INCREASING STUDENTS’ VOCABULARY THROUGH FLASHCARD AT THE FIFTH YEAR OF SD NEGERI GUWOKAJEN 02: AN ACTION RESEARCH

RESEARCH PAPER
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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Learning English is very important to be learned by students of Indonesia. The importance could be seen from the fact that most scientific books are written in English and there are many job applications which put English as the main qualification. It’s very important to start learning English as early as possible. In Indonesia, many elementary schools have included English as a compulsory subject. For example is SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen, Boyolali which has taught the English lesson from the third grade until the sixth grade. SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen decides to put English as a compulsory subject in order to provide the student with Basic English before entering Junior High School.

In the elementary school curriculum, teaching English covers four skills namely reading, listening, speaking and writing. The four skills are supported by the learning of language elements. They are structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. Therefore, vocabulary is one of important language elements the student should develop. Vocabulary includes collection of words. The words are known not only as individual words, but also as a group of words that have meaning. To develop students’ language skill in reading, listening, speaking and writing, the learners must have some
degree of vocabulary. Coady and Huckin (1997: 5) state that vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to the typical language learner.

In reality, teaching English to elementary student is not easy. There ere many problems occur during the process since English is a new language for them. The less of English vocabulary and the lack of teaching techniques variation in teaching English vocabulary become the prominent problems. To increase the students’ vocabulary teacher should create various teaching techniques for example by using flash card.

Allen (1983: 12) states that in classes where no one language is known by the entire student, the teacher needs particular skill. The teacher must provide definition in English, using words the class can understand vocabulary lessons for the first stage of English instruction use flash card for showing many meanings”. Furthermore, Allen (1983:52) adds that “Language teachers are responsible for creating conditions which encourage vocabulary expansion, and well-chosen game can help the students acquire English word”.

In SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen, students get difficulty in mastering vocabulary. It is caused by the English teacher does not use appropriate methods to teach the students. It will be difficult when the teacher can not motivate the students intensively because it is as the result of their characteristic. The motivation of young learners in learning is only to get a new thing in their live while they doing something. To find out the best technique for teaching young learner needs an intensive analysis, especially
for the teacher. They should create all the alternative of technique to teach young learner in order to make the learners interest to what they are going to learn and avoid the freedom.

After interviewing the teacher and observing the teaching learning process at the fifth grade students of SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen, it can be seen that the student vocabulary is still low, especially in knowing the meaning, pronouncing and writing words or group of words correctly. It’s proven by the score of formative test that is given to the students as a pre-test. To overcome this problem, it is necessary to conduct a classroom action research in order to increase students’ vocabulary.

In teaching English lesson for the fifth grade students of SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen, the teacher faced two problems. The first, the teacher is difficult to handle the class because the condition of the class is very noisy, although some of the students are active, but most of them are little bit slowly in understanding the materials. The second is the teacher found that not all the students could practice their vocabulary because of the limited time. Based on the problems above, the researcher must use methods that can make all the students active in joining the lesson and the researcher must use the technique that can make all the students have chances to practice their vocabulary.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher try to find the effective solution to increase the students’ vocabulary through flashcard. Flashcard that is used as a teaching learning aid at elementary level is chosen to increase the students’ vocabulary. It will make the student interested in
studying vocabulary because most of them like to play such as a card. A flashcard is free, versatile, and easy to use. The researcher does not need any specific time to drill a new vocabulary. Flashcard is better than word lists, because students can break it up in any minutes and then group the words by their difficulties. The moment student found a new word that they did like to learn, all it takes is to write down once and that’s it.

Flash cards are helpful in the acquisition of new vocabulary words. A way to develop this is to take a pack of cards related more/less to one topic and devise a situation in which the learner has to use at least some of the words they see on the cards. This is efficient with the students at the fifth grade and really fun. To summarize briefly, flash card can act as prompts, cues, and a mnemonic, a non verbal form of communication, like Cuisenaire rods to show structure, so it can bring much joy and give opportunities to remember the word easily. Flash card also a common and popular learning strategy, fast, and easy to learn.

Based on the reason above, the researcher would like to conduct An Action Research to Help the Fifth Year Students of SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen Increase Their Vocabulary by Using Flashcards.
B. Research Problem

The problem that will be analyzed in the research is: “Can flashcard increase the student’s vocabulary?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to increase the student’s vocabulary using flash card.

D. The Benefit of the Study

The study has two major benefits as follows:

1. Theoretically,
   a) The finding of this research will enrich the theory of teaching vocabulary using flash cards.
   b) The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching learning process.

2. Practically,
   a) The research will give way to solve the problem in teaching English.
   b) It can motivate the student to learn English in order to be more interested in learning vocabulary.
   c) Other teachers can adopt the strategy.
E. Limitation of the Problem

In this research, the writer limits the problem to make easier the research. In elementary school, there are many interesting aspect to study, but the writer only focuses on the increasing students’ vocabulary through flash cards to the fifth year students of SD Negeri 02 Guwokajen in the school year 2007-2008 and the flash cards that is used in this research are limited on the flash cards that are used to explain topics on the text-books.

F. Research Paper Organization

The researcher is going to organize this research paper in order to make the reader easier to understand

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter explains the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, benefit of the study, limitation of the study, research paper organization

Chapter II presents underlying theory. It covers of previous study, general concept of vocabulary, the nature of teaching English, characteristic of young learners, and general concept of teaching using flash card.

Chapter III discusses research method. This covers type of research, data sources, object of the study, subject of the study, method of collecting data, and technique of analysis data.

Chapter IV is the result of the study. In this chapter, the researcher presents about discussion and research findings which consist of data analysis, the result of teaching vocabulary by using flash card.

Chapter V deals with conclusion and suggestion.