

THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR EARLY CHILDREN IN KASREMAN VILLAGE, KANDANGAN, KEDIRI

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Abstract: *Language is the ability to communicate with others, encompassing various forms such as verbal, written, gestures, numbers, drawings, and facial expressions. It allows people to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas using symbols. Effective communication requires language skills, which are essential for humans to connect with one another. Language is a key factor that distinguishes humans from animals, enabling individuals to understand themselves, others, and their surroundings. Through language, people can share their thoughts, preferences, and ideas. In Kasreman village, Kanangan subdistrict, Kediri district, many children cannot communicate well, which is due to a lack of interaction between parents and children. Based on this, it inspired the PKM team consisting of UNHASY lecturers and students to carry out PKM with the title "Outreach for Parents About the Importance of Language Learning for Early Childhood in Kasreman Village, Kandangan, Kediri." This activity aims to equip parents so they can apply it in everyday life.*

Keywords: *Outreach, Language Learning, Early Childhood*

Abstrak: Bahasa adalah kemampuan berkomunikasi dengan orang lain yang mencakup berbagai bentuk seperti lisan, tulisan, gerak tubuh, angka, gambar, dan ekspresi wajah. Hal ini memungkinkan orang untuk mengekspresikan pikiran, perasaan, dan ide menggunakan simbol. Komunikasi yang efektif memerlukan kemampuan berbahasa yang sangat penting bagi manusia untuk dapat terhubung satu sama lain. Bahasa merupakan faktor kunci yang membedakan manusia dengan hewan, sehingga memungkinkan individu memahami dirinya sendiri, orang lain, dan lingkungannya. Melalui bahasa, orang dapat berbagi pemikiran, preferensi, dan ide mereka. Di Desa Kasreman, Kecamatan Kanangan, Kabupaten Kediri, banyak anak yang tidak bisa berkomunikasi dengan baik, hal ini disebabkan kurangnya interaksi antara orang tua dan anak. Berdasarkan hal tersebut menginspirasi tim PKM yang terdiri dari dosen dan mahasiswa UNHASY untuk melaksanakan PKM dengan judul "Sosialisasi Orang Tua Tentang Pentingnya Pembelajaran Bahasa Bagi Anak Usia Dini di Desa Kasreman, Kandangan, Kediri." Kegiatan ini bertujuan untuk membekali para orang tua agar dapat menerapkannya dalam kehidupan sehari-hari.

Kata Kunci: Penjangkauan, Pembelajaran Bahasa, Anak Usia Dini

Introduction

Language is an ability to communicate with people other. This covers all the ways to communicate like express thoughts and feelings through symbols or symbols with using verbal, written, gesture, numbers, drawings, and facial expressions. To be able to communicate effectively with others, humans are required to have language skills. Language is an important factor differentiate humans from animals. With language, humans can know and understand himself, each other, and their living environment. Humans can express ideas, ideas thoughts, things that liked and disliked through the language he has.

Human can communicate with each other, even to each other come from a cultural background different. With human language you can transform ideas or results thinking from a science knowledge. The result of thinking must be conveyed to the wider community through language. Therefore, language development must stimulated early. Children's language skills is important because in the language children can communicate with friends.

Language is main instrument in express thoughts and knowledge when children hold relationships with other people. Children which is developing communicate needs, thoughts and his feelings through language with words that have meaning. Language for children is very important thing, because with language children are able to express everything he feels towards people other. Apart from that, children can also communicate with the surrounding environment, and as a means of distribution child's expression. That's how important language is for humans, then in their activities.

Humans always use language as a tool or means for communicate between each other, because language is a tool used to forming thoughts. Language consists of four components, namely speaking, writing, hearing and reading. The most thing it is important for children to talk, because provide enormous benefits, one of them is so that children can get it interact with peers and other people around him can also add new knowledge.

A child's age 0-6 years is the golden age and it is very important for parents to monitor it child development, because this is the period when the child develops further into adulthood will be determined (Ida Saraswati, 2015). Language is a symbol system for communicate with other people. Abdurrahman also explained that language is the regular expression of a person's thoughts and emotions which is used as a means of communication between members of society which consists of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Language is an integrated communication system, including language speech, reading and writing (Abdurrahman in Anggraini et al., 2019). Based on this description the author can conclude that language is a grammar that individuals use to communicate consisting of listening, speaking, writing and reading. So, parents or teachers must realize the importance of their child's language development because of the child's language can communicate well with others in conveying meaning, thoughts, and ideas. Not just knowing each characteristic and stages parents or teachers must also know the right way or method to Stimulate children's language development according to their age. Because In this research, the researcher took the title the importance of knowing developments Early childhood language and its stimulation. So parents and teachers are very influential in children's language development.

This problem also arises in the Kindergarten in Kasreman, Kandangan District, Kediri Regency. During observations, several students appeared to lack progress in terms of their language. For example, when student A is asked how are you, he will answer "how are you?" From this conversation, it can be seen that the student is not able to organize language, he cannot even answer questions and instead repeats questions. Even though children of that age should at least be able to answer these fairly general questions well.

Method

The qualitative descriptive method is the method that will be used in this research. The definition of this descriptive method is a method that intends to describe/describe the condition of the subject/object of research (a person, institution, society, etc.). This research aims to describe the phenomena that occur related to language skills in early childhood around years 5-6 in the Kasreman Village Kindergarten, Kandangan District, Kediri Regency.

According to Lexy J. Moleong⁹, a qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data, namely written or verbal data and observed behavior of the people who are the objects of research. The data sources for this research consist of: Primary data is the main data which is the source in the research, namely 2 teachers, 1 Principal, 15 Kindergarten students and 15 Teachers in class B in the Kasreman Village Kindergarten, Kandangan District, Kediri Regency.

Data collection is carried out by researchers during research activities. Data collection techniques used include:

1. Observation

According to Sukandarrumidi¹⁰ Observation is observing and recording an object, systematically investigating the phenomenon. Observations can be carried out momentarily or repeatedly. Observation techniques are used to strengthen data, especially children's language skills in using Indonesian and English in the classroom. The results of this observation are also to confirm the data that has been collected through interviews with the actual reality. The reason researchers use observation techniques is to obtain information about the specific description of language abilities in children. The observation that researchers use in this research is participant observation, where the observer is directly involved and participates in the activities carried out by the subject being observed. In this research, the researcher and assisted by Hasyim Asy'ari University student members acted in collecting data to make it easier to double check the information collected, so tools were needed in the form of observation guidelines.

2. Interview

According to Sukandarrumidi¹⁰, an interview is a verbal question and answer process between the interviewer and the interviewee. This activity is carried out to obtain information in the form of interviews from related parties or research subjects, namely teachers, in order to obtain explanations or information about things that have not been included in observations and documentation.

3. Documentation

Document comes from the word "Document" which means a recording of an event that is closer to a conversation, concerns personal matters, and requires interpretation that is very closely related to the context of the recorded event. In narrow terms, documents mean written texts, personal letters, biographies and some of them, while broadly they mean monuments, photographs, tape recorders, and so on¹¹. Thus, the documentation technique in this research is a data collection technique through notes, archives and other documentary sources related to children's language abilities.



Pic 1. Some of audience and team

Finding and Discussion

Before giving socialization about the importance of language to early childhood, the researcher conducted questionnaire containing the factors affect this moment. Those factors that influence a child's general language development can be explained as follows.

A. Brain and intelligence development

The development of the human brain from the beginning of life is very close related to language development. The cry of a newborn baby controlled by the brain stem and pons system, which is the most primitive part and fastest growing part of the human brain. Various research results say there is a relationship between measuring intelligence and measuring language development which consists of vocabulary, articulation skills and an indication of maturity of abilities language. The scientist named Vygotsky stated that language is tools for learning, children's learning acquisition will influence development language, meaning children who experience faster language development will become a smart child. However, there are various things that need to be considered, namely that a child who talks a lot/is active is not a measurement mark good language skills, even with children who seem quiet or those If you don't talk much, it doesn't mean that the child is stupid or has something low language skills (Gunawan, 2016).



Pic 2. The outreach

B. Gender

Several studies say that compared to boys Girls' language development is faster. Girls can do it faster speaking than boys, they have developmental acquisition faster vocabulary. Other research states that compared with More young men and young women have superior abilities verbal performance. Meanwhile, there are problems with speech delays or distractions Stuttering-like speech is also more common in boys. Differences in language development between boys and girls this can be explained biologically and socially. It is said that development. The left cerebral hemisphere and brain in girls appear faster. Part of the brain This is what plays a role in language development. Apart from that, influence. The environment accustoms girls to playing with dolls at home they talk to, help mother in the kitchen and other activities that make them more frequently interacts with other speaking adults.

However, that doesn't happen to all children in the 21st century today, many the researcher found it at the institution where he currently works, the researcher found that there were several girls who experienced speech delays, at age child who has turned 4 years old, the girl that researchers found his vocabulary is still very small, for example this child is only able to say simple sentences such as mama, papa, eat, finished, and simple words other. This shows that apart from the child's internal

factors, external factors are also very important influence on language development. Providing stimulation from the family especially His parents are not optimal, so this child needs help from health authorities or a doctor who is an expert in improving the child's language. And supporting factors others such as consuming nutritious food, often inviting children to talk and do things others that make language development better (Anggraini et al., 2019).

C. Physical condition

The development and acquisition of language requires various things physical condition, including that the child has no problems with speech organs (throat, tongue teeth, lips, vocal cords), hearing organs (ears) and neuromuscular system in the brain. So that children's language development goes smoothly Normally, all these tools must function properly and effectively.

D. Family environment

Family is the most important closest environment for children provide facilities to support children's development, especially language in children. From infancy until the age of six, children spend more time to be at home, therefore they interact more with his family members. Children with parents who actively encourage conversation, reading stories and intensely interacting verbally acquire better language skills. In a study explained that time when eating with the family is the place where it happens conversation between family members, at this time is the best opportunity to facilitate a child's language development.

In a study from Latipah, Adi Kistoro, Hasanah, & Putranta said that the generation in the current millennial century, with the use of technology being directed towards positive things, has made children start using technology from an early age, which allows them to learn about new languages, so that their language vocabulary becomes larger so it will be bring up an attitude of self-confidence, high optimism, high self-esteem and attitude high firmness. (Latipah, Adi Kistoro, et al., 2020). In this case use Appropriate technology for children is the responsibility of the family, especially parents in monitoring everything that children see, hear and do through the media the technology.



Pic 3. The situation

E. Economical condition

Language development of children from economic backgrounds middle school is said to be faster, compared to children who come from families low economic class. Parents from upper middle class families are expected have a sufficient level of

education to facilitate language development and for children they can provide various tools such as books and stationery to develop language. This results in children having a treasury more vocabulary. They also usually pay more attention to how children speak and watching children speak well and correctly. This matter will have a good effect on children's language and pragmatic development (Amalia, 2019).

F. Social culture

Indonesia is known for having a diverse culture. Difference This culture results in differences in children's language development, in particular national language or Indonesian. The environment around the child is active speak their regional language, in everyday social interactions children find it a little difficult to use Indonesian. Another example is there are cultural guidelines that make it difficult for children to develop their language. As in Javanese culture, good children are those who argue a little her parents. Therefore, children are not trained to express thoughts and ideas in his opinion, so that children will experience delays in good language and Correct. Children whose homes are in Jakarta use a lot of slang (not Indonesian) but the language they created themselves.

G. Bilingualism

The use of bilingualism or assignment of two languages is very important popular lately. With the intention that children do not fall behind Nowadays, parents, especially in big cities, are starting to send their children to school institutions that have used two languages even more, which is becoming The problem is that the child must be able to use two languages at that age who are still young or less than two years old, at the time of "language" development mother" is not yet fully perfect, then this will result in the child experiencing Difficulty when expressing words and assigning good and correct vocabulary. Refers to varying degrees of fluency in two languages; often includes literature and spoken language. Bilingual can refer to an individual or a community (Whitehead, 2007).

H. Healthy factor

Children who are in good physical condition will have more activities and their knowledge of what is in their environment, but the opposite is true if the child is in poor physical condition. If you look at it from the perspective of progress and Deterioration of healthy conditions affects various growth processes. If at the beginning of early childhood it is caused by illness resulting in movement growth Even children are late, so early childhood is at a certain period of the child's movement growth will also result in not playing much through the sound and it will greatly determines a child's language growth. Therefore in this discussion There is a reciprocal relationship between children's activity and language growth child. From a physical perspective, every healthy child has more internal skills using the language (Gunawan, 2016).

How to Language learning for children consists of several methods in accordance with children's needs. Certain learning techniques/methods are not intended to be better than other methods. The language learning methods that will be given to children must be appropriate needs, and the child's ability to receive them. The learning method is chosen according to the child's type, needs and the most effective possible methods for implemented. (Amalia, 2019). Educators can teach various ways, so that development occurs children's language skills improve receptively (listening and reading) or productive (speaking and writing). The methods are as follows.

- 1) Copying sentences, numbers, or singing songs
- 2) Exemplify various instructions at the same time and answer questions,
- 3) Introducing demonstrative words that point to a place,

- 4) explain again about events around the child,
- 5) Complete simple sentences and tell the contents of the picture,
- 6) Reveal the names of various objects, animals, plants that have shapes, colors, and other special markings,
- 7) Introducing synonyms, and using the pronouns "me" or "me"

Based on the competency to be achieved, on the role of an educator You should pay attention to choosing which method is suitable, there are various methods in the form of stories or fairy tales, playing with vocabulary, wayang puppets, connecting words, chatting, answering and asking questions, performing drama, reciting poetry, playing mini dramas, and visiting tourist attractions. With Using this method, it is hoped that educators can foster development and children's language and speech abilities (Zubaidah, 2004)



Pic 4. Photo together after seminar

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the results of the Community Service team's understanding, it can be concluded that the factors causing this include a lack of awareness of parents as an important role, excessive use of gadgets and a lack of similar socialization.

With these inhibiting factors, it is hoped or the advice that can be given is that parents must always accompany their children so that they become more aware, reduce the use of gadgets among children and increase socialization or similar seminars, as well as additional facilities to be increased. a play area for children so that they can gather more often and can practice using their language with friends of the same age or others.

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