

The present writer does her apprenticeship at TK. Heman BPPK for two months in 2004. The present writer chooses to have her apprenticeship at TK. Heman BPPK as an English teacher for both the A class (five year olds) and the B class (six year olds) because the present writer is interested in English education. The present writer wants to have practical experience in teaching English language to kindergarten children. The present writer wants to know how well young children can understand English language from the lessons in which the teacher uses simple English language. She wants to find out which kinds of material are suitable to be used in teaching English to kindergarten children.

By teaching the English language to children since an early age, it can help them in their future, especially when they are adults. English language is important from a young age, so that the children can develop a good foundation in English listening and speaking. Based on this fact; the present writer is interested in teaching English language in TK. Heman BPPK.

Before the present writer has her apprenticeship there, TK. Heman BPPK does not have any English lessons. This is unusual, because English is generally taught in kindergartens in Bandung. This encourages the present writer to ask for permission to begin lessons in English for kindergarten age children at this institution. There are only two classes in this kindergarten. Class A is for five year old children, while class B is for six year old children. The present writer is given permission to teach English in both these classes.

TK. Heman BPPK was established on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1957, under the authority of an institution known as BPPK GKP. It is located at Jalan Pajajaran number 91, Bandung. The first headmistress was Mrs. Rohma. At the moment, TK. Heman has a total of 24 pupils, and the headmistress in charge is Mrs. Dameria. TK. Heman has two classrooms, one library, one computer laboratory and a field for the pupils to play and do sport activities.

The job qualifications to be an English teacher at TK. Heman are: Male or Female high school graduate; capable in English, in the four language skills; has experience in teaching English.

No job description was given to the present writer, so the present writer plans the topics and activities at the kindergarten by herself. The present writer sees her role as an English teacher as being: to teach English language skills especially listening and speaking, to teach songs to the children in English (for example, "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star", and a new song, "Up and Down and Shake – Shake") and to play games in English (guessing colours, shapes, numbers, etc.)

The tools provided for the present writer to teach are attractive pictures according to the theme that is going to be taught, for example, clothes, the human body. The present writer also uses jigsaw puzzles, namely, animal pictures and transportation pictures. All of these pictures and puzzles are in a box in the classroom.

The relationship between departments in TK. Heman is as follows: BPPK (Badan Pengurus Pengajar Kristen) is the institution for TK. Heman BPPK. The headmistress is accountable to BPPK; she has to write a report of all the activities of the school and give financial reports to BPPK. TK. Heman has a headmistress, who is also a teacher there, one other teacher, one cleaner and two security men. They are all accountable to the headmistress.

During apprenticeship, the present writer has to work on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 09:00 until 09:30 as an English teacher for A class and B class. The present writer observes the teacher of these classes first so that she knows how to teach kindergarten children and what the effective ways for young children to learn are.

The present writer's first task as an English teacher at TK. Heman is to do observation. The present writer observes the children in the classrooms with their teacher in their usual lessons using the Indonesian language. The observation is only in the first week. The present writer learns from the teachers how to make interesting material which is easy for the children to understand. The observation also helped the present writer to get to know the pupils.

After the present writer has done the observation, the present writer begins to teach in classes A and B. Within the teaching time, the pupils often ask a question and the present writer has to answer it clearly so they can understand the answer.

From the experience of teaching the English language, the present writer finds out that some pupils have difficulties in understanding it, so the present writer has to repeat the material which has just been taught until they understand it.

During the apprenticeship as an English teacher, the main tasks of the present writer are: the present writer teaches about the human body, animals, and clothes. A smaller amount of time is spend on teaching greetings, alphabet (a – j), numbers, colours, and transportations.

During the apprenticeship, the present writer uses the four skills of English language: for listening and speaking, the present writer says some words in English, and then she listens to the pupils repeating the words. The present writer sometimes speaks in English when teaching English language in B class. For reading, the present writer uses English to read some words and numbers in English. She does some reading in English in both classes. The present writer writes in English when the present writer writes some English words and numbers on the blackboard.

The subjects from the three years diploma in English which the present writer has found especially helpful in her apprenticeship at the kindergarten are the listening classes, the conversation classes and the TEFL classes. Listening and conversation are the two language skills which are best for the ages of the kindergarten children, because they are still so young. TEFL helps the present writer to know methods and techniques for teaching English language, how to make a lesson plan, and how to gain confidence in teaching.

After the present writer has finished the apprenticeship at TK. Heman BPPK, the present writer knows that she has gained some benefits from this apprenticeship. Mrs. Dameria says that the present writer has become more confident to speak in front of the class. The present writer also gets more skills in how to communicate with others, especially with children. Moreover, the present writer knows how to motivate the children at a young age to learn English language.

According to Mrs. Dameria, although the present writer has these strengths, she also has some weaknesses: the present writer has to practise speaking more in English language, and the present writer has to have more materials. From this comment, the present writer realizes that she has to have her own materials too.

The present writer knows that TK. Heman BPPK does not have English lessons, so the present writer also realises that the pupils have a lot of weaknesses in English language, which makes it difficult to teach the kindergarten children who barely know English.

In the present writer's opinion, the pupils should have more practice in English language, especially in listening and speaking, because, by using these skills, the ability of the children in English will increase, even at a young age.

The present writer wants to give a suggestion that TK Heman should provide English lessons at least once a week. Even with only simple materials, the present writer believes that the pupils at TK Heman will find it is easier to learn English.