

Socialization of the Importance of Building English Skills for Elementary School Children at SD Negeri 122395 Pematang Siantar

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ABSTRACT

Background. The results of observing the abilities of students at this school, it can be seen that grade 5 students at SD Negeri 122395 Pematangsiantar have the basic skills to master the use of English well.

Purpose. This study aimed to investigate the importance of giving socialization to the students about basic skills that the students need to acquire in learning English well.

Method. This ability can be seen from the speed of students in understanding and responding to learning that has been socialized. Grade 5 students of SD Negeri 122395 Pematangsiantar consisting of 20 students are the subject of this observation. This socialization was conducted at SD Negeri 122395 Pematang Siantar. Three phases were implemented such as preparation, implementation and evaluation.

Results. The results showed that importance of building English skills starts from elementary school. Interesting learning methods can also build student activity and skills in the learning process that takes place in the classroom.

Conclusion. This is also based on the communication skills that students get in the learning process, not only limited to knowledge, students will be motivated and feel that what they have learned will be useful and used in the future..

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KEYWORDS

Basic Skills, English, Learning Method, Socialization

INTRODUCTION

English is the main language in most countries in the world, English is a universal language or is called an international language (Martina dkk., 2021; Oh dkk., 2023). Also, one of the most important languages to be learned or mastered by all people in the world. Many countries, especially former British colonies, consider English a second language that must be learned after the national language (Enríquez Raído & Cai, 2023; Hoque dkk., 2023; Tarp, 2021). In this increasingly advanced era of globalization, proficiency in English is an undeniable necessity. English has become an international language that is widely used in various sectors, including business communications, international trade, technology, education and tourism (Sohn dkk., 2023). Therefore, it is important for students in schools to have strong English skills in order to communicate effectively and successfully in an increasingly connected world.

In Indonesia, the government and education system have recognized the importance of building English skills from an early age (Crăciun & Bunoiu, 2019; Fung dkk., 2023). The need for a workforce proficient in English is increasing along with the economic and industrial development in the country. In addition, success in facing global competition is also very dependent on good English skills (Pamuji & Limei, 2023). In Indonesia, English is introduced as one of the subjects in schools since the elementary education level. However, the acquisition of English language skills at school is often still limited to a basic understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and limited practice in speaking and writing (Jones, 2023; Stauss dkk., 2021). This creates a challenge for students in mastering English comprehensively and being able to use it in real-life contexts.

In facing this challenge, it is important for schools to build students' English skills with a holistic and contextual approach. The development of effective English skills involves a combination of good grammar and vocabulary, deep understanding of English language culture, fluent listening and speaking skills, and good writing skills (Al Awabdeh & Albashtawi, 2023; Faubl dkk., 2021). In addition, the application of innovative and interactive teaching methods is also needed to encourage student motivation and participation in learning English. Methods such as language games, group discussions, real-life simulations, and the use of technology can help students become actively involved and improve their ability to speak English. Apart from in the classroom, the widespread use of English in the school environment can also be an effective means of strengthening students' English skills (Deignan & Morton, 2022; Kildè, 2022). Extracurricular activities such as English clubs, debates, plays or student exchanges with schools abroad can provide practical opportunities for students to use English in real situations.

In order to build strong English skills in schools, it is also important to involve professional and well-trained teachers. A qualified English teacher can provide appropriate guidance, foster students' interest in learning English, and expose them to diverse resources, such as English literature, film and music (Blake dkk., 2019; Räisänen, 2020; "Video Component of Media Education in Direct and Reverse Acculturation at North Carolina State University and Texas Christian University," 2021). As such, building English skills in schools is an important step in supporting students' personal development and preparing them for an increasingly globally connected world. Through a holistic, innovative and interactive approach. There are many strategies for learning English that can no doubt arouse students' interest in the subject. For English teachers at SD/MI, this creates difficulties (Fadiyah dkk., 2023; Fiqih dkk., 2023; Ranal dkk., 2023). In order for students to participate actively in the learning process, teachers must continue to innovate.

Under 8% of Indonesians are proficient in using English accurately and precisely, which is still a relatively low percentage. Despite the fact that Indonesia has the potential to communicate effectively with this global language, English has helped this nation become more globally known (Auliani dkk., 2023; Mustafiyanti dkk., 2023; Wanti dkk., 2023). In addition, although this is not true, there is still an opinion that Indonesians who speak English are not considered nationalists. Because Indonesia is still developing, it must follow the rest of the world, making English a global language

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted so that students are more active in conveying or re-applying information that has been conveyed to them by the teacher, the role playing method emphasizes learning skills while playing can make students more creative, enthusiastic, and interested in the learning process (Silitonga et al., 2022). This technique is very much in demand by students because a game will make learning interesting. Games will foster enthusiasm and a sense of togetherness through fun learning.

There are several procedures carried out in carrying out this socialization activity as shown below:

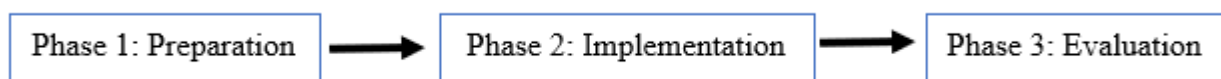


Figure 1. Procedures for socialization (Purba et al., 2022)

Phase 1. Preparation

At this stage several activities were carried out such as:

- Conduct team discussions regarding the distribution of material to be delivered.
- Coordinate with the school to provide a place and time for socialization and determine which class will be socialized.
- Confirm the participants' readiness to take part in socialization activities.
- Prepare the media and tools needed for socialization activities.

Phase 2: Implementation

This activity was attended by 20 fifth grade elementary school students and 1 English subject teacher as well as 6 presenters who will deliver socialization material on the topic of the importance of building English skills for elementary school children based on the lesson plan that has been prepared.



Figure 2. Participants participating in the socialization



Figure 3. Self-introduction by the Team

In this phase the activity is broken down into 2 stages, namely delivery of material or modules and a question and answer session.

Phase 3: Evaluation

After the presenter explained the material regarding the importance of building English skills for elementary school children, then the presenter team invited the students to do ice breaking (singing, dancing, and playing games), after which the presenter team gave several questions to the students about the material that had been delivered (Mulyasari dkk., 2023; Noer dkk., 2023). After the students were able to answer these questions the presenting team gave rewards (books, pens, candy, and snacks), then the presenting team concluded the extent of their mastery of English..

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Phase 1.Preparation

- 1) Conducting discussions with the socialization implementation team regarding the activities to be carried out
- 2) Preparing materials and tools needed during socialization activities
- 3) Ensuring that all tools and materials are complete

2. Phase 2. Implementation

A. Submission of Material About the Importance of Building English Skills for Elementary School Children

The use of English is very important in keeping up with current technological advances. This is caused by several factors, one of which is English as an international language which demands that everyone master English.

- 1) The Concept and Importance of Learning English in Elementary Schools Students should be able to know how the concepts and the importance of the English language. This concept is a start for students to understand that English is a language that really needs to be mastered.
- 2) Strategies to Improve English Language Skills in Elementary Schools Students need to know several strategies that must be mastered to improve English language skills.
 - a) Listening to English music

This method can be tried because listening to music in English can make us speak English fluently. like listening to western songs playing on television, radio, Spotify or Joox song applications and so on (which smells of English).

b) Reading books and newspapers in English

Apart from listening, watching and regularly speaking English. So this method can improve our ability to speak English, such as reading books and newspapers in English. The more we get used to reading foreign language literature, it will help us master the foreign language and be able to hone our reading and pronunciation skills well.

3) Benefits and Purpose of Learning English, Some of the benefits obtained from learning English are:

a) Improving Language Skills

By improving English skills students will learn to understand grammar and sentence structure correctly.

b) Giving more Wider Insights

By mastering English students can find out information about the culture and life of other countries.

c) Increasing Career and Study Opportunities

By mastering English, children can increase career opportunities and study in the future.

d) Easy to Get along with and Adapt in New Environments

With this, students will more easily make friends and exchange information about the culture of their respective countries.

e) Helping to Prepare Yourself In The Future

English skills are important in the current era of globalization. By mastering English, students can prepare themselves to compete in the future.

Some of the objectives of learning English are:

a. Improving Communication Skills

Through learning English, we will be taught to communicate. In a different Language. Learn basic vocabulary (Vocabulary), simple phrases and sentences that allow them to talk about themselves, their siblings, family, friends, hobbies, and their surroundings.

b. Understanding of Culture and Diversity

As explained earlier that English is an international language by studying it, we will gain a better understanding of the culture, traditions and diversity that exist in other English-speaking countries. We can learn about cultural differences and develop tolerance and respect for diversity.

c. Preparing for Higher Education Levels

Mastery of English at the basic level helps all younger siblings build a strong foundation for language skills at the higher education level. Good English language skills will support them in understanding the material provided by teachers in secondary schools to tertiary institutions which often use English as a medium of delivery.

d. Global Skills

As an international language in many fields such as business, technology, science, and tourism. By learning English from an early age, you will have an advantage in global competition in the future and have wider opportunities in your career.

e. Development of cognitive skills

Learning English can help improve our cognitive skills.

B. Question and Answer Session

There are findings that are illustrated after the question and answer session, namely the lack of students' interest in learning English is because the participants think that English is difficult and unpleasant (Al Maarif dkk., 2023; Hermansyah dkk., 2023; Utami dkk., 2023). Therefore, we use the role playing method in our socialization to increase students' interest in learning English.

3. Phase 3. Evaluation

Evaluation at this stage is obtained from presentations and question and answer sessions.

a. Evaluation of the Presentation Session

Some of the students were less enthusiastic in listening to the material presented because some of the students were less focused, some were busy playing with their classmates, some were sleepy.

b. Evaluation of the Question and Answer Session

When giving questions there are students who are active in conveying questions to the presenter. There are also students who actually want to ask/answer but they lack the confidence to submit questions and answers.



Figure 4. Question and Answer Session

4. Challenges in the Implementation of Socialization

There were several challenges faced by the team when carrying out socialization at SDN 122395 namely the lack of adequate facilities so that a media was not delivered in the form of a video, besides that the atmosphere outside the class was not conducive due to the class carrying out Physical Education (Sports) subjects

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the socialization about the importance of building English language skills which were carried out for fifth grade students of public elementary schools. The existence of English is actually very important for students. These things can be seen from the response that was seen during the presentation of the material carried out, the students were very interested in the material presented. During the question and answer session students could understand the questions given so they were very interested in the questions that were conveyed.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

Author 4: Formal analysis; Methodology; Writing - original draft.

Author 5: Supervision; Resources, Visualization.

Author 6: Validation

Author 7-10: Other contribution, Review and Editing.

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