASHCARD

(Experiment Research at Second Grade of Junior High School)

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Abstract

The aims of this study was to determine whether the use of flashcard media can help improve vocabulary mastery of 8th grade students of SMP N 2 Cijambe. The design of this research is experimental research. The sample of this study involved 8th grade students who were divided into two classes 8A with 31 students and 8B with 30 students, with an experimental class of 8A and a non-experimental class of 8B. The data of this study were obtained from two tests, pretest and post-test.

Keywords: Flashcard, Vocabulary

INTRODUCTION

Language has an important role and a tremendous influence on life. With language, humans can express everything that is implied in themselves to be able to interact with other humans. In essence, language is a means of communication both orally and in writing. Communicating means understanding, obtaining and disclosing information in everyday life. Communication will be well established because of the language that allows humans to understand each other with the message to be conveyed. In addition, language is also one of the identities of a nation, because of the diversity of languages that exist in the world.

Language is introduced and taught from childhood by parents. In addition, environmental factors will affect a person's language skills. Language is also introduced and taught in schools which is useful so that someone is able to express ideas, thoughts and messages in written or oral form. It is also useful to improve the ability to get information in a responsive and careful manner in communicating.

In addition to studying the mother tongue and national language, the Government of Indonesia also makes policies regarding foreign language learning which is a subject in schools. English is a foreign language that is learned and is a compulsory subject in schools at the junior high, high school and college levels. English is designated as the first foreign language in the

Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 096/1967. English was chosen as the first foreign language in Indonesia among other foreign languages based on several considerations that Indonesian cannot be used as a means of communication with the outside world.

English is a universal language, therefore English is very important to master. English is also one of the plus points for someone in getting a job. By having the ability to speak English, is one opportunity to get a qualified job. Realizing the importance of the role of English in life, learning English must be applied as early as possible in schools and is expected to be able to shape the character of children who are ready to compete in the international arena.

English is integrated with four skills, namely reading, writing, speaking and listening. To support these four skills, students need to master vocabulary. One of the most important aspects of learning a new language is expanding vocabulary knowledge. Extensive vocabulary knowledge makes you understandable, which is especially important if you are in a position where you need to communicate quickly.

Lists of vocabulary or term groups with their definitions can be found in books and dictionaries. Vocabulary is an important factor and a fundamental feature of learning English that must be mastered thoroughly. Students can learn English quickly if they master the vocabulary. When children learn English, it has a significant impact on all of their skills. Therefore, students can communicate effectively.

Flashcards are picture cards with words. This flashcard was introduced by Glenn Doman, a brain surgeon from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Flashcards contain a collection of cards that contain information, such as words or numbers, an image on one or both sides. This card is usually used as a student exercise. Generally a card with a question on one side, an answer on the other. According to Susilana and Riyana (2009: 95), "Flashcards are learning media in the form of picture cards measuring 25 x 30 cm. The pictures are made by hand or photos, or take advantage of existing pictures or photos that are pasted on the sheets. flashcards." This allows students to learn in a fun and memorable way.

Based on observations of the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Cijambe, their difficulty in learning English lies in their mastery of vocabulary. This is due to the absence of learning English in elementary school. The majority of students have difficulty participating in learning English because of their lack of vocabulary mastery, such as difficulty in understanding words, difficulty in pronouncing these words correctly and quickly.

Based on the foregoing, it is clear that flashcards have numerous advantages when employed in the teaching and learning process. Flashcards have a lot of power when it comes to motivating and simulating kids. Meanwhile, flashcards are a simple media that can assist students and teachers in the learning process, particularly when teaching primary school pupils. When a teacher wants to teach, he can use it at any moment and in any situation.

A. Conceptual Description

1. Flashcard

Glenn Doman, a brain surgeon from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, invented flash cards or Education Cards, which are graphic cards with words. The images on the flash cards are divided into categories, such as animal series, fruits, clothing, colors, forms, numerals, and so on. The Learning Cards are played by presenting them to youngsters and reading them out loud fast (1 second each Child Card).

Flashcard is one of the learning media in the form of pictures and writing on one side. This media can contain anything such as vocabulary, formulas or anything. This flashcard is used as a learning exercise in memorizing. Flashcards can also be used as a fun question and answer subject. According to Piaget (1963: 35), children's way of thinking develops through direct involvement with objects and the environment around them. And all children are active learners. Therefore, to help children learn vocabulary, we should prepare easy and fun teaching media.

According to Susilana & Riyana said that flashcards are media learning in the form of cards 25 x picture 30 cm (2009, p. 94). Windura (2010, p.138) says that, "flashcard is a card very powerful back and forth used to remember and review in process study". Meanwhile, flash cards, according to Azhar Arsyad (2011: 120-121), are cards with pictures (things, animals, and so on) that may be used to teach children to spell and expand their vocabulary. According to the researcher, a flashcard is a picture card with a photo or image on the front page and a vocabulary description based on the image on the front page, as well as a description of how to read it.

In this study, the authors consider the use of flashcards as a learning medium due to the advantages it has according to Susilana, and Riyana (2009: 95), including:

(1) with its small size, flashcards are easy to carry and use whenever and wherever. The flashcard is only pocket-sized so it doesn't take up a lot of space.

(2) very practical, teachers do not have to have special abilities in using flashcards. The presentation of these short messages will make it easier for students to remember. especially the combination of images and text.

(3) easy to remember seen from the characteristics, flashcards contain short messages on each card presented.

(4) the use of flashcards is very fun because it can be used as a medium for learning while playing.

From some of the descriptions above, it can be concluded that flashcards are easy, practical and fun media as learning media.

Flashcards are an ancient method to improve one's ability to remember information and understand concepts. Flashcards are very helpful in the learning process. Flashcards can be your best friend and favorite study tool. When used properly, flashcards make all kinds of information that enters the brain easier to store and remember.

Below will be described about the steps make flashcards that can used as a reference. according to Susilana & Riyana (2009, p. 95-96) steps in make flashcards, as following:

(1) Prepare a rather thick paper such as duplex paper

(2) the papers are then measured with the same size 25X30 cm.

(3) Cut the duplex paper and make it with the number of images to be pasted or the material to be conveyed.

(4) If the image object is created directly by hand, then the paper is necessary coated with fine paper to draw, for example HVS paper, concort paper or cardboard

(5) draw using drawing tools such as brushes, watercolors, markers, colored pencils, or create a design using a computer of the appropriate size and then paste it on the base when finished.

(6) If you use existing pictures, such as pictures sold in stores or at the market, then the pictures are cut to size, then pasted using adhesive or paper glue.

(7) The last is to write on the cards according to the name of the object in front of them. Usually written in several languages, such as Indonesian and English.

2. Media

The plural version of the word "medium" is "media," which originates from the Latin word "medius," which meaning "middle." While the word "medium" can be understood as "between" or "medium" in Indonesian, the concept of media can refer to something that transmits or forwards "message" information between the "messenger's" source and the "message's" recipient. Media can be thought of as a type and channel of communication that can be used to present information.

Schamm argues that media is a technology that carries information or instructional messages that can be manipulated, seen, heard and read. while according to Djamarah, (1995: 136) Media is any tool that can be used as a channel for messages to achieve learning objectives.

The word media comes from the Latin medius which literally means middle" , intermediary", or introduction. Media is a tool used for communication to convey a message or information from one source to another (soeparno, 1990:81).
Arsyad and friends (2002) said that media is the "plural form of the word medium" which is a word that comes from the katuin medius language, which literally means "middle" "intermediary" or "introduction". Therefore, the media can be interpreted as an intermediary or an introductory message from the sender to the recipient of the message. Media can be in the form of "software" materials and/or "hardware" tools.

From several definitions of media according to experts, it can be concluded that the media is a means of conveying messages in any form that can support the achievement of education. Stimulus forms can be used as media, including:
human relationships or interactions, reality, moving images or not, writing and sound which is recorded. Media with these five stimulus forms will help learners studying learning materials or it can be concluded that the forms of which is used as a learning medium is sound, see with movement.

3. Type of Media

According to Feldman T (1977), there are many different types of media:

a. Visual Media

Visual media is a medium that can be seen, read and touched. This media relies on the sense of sight and touch.

Examples of media are photos, pictures, books, miniatures, and so on.

b. Audio Media

Audio media is a media that can only be heard by using the sense of the ear as a channel. Examples such as sound, music and songs, radio, type recorder.

c. Audio-visual Media

Audio-visual media is media that can be heard and can also be seen together. Examples are drama, staging, film, vcd/dvd media. The internet is also included in the form of audio-visual media, but it is more complete and also unites all types of media formats, also called Multimedia because various formats are available on the internet.

4. Definition of Vocabulary

A vocabulary list or group of terms with their definitions is found in books and dictionaries. Vocabulary is an important factor and a fundamental feature of learning English that should be thoroughly mastered. Students may learn English quickly if they mastered vocabulary. When kids learn English, it has a significant impact on all of their skills. Because they had a large vocabulary, the students were able to talk fluently.

in Achril Zalmansyah's journal, The term vocabulary (vocabulary) is a collection of several words that are combined, so that they have meaning or meaning. Vocabulary cannot be separated from the four language skills, reading, writing, listening, and speaking (Hornby: 1984: 959). Further said by Charles D. Fries (1945: 959) that vocabulary is an important part in foreign language learning, where students are required to master word for word so as to enable the increase of students' vocabulary.

According to Juhendi (2011: 4) in his research said that "vocabulary is a vital aspect in language, because it appears in every skill of language including listening, speaking, reading and writing skills

5. Type of Vocabulary.

The types of vocabulary can be categorized based on spoken and written vocabulary. Children first learn vocabulary from listening and speaking, before they can write and read. Each type of vocabulary has a different meaning and purpose. however, the development of one type of vocabulary facilitates another.

a. Listening Vocabulary

Listening vocabulary consists of words that we understand through hearing. The fetus in the womb may begin to recognize some words when the mother speaks to it. after birth Learning new words is an ongoing process, and by the time you reach adulthood, nearly fifty thousand words are understood and recognized.

b. Speaking Vocabulary

The speaking vocabulary consists of the words we speak. Vocabulary It has about 5000 to 10,000 words. It is used to give instructions and conversation. The number of words in speaking vocabulary is relatively less than listening vocabulary.

c. Reading Vocabulary

The main thing in building vocabulary is reading. Reading can grow and develop the vocabulary mastered. The words learned while reading a text are called reading vocabulary. it allows us to understand words through reading vocabulary even though we don't use them in speaking vocabulary.

d. Writing Vocabulary

The words that we express when we express ourselves into writing are called writing vocabulary. Writing vocabulary is usually influenced by the words we can spell. it is easier to express oneself verbally, through facial expressions, or intonation, than to write vocabulary, as this depends on skill in vocabulary.

e. Final Vocabulary

The term 'Final Vocabulary' was coined by Richard Rorty. It is a set of words used by each individual to justify their acts, beliefs, and lives. The final vocabulary includes words used to praise, insult, express deep thoughts, hopes, and uncertainties, among other things.

B. Hypothesis

The subject of this study was conducted on 8th grade students of SMP N 2 Cijambe which was divided into 2 classes, namely class 8A consisting of 31 students as the experimental class, while class 8B consisting of 30 students as the control class.

This study was chosen at this school because there has been no research conducted before and it is assumed that students can show significant changes in vocabulary mastery using flashcard media.

The writer hopes that this research can help students in learning to improve their mastery of English vocabulary.

METHODS

The research method used in this research is the experimental method. according to Moore (1993), experimenting means actively changing the variable X and observing the response of the variable Y. The experimental method is one of the research methods used to test hypotheses regarding cause-and-effect relationships. This research is the most valid approach as a solution to educational problems, both practically and theoretically, as a science in the advancement of education (Gay, 1992). The experimental method according to Mulyani Sumantri and Johar permana (1999: 157), is defined as a way of teaching and learning that involves students by experiencing and proving the process and results themselves the experiment.

Meanwhile, according to Syaiful Bahri Djamarah and Azwan Zain (2010: 84), said that the experimental method is a way of presentation in which students You can experiment by experiencing and proving yourself something he learned. based on some understanding of the experimental method above, the author concludes that the experimental research method is one method that is carried out in practice to find out changes in something in achieving learning objectives carried out at SMP N 2 Cijambe. This research is a quantitative research with experimental method.

Sugiyono (2009: 14) explains that the quantitative method is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, which is used to examine certain populations or samples, which are generally taken randomly, and data are collected using research instruments, then analyzed quantitatively/statistically. with the aim of testing the established hypothesis. Meanwhile, Arikunto (2006:12) suggests that quantitative research is a research approach that uses many numbers, starting from collecting data, interpreting the data obtained, and presenting the results.

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