

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In this global era it is really necessary to learn English language as it is needed in a lot of countries. Schools are thereby facilitating students to be proficient and skillful in English language. Considering its importance, schools teach English to children since kindergarten stage.

Learning English language cannot be separated from learning vocabulary. It may be true, as Richards and Rogers maintain, that “Vocabulary is one of the most important aspects of foreign language learning” (32). Furthermore, it is stated by Brummitt-Yale in “Effective Strategies for Teaching Vocabulary” that “It may seem common sense that the more times we are exposed to English word, the stronger our understanding becomes” (par.2). By learning and mastering English vocabulary, the students can recognize, memorize and understand English language better. Dene states that “An increased vocabulary will help students communicate with others” (par.1). Therefore, it is advisable to make students’ English vocabulary increase by not only making them learn the words during the lesson but also saving them in their memory so as to help them communicate in English.

However, learning and memorizing English vocabulary might be difficult for some children. Kelly maintains that “Some children have difficulty processing and memorizing” (par.1). Moreover, Drake states that “Learning new words is easy but remembering them is much more difficult” (par.1). Since one cannot instantly be capable of acquiring the new language, the teaching methodology then holds an important role.

When I was teaching at TK Kuntum during my apprenticeship, I found most of my students in TK A had difficulty in learning and memorizing the vocabulary well. No matter what and how I taught them, they still considered it difficult to learn and memorize the vocabulary. Thereby, I would like to discuss the possible solutions to overcome the difficulty in helping some four-year-old students in learning and memorizing new vocabulary in English language.

B. Identification of the Problem

In this paper, I would like to analyze the following research questions:

1. Why was it difficult for me to help some four-year-old students in TK A memorize new vocabulary in English language?
2. How can the problem affect the teaching and learning vocabulary in class?
3. How is it to overcome the difficulty of helping four-year-old students in memorizing new vocabulary in English language?

C. Objective and Benefit of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem that have been mentioned, the objectives of the study are to find the causes and the effects of the problem and to present the best solutions to deal with the problem. The benefit of this paper for the teachers at PG/TK Kuntum is to give the information about how to help the students of 4 year olds in learning and memorizing new vocabularies in English language. For the readers, they can hopefully gain new insights in teaching kindergarten students. Last of all, as a writer, if someday I want to be a teacher in kindergarten, I will know how to overcome similar problem, and I will also increase my knowledge in English teaching methodology.

D. Description of the Institution

In the brochure entitled *Menerima murid Baru Tahun Ajaran 2012 – 2013*) PG/TK Kuntum was established in 1988. This school is located at Cipaganti no 144, Bandung. Kuntum is an abbreviation of Kuingin Tumbuh. It is a school that has a goal to give its students the best education since their early age. This kindergarten has five classes, namely *Kelas Mungil* for two year olds, *Kelas Kecil* for two and a half until three year olds, *Kelas Besar* for three and a half year olds, *TK A* for four year olds, and *TK B* for five year olds. This school offers to enhance the knowledge and creativity of the children through reading, speaking, writing, drawing and colouring pictures, playing games and

other varieties of teaching techniques. It provides a Mandarin class, English class, Math class. Moreover, Kuntum's goals are to build students' good attitude and to make them have confidence, as well. (source: brochure entitled *Menerima murid Baru Tahun Ajaran 2012 – 2013*)

E. Method of the Study

I employed my apprenticeship journal based on my apprenticeship at TK A Kuntum to help me to get the information required. I also did a library research for my paper through some books and articles from the Internet in order to get data to support my analysis.

F. Limitation of the Study

This paper will focus on how to overcome the difficulty in helping some four-year-old students in learning and memorizing new vocabularies in English language. The subjects of the research are five four-year-old students at TK A Kuntum and I as one of the English teachers. The teaching duration is two hours each day. School days are from Monday to Friday. My period of apprenticeship started in July and ended in September 2012. In this paper I would like to discuss the causes of why it was difficult to help the four-year-old students learn and memorize words, the second is about the effects which are related to the problem, and also the solutions to the problem.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

This Term Paper consists of four chapters, preceded by Acknowledgments, Abstract, and Table of Contents. The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of the Institution, Method of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term Paper. The second chapter contains problem analysis. Then, the third chapter is potential solutions, which includes two positive effects and also two the negative effects of the solutions. The fourth chapter is Conclusion, followed by bibliography and the appendix, which contains the flowchart.