



The Cultural Values Analysis of English Kids' Songs at K- APEL Makassar

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Abstract

English kids song used by the teacher at K-APEL Makassar. The list was consisted of some parts such as title, theme of the songs, the diction by the writer of the songs (diction) and the last is the kinds of cultural values appears in the songs. Culture can be showed by songs and through the songs the students are guided to know the culture from different culture and the students learn more about new vocabularies in songs. It is fun and interesting media for the teacher as educator to explore the ability of students to recognize some cultures. The result of this research shows that the kid songs frequently used by the English teacher at K-APEL Makassar were very various in culture values presented in the songs concluding profession, food, and activities. One of the song there were some positive characters such as a postman who never the status of the customer whether rich or poor. Furthermore, the songs frequently used by the teacher give some cultural knowledge to the students that are really needed by the students.

Keywords: *Culture, English kid songs, teaching*

Introduction

Media considered as instructional system of teaching learning process. Therefore, instructional media is also called teaching aid. It is used in order to facilitate the teacher to achieve the goal of teaching learning process. Teacher can select the media from the traditional ones up to modern ones. The media in teaching English, one of them is song. A song is like a magic that can hypnotize us, therefore, when we hear the song we could be brought into the song. For example, when someone is listening to the song he or she can be brought into the story of the lyrics and the melody will play their emotion or feeling. In addition, sometimes we did not realize that we could sing the song without learning how to sing the song in a certain way. From the song we can learn

many things, for example, we can get some more new words, and we also could learn how the words are pronounced. As songs are having magical effect, we can use song in the learning process. The component of song is music. Music is a powerful stimulus for the students engagement precisely because it speaks directly to our emotions, while still allow us to use our brains to analyze it and its effects if we wish so. Another important aspect that can be found in song is cultural values.

A culture is a way of life of a group of people, the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next. This culture can be expressed through the song. For example through the kid songs which are used by the English teacher in K-APEL Makassar (Komunitas Anak Pelangi Makassar).

Based on the researcher's observation in K-APEL Makassar, she found that the teacher there always use kids' song as a media in teaching English. There are so many songs with various topics have been used by the teacher during the teaching time. Then the researcher considers that those songs contain cultural values.

Description above inspired the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled "The Cultural Values Analysis of English Kids' songs at K-APEL Makassar".

Method

This is a descriptive qualitative research. This research describes the kids' song. The selected songs were taken from the songs that always use by teachers as a media in teaching English at K-APEL Makassar. There are some songs with various topics have been chosen as subjects. Then the researcher then analyze the cultural values in those songs.

Results

The main data of this research is collection of selected songs. The songs were analyzed descriptively.

Song 1.

I am a postman

Busy everyday

I bring the letters

With my bicycler

No matter where the letters

I'll send them the letters

I don't care whether

They are rich or poor

Kring-kring post

Tittle	Theme	Diction/	Cultural Values
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		Phrase	
Postman	Profession	Postman	A man who delivers the mail
		Busy everyday	The motivation of working hard
		Bring the letter	The main job of the postman
		Send	A verb related to postman job
		Rich or poor	Description of life condition
		“kring-kring” post	A symbol of the attendance of a postman around
		Bicycler	An activity of sport

Cultural analysis:

The song is expressing a culture part namely about the one of the kinds of human’s job. In this case, it talks about the main job of a postman. It introduces about how a man works every day, and also describe about the letter should be brought by a postman. The researcher can say that this song has cultural value that can be learned by the students namely the life of postman and his sincere in doing his job. Then, related to Indonesian culture, this song supports the form of Indonesian culture since the existence of the sincere values in the song appeared. In addition, related to the teaching activities, this song is useful since this song can be a media to explain about the job of postman and it’s characteristic.

Song 2.

What’s for breakfast (2x)
Bread and soup (2x)
It’s a very light meal (2x)
No problem (2x)
What’s for dinner? (2x)
Steak and fish (2x)
It’s heavy dinner (2x)
I’m happy (2x)

Title	Theme	Diction/Phrase	Cultural values
Steak and fish	Foods	Breakfast	Have meal in the morning
		Bread and soup	The kinds of foods that have in eating
		Light meal	The meal that do make someone is so full
		Dinner	Have meal in the

		evening
	Steak	The special food of western people
	Fish	The kinds of animal that can be eaten categorized as seafood
	Heavy dinner	Have dinner with food which make us full
	Happy	The situation of joy

Cultural analysis:

The song teaches us about the kinds of food especially about the daily milk of western people. This song is describing about the kinds of meal of dinner. It talks about the main menu of breakfast namely bread and soup in the first paragraph. Those foods are popular breakfast food. It is common for western culture people to enjoy those in breakfast/in the morning. The second paragraph introduces about the main menu of dinner. They are steak and fish as meals. It is heavy dinner.

The cultural value of this song that can be learned by the students namely the term of eating culture and kinds of food comes from western. Related to Indonesian culture this song can be used as a comparison between Indonesian and Western culture. Through this song also the teacher can teach how to differentiate the western food and Indonesian food. Then it is very useful in teaching vocabularies for children about food and beverages theme.

Song 3.

What are you doing
What are you doing? (2x)
I'm singing
I'm running
I'm playing and singing
I'm running and singing
I'm running and walking
Ding dong ding (2x)

Title	Theme	Diction/ phrase	Cultural Value
What are you doing	Activities	Doing	Anything done, a deed, an action good or bad, hence, in the plural, conduct, behavior

		Singing	The act of singing vocal music
		Running	Executed or initiated by running
		Playing	The act of play
		Walking	The act of traveling by foot

Cultural Analysis:

It mentioned some kinds of activities namely singing, running, playing, and walking. In the song there is question “what are you doing?” The question comes up two times. Then, the writer of the song presents human’s activities namely singing, running and playing. Those activities are common activities for children in their daily life.

General analysis

From selected songs above, it can be seen that generally, through the songs the teacher can introduce the cultural aspects of human. As Amid said (2011:4) that a culture shares system of behavior, values, beliefs, attitudes, manners, symbols, and assumptions. In some cases a culture can have its own exclusive language but in most cases this is not so. The English, Irish and Americans all speak English but have clearly different cultures. The members of the culture can each have their own personal qualities and characters, which may differ widely, but when a large group has similar expectations about values, about how people think, behave, and communicate then they can be said to share a culture.

Related to this research, in a song, people can find some cultural aspects which are expressed through the words and expression in it. A song can be a representative of a kind of human’s activities in daily life. In this case, the researcher found some examples of human’s life aspects in the selected songs used in K-APEL Makassar.

Related to Indonesian’s culture, also can be used to support the introduction about the Indonesian’s culture. Then the Western culture in song also can be used to be a comparison to Indonesian’s culture. Furthermore, all the songs expressed the positive culture Western, so it is not becoming a trouble to Indonesian’s culture.

In teaching implication, the teacher can use the song as a media in introducing some new vocabularies to students. They can create some techniques such as drills by using some selected song. Therefore, the researcher suggest to the teacher specially for English teachers that using the song as a media in teaching learning process is recommended in order to teach both culture Indonesian and Western in the same time.

Conclusion

The selected songs used in K-APEL Makassar. can introduce the cultural aspects of human. Those song share cultural system such as behavior, values, beliefs, attitudes, manners, symbols, and assumptions.

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