

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

I did my internship at KB (Kelompok Bermain) / Playgroup Kemurnian II Jakarta from July 16, 2014 to August 15, 2014 as an English teacher assistant. I taught about 25 children in 2 classes. I helped the English teacher to teach phonics to the children. I assisted the children who could not do the exercise. I helped them to learn phonics so they could learn new vocabulary. According to Bald," Phonics is systematic teaching of the sound conveyed by letters and groups of letters, and includes teaching children to combine and blend these to read or write words" (1). Teaching phonics for children is important, especially for reading skills. As Blevins states,"The goal of phonics instruction is to teach students the most common sound-spelling relationships so that they can decode, or sound out, words. This decoding ability is a crucial element in reading success" (par.2).

During my internship, I found a problem. My problem was I had difficulty in teaching phonics to preschool children aged 3 – 4 years old. I became a teacher assistant and I taught them phonics in a multimedia classroom by using a computer to help them understand the material. I operated the program on the computer. The children could listen to some of phonics sounds from the speakers and they could see the pictures and the letters on the screen. However, most of the children became confused and they did not understand the material. When I asked them the phonics sounds, some of them could not answer my question and they just kept silent.

Considering the above explanation, I would like to discuss my problem in handling my difficulty in teaching phonics to preschool children at KB Kemurnian II School. I choose this title because I would like to find the solutions for teaching phonics. The English materials in KB Kemurnian II School are all related to phonics. I never knew about phonics before my internship, therefore I really did not understand the material. Hopefully, I can get some new method for teaching phonics by doing this term-paper.

B. Identification of the Problem

The research questions of my term paper formulated are as follows:

1. Why did I have difficulty in teaching phonics to preschool children in two classes at KB Kemurnian II School Jakarta?
2. How did my problem influence the children and me?

3. How should I solve the problem?

C. Objective and Benefits of the Study

First, the objective of my term-paper is to find out the causes of the problem. Second, I would like to analyze the effects of my problem. Third, I would like to present the best solutions to overcome my difficulty in teaching phonics. My term paper will give many benefits to others. The benefit for the teachers at KB Kemurnian II School is they will get various ideas for teaching phonics. The benefit for the readers is they will learn how to teach phonics to preschool children. The benefit for me is I will learn some new techniques for teaching phonics to preschool children.

D. Description of the Institution

Kemurnian School was established in 1978. This school was at Jalan Kemurnian V No. 209, Jakarta Pusat. As time went by, the students were increasing, so Kemurnian School built another school in Perumahan Greenville blok Q No. 209 and Perumahan Citra II blok B - 6 (TK) and Blok A – 3 (SD), Jakarta Barat. KB (*Kelompok Bermain*) Kemurnian is a part of Kemurnian School. The headmistress of TK and KB Kemurnian is Dra. Pauline Lena Hermawan. Now TK and KB Kemurnian has 197 students and 18 teachers. This school also has English and Chinese Departments. The vision of this school is to

become a leading school of faith and knowledge which is based on tolerance towards the global era. This data is based on the information on the website Eduactory.

E. Method of the Study

I have collected some data to analyze the topic of my term paper. First, I get the data from my internship journal. I also use library research to gain the data from books and articles in the Internet. This data is used to analyze the causes, effects, and the potential solutions of the problem.

F. Limitation of the Study

The focus of my analysis is handling my difficulty in teaching phonics to children in two preschool classes. The name of a class are KBK (*Kelompok Bermain Kecil*) and KBB (*Kelompok Bermain Besar*). I did my internship at KB Kemurnian II School Jakarta from July 14, 2014 until August 15, 2014. My position was a teacher assistant. The subjects of my research are 25 preschool children and I as a teacher assistant.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term-paper starts with the Abstract, Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents. This term-paper consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, divided into seven parts, there are : Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of Institution, Method of Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term-paper. The second chapter is Problem Analysis that describes the cause and the effects of the problem. Chapter Three describes the potential solutions to solve the problems along with the positive and negative effects. The last chapter is Conclusion. There is also Bibliography, a list of the references used in this paper. Furthermore, this term-paper also has Appendices that contain a Flowchart, School Profile, and Samples of Phonics Flashcards.