



Influence of the Effectiveness of Literacy Habits to Improve the Pronunciation of Greetings and Dialog in English Communication in the Junior High School

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Abstract

Reading is an early activity in the learning process for every student in elementary school. At the beginning of reading, then someone will see how the problems are faced so that it can be considered as a challenge that must be faced. The benefit of reading is that it can develop more significant thoughts that refer to critical thinking, increase knowledge, and provide arguments to each other. This can improve relationships between people through peer communication, to build this literacy culture requires a person to change. Using communication, a person will find it easier to gain knowledge. Communication does not mean just talking but talking about the ability to foster interest in reading and writing. What can result from this culture is that it can foster interest in reading and build reading activities. By reading we can find out new things that we get. Building a culture of literacy can be done anywhere, one of which is by utilizing the school library and applying it in everyday life.

Keywords: *Improve, Literacy, Habits, Pronunciation, Communication*

Introduction

Reading is an activity where a person interacts in his mind or a relationship of thoughts that make an imagination by the reader that is liked by many people and can be easily understood. Reading can also be said to be a process of receiving information through writing in general. From what has been said, reading activities will be more effective if it is related to their literacy, they also need literacy skills in order to understand it better.

Hanggi (2016) provides an explanation of reading literacy which is

interpreted as a means and effort to better recognize and understand the information conveyed through reading and can apply the knowledge that has been learned. According to Santoso, (2016) Literacy can be defined as the ability to read and write, which can be called literacy or literacy.

Reading activities aim to find and obtain messages that can be understood and have meaning through the reading that has been delivered. Reading priorities can affect the type of reading read, for example fiction and non-fiction reading. The benefits of reading books can help train the mind and increase insight and knowledge, increasing the level of focus in every concentration in learning. So that people who are doing reading activities will more easily understand the contents of the reading they read.

Through reading habits, of course, it will increase students' knowledge. With the increasing knowledge, of course, the communication skills possessed by students can also develop well. Because the implementation of this habit of reading makes students have a high curiosity in all things. Curiosity is the starting point of knowledge possessed by humans. The statement of Puspitasari MT, et al (2015) said knowledge starts from curiosity. Curiosity occurs because students learn something learned is the latest thing so it raises curiosity. Meanwhile, according to Silmi and Kusmarni (2017), Curiosity is a natural emotion that exists in humans where there is a desire to investigate and find out more about the things they learn. In addition, because the knowledge increases over time a learner will become confident in communicating with others well.

Therefore, communication is a means for us to interact with the people around us so that they can understand and respond to the meaning of what we say. Communication can be said to be effective if, in the learning process, there is a two-way flow of information between educators and students and the information is equally responded to by the expectations of both communication actors (Adnjani et al., 2021).

So, in every communication, there is a process, each process has a meaning that depends on the understanding and view of the communicant. Therefore, communication will be more effective and achieve its goals if every actor involved in it has the same response to the message. According to Agus M. Hardjana (2016), Communication is an activity of a person who conveys a message directly or through the media to another person so that the person receiving the message will respond back to the sender of the message.

The ability to communicate can be interpreted as a basic skill for language has become an important skill for them as students in the elementary school they are currently attending. Teachers should be more creative and innovative in providing activities during the English learning process to students. Providing delivery through direct communication that can be seen by students can increase student

motivation to learn, thus creating an interesting and fun learning atmosphere. But in reality, the current learning process still tends to focus on the teacher as the only source of learning, by providing delivery without providing opportunities for students to express ideas that students have thought about. With communication between teachers and students, the learning process will run well and students can also understand it.

For this to be realized, things that need to be considered are the support of teachers who always apply a culture of literacy habits in reading that is good and friendly, provide a comfortable school environment for learning, and the facilities available can provide continuity for better understanding, and well-maintained school culture. Building their literacy habits will improve student learning outcomes so that their culture of interest in reading will continue to develop until the end of life. SD Negeri ABDYA 1 is no exception, where this school has become an absolute obligation for teachers to produce outstanding students to face today's increasingly fierce competition. Applying good literacy habits in the SDN 1 ABDYA school environment is the most important part of establishing harmonious relationships between people accompanied by how to communicate well, we will be respected and appreciated by each other.

Several studies have been conducted previously regarding building literacy habits effectively so that they can apply language use learning in communication. Research conducted by Siti Hafizah (2019) explains that from reading, the potential to have communication skills will also increase over time and will help in writing and speaking activities. then Putri (2022) also provides an explanation "mastering English in written form will make it easier for students to communicate on social media". Therefore, Gunantar (2020) explains that clear pronunciation will be able to communicate easily so that the information conveyed can be understood easily.

Based on the above delivery to improve students' literacy habits and quality resources in learning, the role of teachers is very important in organizing a school literacy movement, which is a mass movement to foster literacy to meet the need for information and reading for the golden generation that this nation has. Real steps are needed to start being sensitive to education, namely through literacy a person can be well educated.

1. The Role of Pronunciation in ESL

Pronunciation has always had a very important role for English as a second language. In learning English, it is always prioritized to practice vocabulary as an effort to be more proficient in applying pronunciation. With the vocabulary memorization training it will be able to help students understand how to pronounce correctly so that they can easily learn the language well. When they

know how to pronounce the language well, they can talk to their teachers and friends easily.

With various developments in methods of how to pronounce well Suwartono, S (2019) Explains that pronunciation learning is better taught orally because it will make it easier for students to learn and practice it again. This way students will immediately practice with their peers. In addition, having good pronunciation will make it easier for them to communicate with teachers and friends so that they will understand the instructions given and have the potential to be confident when they speak in English.

With the advent of better approaches in communication Widagdo, A. (2021) claims to rule many books on pronunciation texts that have word stress pattern rules. Having a good command of pronunciation allows students to argue that ESL students can master English pronunciation if pronunciation lessons are made an integral part of oral communication classes.

In addition, students who are able to enrich their pronunciation can improve their communication by conveying through messages more eloquently orally. They also tend to choose different ways to improve their pronunciation clarity and proficiency. These skills are indispensable when they want to get ahead in education and they can provide ideas and other tasks when asked.

2. Strategy in Teaching Pronunciation

The strategies taught to students aim to make the lesson in a new and effective way. In correct pronunciation according to (Febriani, R., & Sya, M. F. 2022). to improve good and correct pronunciation is required to be taught orally, because with this student can see directly how to pronounce correctly. Another strategy used is through sounds in pronunciation that can produce more detailed sounds so that other students can hear clearly (Febriani, R., & Sya, M. F. 2022). Since the listener wants spoken English that must follow how the rhythm and intonation patterns are organized, the speaker must use these patterns to make effective communication. If there is a mismatch between rhythm and intonation, then the listener will not be able to understand the meaning. When they are fluent in pronunciation then they will be able to communicate effectively.

According to Nunan and Press (2021), a fundamental strategy in teaching pronunciation is repetition. The technique of repeating pronunciation in different contexts will have an impact on the intended meaning of the user. This will also provide the potential to increase their potential in pronunciation. Repetition can also be tied into games, habits, or daily activities, taking an approach that seeks to deepen pronunciation (Sanchez, 2022). The teacher also introduces interesting ways to further encourage students to study pronunciation by reading books frequently and practicing them.

Hakim, M. A. R. R. (2019) further adds that the ability to read, write, remember information and interact with others effectively are skills that can focus on learning better so that they can motivate themselves to learn more.

Based on the explanation above, we have seen that the indispensable thing is pronunciation and students should learn pronunciation from an early age. So that they are used in their daily lives in applying English pronunciation in an interesting and fun way by encouraging students to be more interested in learning English (Noge et al., 2020).

3. Literacy in Pronunciation

Literacy can be defined as the ability to read and write on skills that are utilized in everyday life. The importance of literacy is a skill that prioritizes writing, reading, listening, and speaking competencies as basic skills in today's global era. According to Damayantie (in Mustafa 2015) "literacy is the ability to read, write, and think critically. Through literacy is expected to grow critical awareness to learn something new or assimilate it with their previous knowledge". By applying literacy in learning without realizing it, they will understand it faster because they do it based on habits that grow from themselves. So that it can make it easier for students to maintain interest and motivation and tend to actively participate in learning activities.

Good literacy can also be seen in how good communication between teachers and students. Because with interaction, it can make it easier for students to learn directly and practice it. This kind of culture must be planted since students are still at an early age. According to (Purnamasari et al., 2020) said that early children learn language more easily captured, in today's digital age all systems use English so they need to understand English and apply it in everyday life.

In the end, applying the habit of language learning literacy to students from an early age can make it easier for them to continue the learning process in the future, not only the habit that they are engaged in can strengthen the meaning of learning through various methods, it will create an atmosphere of a pleasant learning environment.

4. Literacy Reading Habits

Reading is defined as an activity that is always done in everyday life repeatedly which can add insight and broad knowledge. By reading we will get information, find creative ideas, and be able to think critically (Lawalata and Sholeh, 2019). Therefore, reading habit must continue to be applied and developed, and can help develop the process of science, understand various sciences in a disciplined manner, and apply them to everyday life.

In general, Lubis (2020). suggests that there are several benefits of reading activities, adding to the development of thinking and outlining ways of thinking, increasing insight and increasing better understanding. By reading frequently, a person will tend to learn knowledge in a disciplined manner and train concentration so that the results obtained are in accordance with his level of intelligence so as to create an attitude in his reading skills, be able to understand the correct reading, be skilled in reading and be able to appreciate his reading Kurniawan (2023).

From the description above, we know that the habit of reading is a process of activity to gain an understanding of the message or information conveyed in written form. Samrotul (2015) explains that a person's reading ability is greatly influenced by the habit of reading. The more often we do this habit, the more knowledge we get, and can also refine one's mindset toward a series of symbols. According to Syarif Yunus (2012), Even reading activities can improve learning achievement for students to be more optimal. With literacy, students can also enrich their mastery of the material, so that if students experience difficulties, they do not immediately depend on the teacher. Then with the implementation of this literacy culture, students' ability to think critically becomes better and can solve problems during the learning they face.

Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach because it provides a description of the phenomenon that prioritizes the quality and characteristics that is conducted at SDN 1 Blang Pidie in the 2023/2024 academic year located at Jalan Persada, Kedai Siblih Southwest Aceh. This school is because the study of literacy that will be developed will be better if it starts in elementary school. Conducting research in a local area allows the potential to get extraordinary findings so this becomes a necessary need for the study. This school supports literacy learning which is better developed if it starts from primary school. Conducting research in an area allows the potential for extraordinary findings so it becomes a necessity to conduct research.

The techniques used in data collection are based on observation and interviews. Data will be collected from observations during the learning process, how they move in the classroom, and interviews with teachers at school. During the interview process with the teacher at school, the researcher took some information conveyed by the teacher regarding literacy and the students' habits that are always applied at school. The observation method is also carried out by observing how the students' literacy habits are in the school environment and in the classroom and seeing how they carry out literacy activities at school to build their reading habits, especially learning about English.

The limitation of this method lies in the observation process. Because researchers are not always in the school environment and do not always observe the activities carried out by students at school, which may have other activities related to the needs of the researcher. During the interview process there were several teachers who did not provide much information about student activities. From this description, the researcher only gets information based on the results of interviews and observations that have been found to be used as material for his report.

Results and Discussion

From the results of research that has been conducted during observations, interviews, and documentation, it is known that interest in reading arises from a sense of curiosity so that they try to read, the stronger the desire to know something, the more active the reading efforts are made. Rahim (2008) explains that interest in reading arises from a strong sense of desire based on one's efforts to read. Given the importance of education in this advanced era, teachers strive to foster interest in learning to students from an early age. This will also have an impact on students because their insights and perspectives will also change, one of which is by developing a culture of literacy at school (Wulandari, 2017).

Based on the results of interviews with teachers at SDN 1 Blangpidie regarding literacy activities carried out at this school, it turns out that it is quite good. They always maintain and implement it well. Some information obtained from observations and interviews with teachers:

- a. Every Saturday the students always routinely familiarize themselves with literacy activities.
- b. Before entering the lesson, students are required to read for a few minutes first.
- c. Conveying the reading results back to other students.
- d. Mandatory library visits once a week.

The teachers also make this activity in the classroom so that they will be able to be more confident when repeating what they have read in front of the class. (Dewantara & Tantri, 2017) They explained that a literacy culture program for 15 minutes before learning begins will create a text-rich environment and can organize the library. This will also be very good for their learning process. Thus, they can express their opinions in front of other students so that other students wonder and discussions arise through interactions between them. This is what can build their communication to be better with the discussion that begins with this literacy activity.

To implement this, the role of a teacher is the main key before learning begins, the spirit of reading students who have been familiarized before entering the classroom.

A culture of literacy must always be cultivated so that they can develop the habit of critical thinking through the reading process, which produces work through this activity (Mursalim, 2017). Not only that, by familiarizing literacy students will be able to solve problems that they will face in the future. Based on observations and interviews, the literacy culture in their school has good communication skills that can affect the learning process. Therefore, teachers at this school always emphasize to students to build this literacy habit. Besides having a positive impact on students, this will also have an impact on a more cheerful and happy school. They will also be able to adapt well and be able to control their behavior.

The results of observation and documentation found that by instilling a culture of literacy in them, they will become someone with good character with the support of being creative, and innovative, having motivation to be more enthusiastic with the courage to bear the risks they face. However, with the limitations of the research such as:

1. Only based on teacher recognition and the data obtained is weak so that data triangulation is needed in further research.
2. The teacher's time was limited when the interview took place so that the researcher did not get much information about the material for the researcher's report, so the need for special time from the teacher that allows researchers to get enough information.
3. Students who are observed as objects may not fully lead to the object observed by the researcher.
4. Research that can only observe students' reading activities at school and not when they are at home.
5. This type of research is descriptive qualitative which is where the understanding of the research subject towards their environment so that it is possible that there is a discrepancy between the research objectives and the understanding of the source. Researchers strive for this study to describe well the data obtained and in accordance with the facts.

Therefore, this literacy culture greatly affects students in reading culture with their ability to think critically (Muhammad et al., 2019). This will also help them in interpersonal and social communication which aims to develop and practice their skills. This includes giving their opinions to others so that they are more likely to accept their arguments in effective group work.

They fill their free time to develop this culture of reading such as, during free time, break time, sometimes they do it when they are bored. Good habits will reflect a good person as well. The effectiveness of this ongoing literacy culture will have an impact on their better thinking skills.

Conclusion

From the research results obtained from interaction with teachers, it can be concluded that the current literacy culture is good enough and effective to improve their interest in reading and their communication skills. The students are also easy to get along with fellow students and teachers. Continuing to pay attention to this culture, especially in primary schools, is a good start to building literacy habits so that they can improve their abilities. Not only will it have an impact on themselves, but it will also have a positive impact on the people around them who will be more interested in them.

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