

The Teaching of English Vocabulary to Young Learners in Beginner II Class at the Star English Course

Yendi Aditya Ramadhan¹

Sri Wulandari²

Universitas Islam Kediri - Kediri

yendidelpiero@gmail.com

sriwulandari@uniska-kediri.ac.id

Abstract

The aim of this study is to describe the teaching of English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at the star English Pare. The research describes the tutor's preparation that consists of syllabus, lesson plan, material, media, and technique; the tutor's implementation that consists of: pre-teaching activity, main teaching activity, and post-teaching activity; and the assessment. The research subjects are: the director at The Star English Course, the tutor at The Star English Course, and the students of Beginner II class at The Star English Course. The research was analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected from observation, interview and documentation. In preparing for teaching English vocabulary to young learners at The Star English Course, the tutor has both syllabus and lesson plan. Moreover, the tutor is obligated to use media and game in delivering the material. It is really effective because children need an interesting media and fun activity in learning. During the pre-teaching activity, the tutor started the class by a warmer to prepare the students and help students to focus on the upcoming lessons. When teaching the main lesson, the tutor carried out the activity interactively and motivated the students to participate actively through the media and game. The post-teaching activity was done by making conclusions, reviewing, and giving assignments. The tutor's assessment in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in beginner class at The Star English Course Pare is given in each meeting and there is one meeting in the end of the month for evaluation by giving final assessment that consist of material learned that month.

Keywords: *teaching, vocabulary, young learners*

Introduction

Learning vocabulary is significant for students who want to be successful in studying language. Wilkins (1972) said that without grammar very little can be conveyed but without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. Indeed, it is impossible for students to move to the next step and develop their level of proficiency. It is known that there are four component

skills in studying language such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing, but all the skills cannot be gained if the students are not competent in vocabulary comprehension. Vocabulary learning is an essential part in foreign language learning as the meaning of words is often emphasized, whether in books or classrooms.

Vocabulary as one of the knowledge areas in language, plays a great role for learners in acquiring a language (Cameron, 2001). Harmon, Wood, & Keser, (2009) as well as Linse (2005) state that learners' vocabulary development is an important aspect of their language development. Vocabulary is a main part of language, vocabulary cannot be separated in learning English. The language cannot be used to gain the goal of language itself as the tool of communication neither spoken or oral. People will not be able to express their ideas if they do not master vocabulary.

There are differences in teaching children and adults. The children have their own characteristics that have to be known by the tutor to gain the aim of teaching. Nation (2011) stated that in English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL) learning vocabulary items plays a vital role in all language skills (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and writing). To achieve this goal, it cannot be separated from other factors such as students, tutor, and the place.

Cameron (2001:1) noted that young learners have a number of characteristics that English teachers must consider when creating classroom activities. They are highly motivated, passionate, and animated students. They, on the other hand, do not find it simple to use language to communicate about anything since they do not have the same access to meanings as older learners.

According to Cameron (2001:71), developing a practical vocabulary is essential for learning a foreign language at the elementary level. It implies that vocabulary is highly essential in English language teaching and learning since vocabulary is the initial lesson for young learners before they begin to study English language further. Furthermore, according to Rubin (1991:91), "a strong vocabulary and a good reading go hand in hand; unless

you grasp the meaning of words, you will have difficulties understanding what is read.” In other words, if young learners do not comprehend the meaning of words, they will struggle to understand what they see, read, and study. In addition, young learners are in the best age to learn everything. It is called golden age. The period when the learners can absorb the material easily.

Non-formal education is very important and takes a delightful role to increase the quality of education. There are many non-formal educations in our surrounding and one of them that can help the students' English ability is English courses. There are a lot of English courses in Pare Kediri and one of them is The Star English Course.

The Star English Course is located on Jl. Glagah 25 English Village Pare, Kediri. This course was founded by Mrs. Hanif Fitria Hapsari M.Agr. Although there are many English courses in Pare, The Star English Course is the only English course focused on young learners. It is one of special things that The Star English Course have. This place also has its own standardization for the requirements of the tutor. The tutor candidates should have good capability in English and more importantly an interest in teaching children. The Star English Course gives the coaching for the tutor both on English and on teaching children that is given by the speaker who is expert in his field such as child psychology or kindergarten tutor. Furthermore, once in a month the director and all tutor of The Star English course hold the agenda to come together in a place in order to discuss about method, media, material, and so on. The Star English Course obligate the tutor to always use both media and game in their teaching activity. The media and books that are used there is full of color, so it can attract the students' attention in learning English.

The Star English Course opens the program from the kindergarten until elementary student. Private classes are also available for junior high school students. The program available is not only to learn English but also Math and Calistung (membaca, menulis, dan berhitung or reading, writing, and math skills for preschoolers). The Star English Course programs are

divided into Pre-Beginner, Beginner I, Beginner II, Grade 1 to 3, LCP, Private, and Holiday for English. The placement of the students depends on their age or ability. The kindergarten student must start at pre-beginner. Each program has the books which the students must finish them before going to the next level. It is also settled with Math Program. In math program, there are Math 1 to 6 depend on the students' school grade, and private program.

The Star English Course Pare has a library in front the office, so either the students or the parents can read the book that is suitable for them. Beside the library, The Star provides the students some educational toys which can be played by the students while waiting for their parents to pick them up. Both the library and educational toys bring the good impact for the students and parents not to always use their mobile phone when they have free time.

The aim of The Star English Course is to help the students learn English easily and provide the teaching-learning process which is full of fun, joy and happiness, so the students can feel happy. Even the students will feel that they are not studying.

The teaching process that happened at The Star English Course is that the tutor is obligated to use both media and game when teaching English to young learners. The media usage really helped the tutor in delivering the material. The interaction among the students were built in playing game. In addition, the teaching learning process was assisted by colorful books that could attracted the attention of young learner students in learning English. These activities were used by the tutor to arouse the students enthusiastic. According to (Cameron, 2001; Harmer, 2002) he stated that young learner students like to please their teacher but they enclose their interest easily in the materials that is given

According to Setyowati (2009), every teacher or school has their own strategy in teaching speaking English. Some of them are successful in their strategy but some of them cannot meet their target. Moreover, they have made the students bored, lazy or afraid of learning English especially in speaking. This situation can be caused by the teaching strategy that is not

suitable with the condition of the student. The teaching strategy here refers to the way the teachers teach in speaking class. The teaching strategies in speaking English is very important to the teachers, because with the suitable strategies so the teachers can teach speaking maximal to get their goal. The suitable strategies also can make students easy in learning speaking maximally.

Method

The design that is used in this study is a descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is designed to obtain information relating to the current status of phenomenon and presented toward determining the nature of situation that happen at a time of the research activities, not giving them any treatment then describing the phenomenon as it exist naturally. In this research, the researchers describe the teaching of English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English Course Pare.

One of the characteristic that is the data of phenomena interpreted naturally and not to give any treatment to them. The researcher here describes about the tutor's preparation, the tutor's implementation, and the tutor's assessment in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English Course.

The research data were collected using interview, observation, and document. Interview is used for collecting data on the tutor's preparation and the tutor's assessment in teaching speaking English. Observation for collecting data on the teachers' implementation that consists of: the pre teaching, main teaching, and post teaching that happened in Beginner II class at The Star English Course. Document was used for collecting data on syllabus, lesson plan, and media.

The finding and discussion in this study are presented in accordance with the research questions, there are: the teachers' preparation in teaching English vocabulary to young learner at The Star English Course that consist of the syllabus, lesson plan, material, media, and technique that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learner at The Star English

Course; the tutor' implementation that consists of: pre-teaching, main teaching, and post-teaching activity in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course; the tutor' assessment in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course. The following section presents the details of finding in this research.

Results and Discussions

By using interview on July 31, 2019 and the result of observation that was found in the class, the tutor' preparation in teaching English vocabulary at The Star English Course were the syllabus, lesson plan, material, technique, and media.

The syllabus was not extremely same as the formal education. Here, the director accompanied by the tutor made the syllabus simpler with the purpose that it would be easier to understand and applied by the tutor. Moreover, there were not all the tutor in The Star English Course came from formal education background.

It was the same as the syllabus. The Star English Course made the lesson plan simpler than the formal syllabus. Here, it was called check list. The tutor must have had lesson plan before they tough their student. Lesson plan would help the tutor in arranging what they were going to do in the class, so that the time would be effective. The Star English Course had the standardization of the points of the lesson plan. The points which was written on lesson plan and had to be performed by the tutor in the class were greetings and opening the class by praying together; to repeat the previous material through pre-test or post-test, question and answer, and so on.

By using observation for a month from July 31th until August 30th, 2019, the material used in teaching English vocabulary to young learner at The Star English Course was written on five books. There were: Beginner first book; numbers 0-10, school equipment, house furniture, body parts, moods, feelings and emotions, days of the week, toys, family, hobbies, actions. Beginner second book; garden, numbers 1-100, food and drinks,

classroom verbs, greetings and farewell, color, classroom objects, animals, zoo, food and drink tastes. Beginner third book; alphabet, number, bathroom, bedroom, my house, public places, beach, birthday party, adjective, farm animal, clothes and accessories, family, story of the Wilson, nature. Beginner fourth book; guess the color, twinkle, places, in the village, human body, house furniture, taste, transport, matching action verbs, feelings, jungle animal, things in my house, healthy unhealthy life, story of this is Sarah. Beginner fifth book; number, activity, daily routine, all about me, arrange activity, day of week, month, farm, family, five senses, house and furniture, story of Bennet family. Beginner II second book; snowman song, crossword puzzle of public places, building and places, telling the time, daily activity, classroom directions, feelings, job and occupation crossword, five senses, part of the house, healthy, crossword of animals, demonstrative. The tutor used those books in teaching activities in the class at The Star English Course.

The media usage must be easy to use, colorful, and acceptable by the students, so that it could interest the students in learning the subject and help them to understand the lesson easily. The usage of media was determined with the material would be taught. The media which were used in teaching English vocabulary at beginner class of The Star English Course were five sense, puppet, puppet famous people, ice cream stick, puppet fruits, cute board for reading, spinning wheel, the Bennet board, crown, daily activity book, labyrinth greeting, picture direction, guess board, board game, the Wilson, guess board number.

Based on interview held the tutor said that the technique used in teaching English to young learners is most of meeting combined with game, song, and media that related the material. After doing the observation which the researcher did at July 31th until August 30th, 2019 while attending the teaching learning process at the Beginner II class of The Star English Course, the tutor used to use some techniques in presenting vocabulary items. The tutor` also combined it with game and song in any occasion.

In every pre teaching activity, even whole the process of teaching, The tutor always showed her cheerful appearance greeting the students in order to make the students interested in studying. The tutor persuaded either the students and their environment be ready to start studying. Main teaching activity the tutor used some techniques and media in delivering the material. The class was attractive. The tutor could make the student interested to the song. There was a changing sound used by the tutor in delivering the lyric. It was determined by the vocabulary. For example, in the lyric which showed surprised expression, the tutor conveyed it as if she were surprised. She mimed the sound of foot step. The picture bellow shows the situation when they were singing a song together while being given the meaning of the vocabulary by the tutor.

The students' understanding in vocabulary was evaluated by the tutor through direct assessment on that day. The assessment consisted of checking students' understanding of the vocabulary that they learnt, how they pronounced, wrote, and applied it on the sentence.

Besides the observation which was done on daily, the tutor also gave a test in the end of month. There were seven meetings in a month. Four meetings for giving, material, one for repeat, assessment, and speaking activity.

Concerning the preparation that the tutors have in teaching English vocabulary to young learner at The Star English Course. The tutor had either the syllabus or lesson plan. Based on the role in teaching process, the first time and the first thing that the tutors must have before teach in every subject is lesson plan. Moreover, the tutor at The Star English Course have mission in teaching that the teaching learning activity must be fun and interested, so the students will feel happy and enthusiastic in learning English.

As Hutchinson and Waters (1987:80) defined that syllabus as follows: At its simplest level a syllabus can be described as a statement of what is to be learnt. It reflects of language and linguistic performance. The identity of the syllabus used in The Star English Course contained the name of

semester and year, the name of the tutor who would be handle the class, the program, the teaching and learning model. The point that was written on syllabus used by the course is relate with the definition of syllabus based on experts. According to Breen (1984) a syllabus can be seen as "... a plan of what is to be achieved through our teaching and our students' learning".

Principally, the syllabus has the same arrangement as the lesson plan. what makes differ between syllabus and lesson plans are the purpose and points in arranging lesson plan. Because the lesson plan is a planning designed by a tutor before teaching. As E. Mulyasa (2007) said that lesson plan is short plan to estimate or predict what will be done during the learning process. It can be concluded that lesson plan is planning which is designed before estimating and predicting what will be done in learning process. Furthermore, Chatib (2014) stated that lesson plan is a planning designed by a tutor before teaching.

The points above are found on lesson plan which was used in The Star English Course. Although it not so complete as that is in formal school, this course arranged the lesson plan much more simpler so that it can be applied easily by the tutors.

Concerning about the material that is used at The Star English Course in teaching English vocabulary to young learners, it is related with the elementary school students' level. Based on syllabus in the curriculum K-13, the materials are about things related with their surroundings. The students' are supposed to be able to use simple English in their life. Here, the tutor delivers the material in fun and using game.

There are some media that the tutor use in teaching English vocabulary at The Star English Course based on the material. Besides, it has been a policy at the course that the tutor must use media and game in each material. The media usage and the tutor ways at The Star English Course in using the media is so effective for teaching to young learners. It works to overcome the complication in teaching young learners because of their characteristic. All the activities and media used by the tutor of The Star English Course are associated with the theory of Beranda (2012);

There were some techniques that the tutor at The Star English Course used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners. Most of them correlates with the theory from Harmer (1991:161) about the technique usage such as realia, mime, action, and gesture, translation, explanation, presentation, enumeration, song, game, matching, question and answer, drilling, spelling the word, translation, contrast, using object, drawing, using illustration, and pictures.

The teaching process of teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English Course. There were some steps that the tutor did in applying the teaching process based on syllabus and lesson plan. It is explained as follow;

The first stage of the learning activity is opening. According to Soli Abimanyu (1984, p. 12), stated that opening learning is basically "activities carried out by the tutor to create an atmosphere ready mentally and cause students to focus on the things to be learned". In pre teaching activity, the tutor of the star began the class by giving instruction to tidy up the environment, students' position and asking them to finish their meal if they were chewing food. Then the tutor gave the students ice breaking.

In main teaching activity, the students were required to involve and participate in the activity that the tutor arranged. The students followed the instruction given by the tutor. They learnt the new vocabulary through playing game with media usage. Here, the tutor gave the explanation about the topic that they were discussing and guided the students in doing the activity so that the student could participate actively. According to The government regulation (PP No. 19 of 2005) concerning national education standards stated that the learning process in the education unit is carried out interactively, inspirational, fun, challenging, motivating the students to participate actively, as well as providing sufficient space for initiative, creativity, and independence in accordance with the talents, interests, and physical and psychological development of students.

In post teaching activity, the tutor gave the summarizing and concluding the lesson that they learnt. In this phase, the tutor reviewed the

material using media that was used by the students. The tutor offered some questions to the students.

Tutor automatically evaluate the students' ability in daily meeting. Besides, The Star English Course makes a schedule for evaluation in the end of month. There are eight meetings in month. It is divided into Four meetings for delivering material, one repeating meeting for all materials studied, evaluation, speaking activity, and stage performance.

The tutor evaluation in teaching English vocabulary to young learners consist of two point they are: the accuracy of spelling or pronounce and their understanding in using the vocabulary they learn.

Conclusion

The tutor' preparation in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English Course Pare is splendid because The Star English Course have both syllabus and lesson plan, it means they really prepare it well. Furthermore, they have mission in teaching to young learners as happy learning, so the students will be unconsciously that they are learning English. The tutor expected the students to have a good skill in English not only when they learn in Course but also in their school, then they can apply their English in daily confidently.

The syllabus that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare is clear enough. It shows what material, media, and game that should apply in the class.

The lesson that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare is that the lesson plan is simple and can be easy to be understood by the tutor in applying what is written in the lesson plan as the development of its syllabus.

The material that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare is

suitable with young learners needs. All the things that are exist in their environment. The material is related with what is written on K-13 that is used in elementary school, so that the students will get a good score in their school as well.

The media that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare are colorful, interesting, and easy to be used. Moreover, The star English Course obligates their tutor to make and use media in every meeting in order to help the tutor in delivering the material, so that the students will be easier to understand the material when they directly see by themselves what they are discussing about

The technique that use at The Star English Course. The technique usage by tutor when teaching English vocabulary to young learners is variety. the tutor used more than one technique in delivering a material. In addition, the tutor is aware that young leaners concentration is less than adult's and have their own characteristic, so the tutor's way to deliver the material is different. As tutor of young learner, the tutor at The Star English Course know well some characteristic that they should have in facing children.

The tutor' implementation in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare is consist of three points they are: pre teaching, main teaching, and post teaching.

Pre teaching activity in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare consists of preparing the students and giving them ice breaking and brainstorming before starting to discuss the topic.

Main teaching activity in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare consists of the activity of delivering the topic by the tutor while involving the children on the teaching learning activity. At The Star English course, the tutor always uses either media or game in explaining the material.

Post teaching activity in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare consists of reviewing the material that is discussed at that day through the activity of giving question and answer in order to see the students' understanding.

The tutor' assessment in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English course Pare. The tutor generally takes the evaluation through giving assessment in the end of each teaching activity to know the capability of the students after joining the class at that day. There is also the meeting for evaluation all material that has been given by the tutor. Its day is in the end of the month.

In this research, the researcher focuses on tutor's preparation, implementation, and assessment that the tutor used in teaching English vocabulary to young learners in Beginner II class at The Star English Course. The future researcher may take another focus such as: the teaching of English speaking or grammar to young learners, the basic education background of the tutor at The Star English Course and the facility there, etc.

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