

THE MAKING OF SMART TOWEL TO LEARN ENGLISH VOCABULARY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Bobrizal¹, Boni Saputra²

^{1,2} **Business English Study Program
State Polytechnic of Bengkalis**

Jl. Bathin Alam-Sungai Alam, Bengkalis-Riau, 28711 Telepon: (+6277) 24566,

Fax: (+2766) 800 1000 e-mail: bob27oke@gmail.com,

bonisaputra@polbeng.ac.id

Abstract: Mastering English vocabulary is essential in this competitive world. By mastering English vocabulary, students can learn English and communicate with people. However, there are still many of the students cannot learn English Vocabulary well. They still face difficulties for example, in learning simple daily words. This situation, make students feel bored and lose their interest in learning English. Therefore, the use of learning media are needed to attract these learners attention and interest to learn English in more effective and interesting way. Besides, media can be used to learn English anywhere and anytime outside the school. Related to this research, the main purpose of this project is to make Smart Towels which can be used as an alternative self-learning medium in learning English Vocabulary. This project resulted Smart Towels consists of various themes suitable for Elementary School Students. These towels are modified from ordinary towels that is modified to make it look more interesting. These media can be used in and outside classes during learning-teaching process or spare time. By using this media, the students can be attracted to learn and increase their ability in English vocabulary interestingly and effectively

Keywords: *Smart Towels ,learning, Vocabulary.*

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language in the world. It is widely used for communication among countries. English is used in many fields such as: information, technology, economy, science, art, education, politics and so on. Therefore, mastery English is very important for students.

However, English is not compulsory subject for elementary school anymore in Indonesia. English is

not exposed to students until junior high school. This situation, reduce students' ability in mastering English. Then, students lose their interest to learn English. It is difficult to speak, write, listen and read in English.

One of the key in learning English is learning vocabulary. Vocabulary is the first basic thing in learning english for beginner in Elementary even for junior and senior high school. Therefore the ability to

learn vocabulary is very crucial for every students. Manurung in Rahayuningsih (2013) states that, the ability of speaking, listening, reading and writing English depend on the mastery of vocabulary and grammar. Therefore, by mastering vocabulary students can be easier to learn four aspects of English.

Vocabulary is a key to improve the English achievement. Students who have lot of vocabularies are easier in study and learning process. Without good vocabulary mastery, students will face difficulties in their study. Moreover, those do not possess strategy to enrich vocabulary often lose their interest in learning. in addition, River in the David Nunan (2013) argued that acquisition of an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language use. Without an extensive vocabulary, it almost impossible for them to use the structure and function that have been learned for comprehensible communication.

Actually, English vocabulary can be learned by many kinds of media that can be use inside or outside classroom. Rahayuningsih (2015), did a research to increase English vocabulary of Students'

through *Talking Stick* second grade of SMPN Salatiga in academic year 2012/2015. The aim of the study were to explain the improvement of Students' learning vocabulary through *Talking Stick* and to identify the improvement.

Students in Indonesia, particularly in Bengkalis regency had learned English from Junior and senior high school level. However many of them could not really understand English well. The difficulties in memorizing English vocabulary might occur because of uninteresting learning method used that lower the interest. The learning method that the teacher use as the center. The students get bored and cannot catch the lesson well. Whereas, there are various ways in learning English that can help the students understand it. One of innovative and effective way to help students in understanding and memorizing English vocabulary by giving them fun and easy medium that can help to understand easily in remembering English vocabulary and re-increase students interest in learning English.

The writer concerned that still many elementary school students could

not understand English well. It is because lack of fun English medium used to teach English vocabulary. It must be learned in early age by students, especially in elementary school. Using smart towel was proposed to increase the interest of the students in learning English Vocabulary. Smart Towel is towels that are designed to increase the interest of elementary school students to learn English vocabulary. It can be brought and learned everywhere with its original function to wipe sweat. Besides that, Smart Towels are also good material to use for every student in daily life.

Based on the explanation above, it is interested to make Smart Towels to increase the interest of Elementary School students in learning English vocabulary.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Learning

Learning is change behavior, value and intelligence of learner based on long knowledge that takes new change. According to Kimble in Rahayuningsih (2013) explain that,

learning was a relativity permanent change in a behavioral tendency and the result of reinforced practice. It is to say that learning is process where someone getting better or worst depend on what learned and which can change their behavior directly and indirectly. In learning, many students can understand the lesson quickly even in group or personally. However, some of them difficult in learning by themselves. Basically, self-learning can be gained when they getting a really fun media while using it. In conclusion, using media in learning English Vocabulary could create more interesting and easy understanding way.

Interest

Commonly, interest is defined with many perceptions, according to Witherington (1999), Interest is the consciousness of someone to an object or situation that have relevance with their selves. The knowledge or information about an object and situation must be known by interest person at the beginning. Then, according to Heri (1998) interest is a soul function to get reach something that constitutes a power can see in and out of movement. In

operate the interest function must be tight connection between mind and feel. So that, with definitions above can be conclude that interest is desire of someone to get something that really they want. Interest always change someone feel to get that more than previous.

Vocabulary

According to Hornby in Rahayuningsih (2013) vocabulary is the total numbers of words which (with rules of combining) make up a language. Harmer (2001:4) states that vocabulary is one of the most obvious components of language and one of first things applied linguistics turned their attention. Fauziati (2005:155) argues that vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to typical language learner. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate effectively or express ideas in both oral and written Form. On the other hand, Vocabulary is the stock of words used by people or particular user or person, or a list of collection of the word of a language, book, author and branch of science in alphabetical order and defined. Based on definition above, vocabulary is

obviously the source of English itself. Without having vocabulary, some aspects such as speaking, listening, writing and reading are not running well. In this addition, mastery English is the basic component in learning English.

Vocabulary for Elementary Students

Vocabulary is very important in learning English. It is the first pillar before mastery of four aspects in English such as, reading, speaking, listening, and writing. Without master English vocabulary, it is impossible to master four aspects like above. In this addition, to understand English well especially for elementary school students really need interest way such as putting a picture, nice color, and vocabulary. It will be more happier and easier to understand about the context of vocabulary when find picture and nice color. According to Hibbing and Rankin-Erickson (2003), the use of illustrations in texts and picture books helped to improve comprehension abilities of struggling readers. In this study, show that comprehension will be easy to get while using illustration and picture. It is helpful in understanding the meaning in text or context. Then according to Beck

and Mc Keown (2001), state that children can become so dependent upon pictures in read-aloud situations, that as they concentrate on the pictures, they tend to stop focusing on the language elements of stories to which they are listening. In this study, also say that children more concentrate on the picture and easier to understand the context by supported pictures. From studies above, could be conclude that, picture has important role for students to understand the meaning, text, and context. Therefore, teaching and learning vocabulary for students must be accompanied by pictures and illustrations.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

Equipments

The processes of designing the Smart Towels was done using several equipments such as Personal Computer and paint tool and etc.

Material

The processes of designing the Vocabulary board game using several the material such as Towels and Silk-screening.

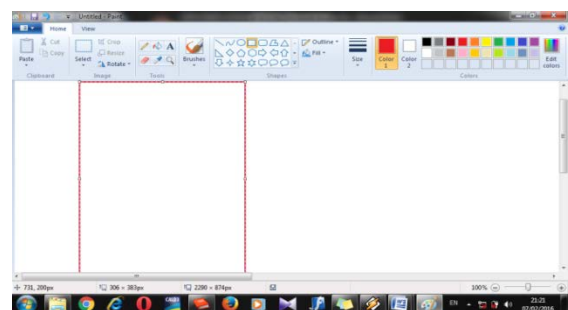
Procedure of The Study

1. Data Collection Technique

- The data for this study were retrieved and collected from several resources. Design of this product was designed based on the previous curriculum to attract elementary students’ interest, such as picture of human body, name of days, month, number, colors, shapes, cartoons and etc. Meanwhile, words on the Smart towels were created by referring to several resources such as books, dictionaries and internet.

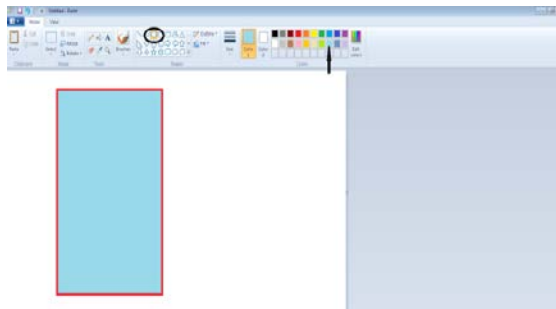
2. Designing Product

- The procedures of designing Smart Towels, the first step was drawing column or background by using paint tool. The processes can be seen as following pictures and description.



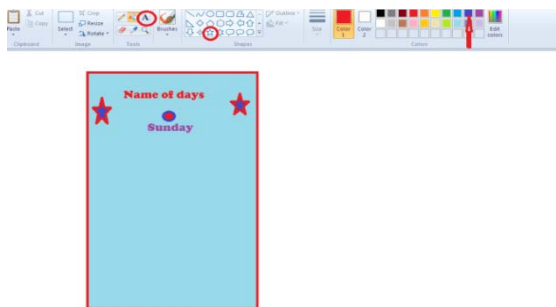
The figure 3.2 Drawing Colum or Background by Paint Tool

The next thing done was giving colors of background by clicking canvas tool and then choosing your best color.



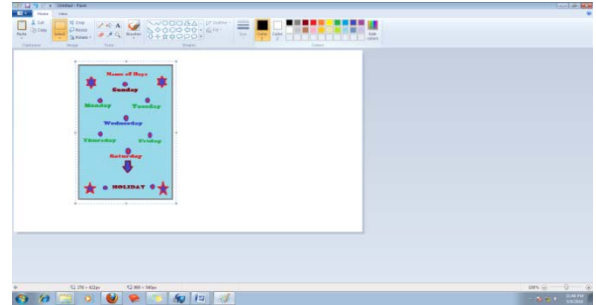
The figure 3.3 Giving Background Color.

After background color was done, the next step was writing and giving kinds of color. In writing process, it would use symbol on the tool then wrote down.



The figure 3.4. Setting color and writing vocabulary

When all of coloring processes has been finished, the main shape of the Smart Towels can be seen in the following figure. Then, the result was saved.



The figure 3.5 Finishing Process

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Proses of Making Smart Towels

There were several processes done in making Smart Towel, started from collecting and providing the materials until designing the model of Smart towels. The complete processes were explained as follows.

▪ Collecting and providing the materials

The contents of Smart towels were twelve themes that is suitable for elementary students. Therefore, collecting and providing the material of Smart Towels were the first things done. The theme for each towels were created by referring to several Vocabulary textbook and dictionaries.

After the processes of collecting and providing the material for the vocabulary were finished, the next thing done was collecting material for Smart

Towels model. The models of Smart Towels were referred to the existed of common Towels. However, it was developed and added with the English vocabulary.

▪ **Designing of Smart Towels**

When the data has been collected, the next process was designing the Smart Towels. As explained in chapter III, this study used Paint application in supporting this process. The sequences of the process were started by drawing and making Smart Towels' type or model by using *Paint Tools*. The process was continued by putting texts, numbers, shapes and colors. Those processes took quite long time to get the best result. It was because the knowledge of the application used was not good enough to optimize the process of designing the Smart Towels.

Result of product

The result of this study are Smart Towels which can be used as a medium to increase the interest of Elementary school students in learning English vocabulary. The result of the product were look similar after the design finished.





The figure 4.1 result of Smart Towels

Evaluations

There were several evaluators evaluate the product; the advisor, the teacher, and the students. The evaluation from the teacher and the students was done at the different time, the evaluation

from the advisor was done separately. For the students and the teacher, the evaluations were done after English exam class in elementary School of 54 Senggoro. For the advisor, it was done during the consultation of final project process. The results after the product evaluated are:

▪ **Advisor**

According to advisor, Smart Towels is good for self learning of vocabulary. The combinations of daily use things and educative side of it. In other hand, not every context of vocabulary can be shown in Towel. However, it was added by the spealing of the word.

▪ **Vocabulary lecturer**

According to mr. Rionaldi, M. Pd., “This idea is very good. But a weekness for this medium written was there was tense error in writing the word and need more checked and revision. On the other hand, it needs to check of vocabulary according to elementary student standard in perception”.

▪ **Elementary School Teacher**

The opinion is given for the Smart towels are good. By using it, English

vocabulary can be increased. It is very good for students. It needs to develop more in other schools.

▪ **Elementary School Students**

The responses given by all students were positive. According to them, the Smart Towels were good, interesting, and helpful. Furthermore, they could use in many ways, such as to sweep the wet body and etc. they also gave suggestion to add more pictures to be good looking.

Problems

- Using the applications to design Smart Towels.

In designing this Smart Towels, there were some difficulties in designing the product because there was not enough knowledge about the application. That was reason that makes Smart Towels design looks not perfect but clearly good and interesting.

- Silk-Screener / Product designer

It was also a problem to find the place to silk-screening out this product in Bengkalis. Fortunately, there was a silk-screening shop that could do it for the product. However, the result

was not satisfying enough because the quality of the result and the silk-screening used were not as requested. Furthermore, the result expected could not be given by the shop because the tools and materials used and the processes done were still simple.

Based on explanations above, most of evaluators said that Smart Towels is good and helpful. Some of them also added that those products is very helpfull student in learning English vocabulary especially for elementary school students because of its beautiful color and comprehensible vocabulary for elementary school students. It is proven that Smart Towels is good medium in increasing Students' interest in learning English vocabulary. According to Erickson (2003), the use of illustrations in texts and picture books helped to improve comprehension abilities of struggling readers. This study, show that these media are surely helpful.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Mastering English is essential in this modern world. It is now widely used

in many aspects of life. However, the difficulties and uninteresting in learning English still occurred among the learners, including the students of elementary, junior and senior high school. Learners are still not aware of English because of lack of interesting medium to learn it. The students face the difficulties in making sentences, writing paragraph, listening to a text and speaking. While basic thing that is needed by learners or students in mastering English is vocabulary. However, the interests in learning vocabulary were still low. This condition might occur because the teaching method used is not innovative and the lack of learning medium used as the helping tool in teaching and learning process. So that, they just fell bored and less interested.

There are various kinds of media that can be used in English teaching and learning process. These media are used to motivate and support students in learning English as well as increase students' interest to learn it. One of the medium is Smart Towel. This medium can be used by students easily everywhere inside or outside of

classroom. Besides, it has good and suitable design, really good shape and elegant style that can encourage interest of students in learning English vocabulary.

The Medium made in this study is Smart Towel. It is provided to be a helping medium to increase the interest of elementary students in learning English vocabulary. It is aimed to make the student enjoy learning English Vocabulary. Smart Towels that made were twelve. They are divided into different themes. This medium is expected to be beneficial for students in increasing the interest of student in learning English vocabulary.

1. Suggestion

▪ Suggestions for Elementary School Teachers

Media in teaching and learning is essential to be used by the teacher during teaching process. By using learning medium, the teaching process will be more interesting. Besides, the purpose is also to deliver the lesson to the students in more fun ways which the learning medium can help in teaching process.

This medium can be used anytime and anywhere inside or outside

of classroom. It will be better that teacher can introduce or teach them about those vocabulary in a great way to make learning process be more attractive.

▪ **Suggestions for Elementary School Students**

The students of Elementary School can use this medium in learning to improve their English especially vocabulary. It can increase their interest in learning English vocabulary. Learning vocabulary using this medium is a good way to make learning vocabulary interesting.

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