

## ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY ABILITY USING FLASH CARD MEDIA

**Khofifah Mitha Saviera<sup>1</sup>**

University of Singaperbangsa Karawang  
[mythsaveera@gmail.com](mailto:mythsaveera@gmail.com)

**Maman Suryaman<sup>2</sup>**

University of Singaperbangsa Karawang  
[drmaman.suryaman@gmail.com](mailto:drmaman.suryaman@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

*This study aims to determine the effectiveness of the methods used in this study. Researchers use flashcards as a medium for learning English at the elementary level. And also this study aims to determine whether flash card media can increase students' vocabulary in elementary schools. This study uses qualitative methods using case studies (observational research). The subjects of this study were fourth-grade elementary school students. The result of this research is that the researcher gets the results from observations made to one of the elementary school students where the fourth grade elementary school students do not have too much English vocabulary.*

**Keywords:** *English language, media, flash cards.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is the main tool and the most effective tool for communicating with other people (Hutajulu, 2019). This means that language is a medium of communication, both formal communication and informal communication. Communication is an activity to connect people so that they can interact in their social environment. Language is basically a human and non-instinctive method to communicate ideas, emotions, and desires through a system of symbols that are produced voluntarily (Sapir, 1921:17 as quoted in Herman, 2015:1). There are two parts of communication, spoken and written language. Every country has a different language because every country has a different culture. This has an impact on the language used. The language difference in each country causes some problems in communication between countries. Because it is difficult to learn a language in every country. And it will take quite a while to learn another language. English is the primary or first language of several countries such as the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and England. However, in other multilingual countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, English is

the second language in their country. Because English is an international language to connect everyone in the world. In Indonesia, English has been used as a foreign language learning in Indonesian education. English language competence is important in career development. So, learning English in Indonesia is necessary. English as a formal subject is given at every level, especially at the Elementary School (SD) level. Learning English in the Indonesian curriculum, especially at the junior high school level, aims to improve the four English skills. There are reading skills (reading skills), listening skills (listening skills), speaking skills (speaking skills) and writing skills (writing skills), as well as the ability to have a large number of vocabularies that a person has (vocabulary skills).

Among the four English skills, the number of vocabulary skills a person has (vocabulary skills) is very important in learning English. Vocabulary is also the main key for students at school in mastering English comprehension. According to (Mohammadnejad, Nikdel, 2012) vocabulary is a basic element of a language that is used to label things such as objects, traits and verbs to explain the meaning, meaning and intent of what is to be conveyed. (Khasanah, P.M.A. & Chamdani, Susiani, 2014) mention that in the process of learning English, vocabulary is an important part, but is often neglected in learning activities. Without knowing vocabulary, students will experience obstacles or difficulties in learning English. Vocabulary skill has been studied since in level of kindergarden. However the students of elementary school in Indonesia still lack of vocabulary when they are reading some book or the sentences that used English. This is the important problem are faced by students and also for teachers in Indonesia. Without the understanding of vocabulary skill, the students can not improve their English skill.

This study aims to find out about how children's understanding of a learning media is applied by one of the researchers. And how to increase the ability of children's English vocabulary to use the learning media. Learning media for elementary school level is very diverse and varied. However, the researcher took one type of learning media called *Flash card*. Researchers took samples or research subjects from one of the elementary school students (SD) who is currently still in the fourth grade of elementary school. Based on the problems

above, the researcher wants to know more about the child's understanding and the ability of the child in English vocabulary using flash card learning media. So the researchers chose the title " *Analysis of Children's Understanding of English Vocabulary Ability Using Flash Card Media.*"

According to (Mohammadnejad, Nikdel, 2012) vocabulary is a basic element of a language that is used to label things such as objects, traits and verbs to explain the meaning, meaning and intent of what is to be conveyed. (Khasanah, P.M.A. & Chamdani, Susiani, 2014) mention that in the process of learning English, vocabulary is an important part, but is often neglected in learning activities. Without knowing vocabulary, students will experience obstacles or difficulties in learning English. Children are easier to master and absorb a second language than teenagers and adults.

As adult students make faster initial progress ,final success in mastering a second language is never as good as that of children (Santrock, 2007). Vocabulary is the most important part in learning a second or foreign language. However, the vocabulary contained in a foreign language is more difficult for children to remember and pronounce, because the vocabulary is never heard from everyday language or mother tongue. As argued (Santrock, 2007), children will find it easier to remember and learn new things quickly than adults and teenagers.

(Suyanto, 2010) said that the media is a necessary tool for learning or teaching and learning English in the classroom, especially for children. More effective and interesting learning requires learning tools or media. With the media, learning and teaching activities will be more interesting for children so that children's enthusiasm increases when in class. In addition, the media is very influential on the absorption and effectiveness of children's learning. With the media, the material presented is easier for children to understand and learn. Especially in the field of English. Learning media can affect the ability and understanding of children in English vocabulary.

According to (Baleghizadeh, 2011)one of the main problems faced by teachers in teaching English to students is that teachers do not or have not used appropriate and appropriate methods and approaches. Therefore, the teacher is responsible and

takes part in determining the right approach in teaching English vocabulary to students. The teachers are not trained further and seriously to become English teachers for elementary school students. As a result, learning English in elementary schools is considered a constraint. In fact, if by enriching their teaching methods, teachers can more easily adapt and deliver English learning to the conditions of students (Nonyane, 2012).

Flash cards are small cards that contain pictures, text, or symbols that remind or guide students to something related to the material or theme of learning English at the meeting at that time. Flash cards can be used to practice spelling, remember and enrich vocabulary (Arsyad, 2011). Flash cards have two sides, the front of the flash card contains pictures and words, while the back of the flash card represents the meaning or translation of the word. But there are also flash cards that only have one part, on the front there is an image and a word or description of the name of the image. One Flash card usually represents one vocabulary. One pack of flash cards contains many in the same theme. For example, a flash card with the theme of the names of animals in English contains vocabulary and pictures of animals in English.

Based on research conducted by (Nugroho, Nurkamto, 2012) it was found that using flash cards in learning English vocabulary can improve students' vocabulary skills, because flash cards can attract students' attention, make students interested, motivated and focused in learning language vocabulary. English class. Flash card media is considered as a medium that creates fun and interest for students in learning vocabulary in class, because flash cards can be presented in the form of games and presented in visual form in the form of images. Children tend to remember visual forms easier than hearing vocabulary verbally. Therefore, flash card media is highly recommended to be applied in learning.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative method. Denzin and Lincoln (1994) argue that the qualitative approach is a naturalistic approach that includes the interpretation of phenomena. It means that qualitative research studies the setting and natural

phenomena. must also interpret all phenomena naturally. A qualitative approach is an approach used to investigate a phenomenon. This study uses a descriptive method that aims to describe the research.

Research subjects are sources that can provide information and help expand theory. In a study on analyzing children's understanding of English vocabulary skills using flash cards for fourth grade elementary school students, the researcher took a sample intentionally to get respondents. According to Creswell (2012: 206) "in purposeful sampling, the researcher deliberately selects individuals and sites to study or understand the central phenomenon".

Instruments and data collection is done by observation. Observation is one of the most common data collection methods in qualitative research. Observation is the process of gathering information by observing people and places related to the research topic. In this study, researchers made direct observations about children's understanding of English vocabulary skills using flash card media. The researcher made observations by teaching and directly introducing flash card media to one of the fourth grade elementary school students.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

From the results of observations made by researchers, the study was conducted to test children's English vocabulary skills when using flash card media. And the researchers got the results from observations made to one of the elementary school students.

The fourth grade elementary school student does not have too much English vocabulary. Then the researchers tried to take one theme, namely " *animals in the zoo*". The researcher asked what animals were in the zoo and the respondents answered in Indonesian. Then the researchers took ten flash cards with animal themes. The researcher introduced the flash card while mentioning the name of the animal in English according to the image shown on the flash card. The respondent or the child remembers the new vocabulary that he has learned with flash cards better. Respondents were very enthusiastic about the animal pictures in the flashcard.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that elementary school students in Indonesia still have difficulties in learning foreign language vocabulary, especially English. It can be seen from the respondents who were asked to mention animal vocabulary in English but had difficulty. With this difficulty, it is necessary to use learning media in the classroom. Media is a tool that can be applied in learning, especially in teaching and learning English. After using flash card media, respondents were more interested and enthusiastic about the learning carried out by the researchers. In addition, the level of the child's English vocabulary ability increased after being assisted by using flash card media. The child can remember the name of the animal in English by looking at the picture on the flash card. This is because children can more easily memorize a word with visualizations or pictures compared to just memorizing vocabulary verbally and concretely.

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