

## Improving Young Learners Vocabulary by Using Digital Technology

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### Abstract

*This writing, aims at describing the possible ways in increasing young learners' vocabulary. Vocabulary is a very important part of language. When we learn a language like English, we learn the words in the language. Vocabulary is needed to master the four skills of English. Through vocabulary, we convey our thoughts, emotions and efficiency. Although it is often hampered by lack of grammar or grammatical errors in its use. But in communication it does not become an obstacle as long as the speaking partner understands. The methodology of this research is library research. Using previous research as the basis of what is being researched. Understanding the important things to take as material from this research. To improve young learners' vocabularies by technology, need guidance between parents, teacher, and school environment. As a form of response to technological developments, stakeholders in the Education sector conduct teacher training, teacher education and teacher professions development. Vocabulary is not only mastered by young learners but there are others too. When they have oral or written communication language, they use vocabulary to express their thoughts and ideas. Although in reading, one must understand the meaning of words written on the text. Of course, mastering English vocabulary takes time and process.*

**Keywords:** Vocabulary; Digital Technology; EYL; EFL

## INTRODUCTION

Language is the most significant component of every human being's life. Panambunan, Tulung & Maru, (2016). English is an important language in this modern era. Regardless of whether the language is one's native or used for several purposes such as study, work or in the scope of daily interactions.

Learning the language can help students to know information, how to communicate, to express their ideas and feelings, also develop culture and art (Mamaghe, Rombejajung, & Hampp, (2020). According to Hampp, (2019) Indonesian children should be taught English from an early age. So, it is critical to study and learn. Learning English, can help the students to improve their knowledge about everything in English. In learning language teaching, there are four language skills; speaking, reading, writing, and listening (Lengkoan, et al, 2022).

Vocabulary is also an important part of the language (Rorintulus et al, 2021). The ability to master or memorize vocabulary is the first step to forming a simple

sentence that will make it easier for someone to communicate with the speaking partner. Having a lot of vocabulary makes it easier for someone to speak and be able to use other basics in English (Maru et al, 2022). Vocabulary is one of the linguistic features which influence communicative competence. It has a direct contribution to the mastery of the four language skills. In short, it can be said that, by having enough vocabulary, the students' mastery on language components also will be improved (Delatu, Wowor, & Kamagi, 2020).

Vocabulary is a very important language (Roring & Kamagi, 2020). When we learn a language like English, we learn the words in the language. Vocabulary is needed to master the four skills of English. Through vocabulary, we convey our thoughts, emotions and efficiency. Without mastering it, people will not be able to use English effectively. In language teaching, students must continuously learn vocabulary while learning structure.

Although it is often hampered by lack of grammar or grammatical errors in its use. But in communication it does not become an obstacle as long as the speaking partner understands what he means. Nagy, (1988) states that vocabulary is fundamental to comprehension of various texts and that vocabulary teaching should be an integral part of language education.

There is a consensus on the importance of vocabulary in reading performance, ideas on how to teach vocabulary and how much vocabulary should be given to learners may be different. Some people suggested that vocabulary should be taught clearly in class, while others suggested different vocabulary teaching methods (Pajow et al, 2021).

Technology is also an important part of cultivating vocabulary memory ability. With the existence of technology, the collection of vocabulary has increased unconsciously (Liando et al, 2021). The use of social media and online games makes people interested in finding meaning and applying it to daily life.

Lestary & Setiawan, (2020) The existence of technology, such as the existence of the Internet, has a role in generating new realities in class activities. Technology become Based on the statement before, can technology to improve vocabulary? This is a big question to prove with this research.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

There are some definitions of vocabulary according some experts. Linse, (2005) states that vocabulary is the collection of words that an individual know. Other expert, Neuman and Drawyer as cited in Bintz, (2011) said that vocabulary can be defined as the words someone must know to communicate effectively: words in speaking (expressive vocabulary). While Hornby, (2006) defined vocabulary as all the words that a person knows or uses when they are talking about particular subject in particular language.

According to Steven Stahl, (2005) “Vocabulary knowledge is knowledge; the knowledge of a word not only implies a definition, but also implies how that word fits into the world.” We continue to develop vocabulary throughout our lives. Words are powerful. Words open up possibilities, and of course, that’s what we want for all of our students

From some definitions about vocabulary above, it can be said that vocabulary is the basic element of language which someone needs in learning a language especially to communicate effectively with others.

Referring to the statements above, teaching vocabulary with creativity in a different way is required. The teacher should consider the appropriate method and suitable techniques to achieve the goal. Wilkin, (1983) states teachers have to find out any technique that is relevant to the students' interest and then it will motivate them to pay more attention to the teaching-learning process. The aims of using various ways and teaching strategies are making the students understand the lesson easily and remember what they learned without any pressure since the students enjoy the activities in learning vocabulary. Various techniques can be applied for teaching vocabulary, one of which was a cooperative learning method.

## ***Language***

Language skills include four components, listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills, and writing skills. Hurlock, (1978) explains "language is a form of communication of thoughts and feelings which is symbolized to convey meaning to others. The things that are included in the form of language according to Hurlock are spoken language, written language, sign language, body language, facial expressions. Santrock, (2007) states that “Language is a form of communication, whether spontaneous, written, or signed, that is based on a system of symbolic”. Lerner in Itta, (2007) states that "the main basis for language development is through rich communication experiences. This rich experience will support other language factors, namely those included in receptive language skills, namely listening and reading, while speaking. and writing is an expressive language skill.

## ***The Function of Language***

Basically the most important function of language is as a tool to communicate. Suhartono, (2005) functions of language for children are as follows:

- a) Communication tools with the closest environment
- b) Tools to develop children's basic abilities.
- c) Expression development tools

His description above can explain that the main function of language is as a communication tool, so it can be understood how closely language and communication are in life.

## **Children Language Development**

Language development is one of the links in a child's growth chain and other developments big motor skills, problem solving development, motor vision problems this combination of vision and fine motor function, and social development (Lumentut & Lengkoan, 2021).

Every child who grows normally his mind will learn first language or mother tongue. The first few years of life and the process of this condition will continue for about 5 years. Then at puberty (about 12-14 years) to adulthood (about 18-20 years), children will continue to learn first language.

## **Technology**

Digital technology is part of modern life, where digital technology operates using a computerized system or the format can be read by a computer. Digital technology, has been widely applied in everyday life. Take an active role in media or assistive devices in various fields of activity such as research, business, and even become learning support media.

Lestary & Setiawan (2020) Technology changes all aspects related to learning English at the macro level and the micro level. At the micro level, it is important to pay attention to the existence of technology, such as the existence of the Internet, which creates new realities in classroom activities. When the reality of reality closes (objective reality) and enters reality (virtual reality), a new reality will appear. The emergence of the new reality is characterized by the emergence of English-based networks that provide online courses. The two realities are very different. Learning English in objective reality is a traditional teaching practice. It is constrained by space and time, has a specific timetable, and usually takes place in the classroom. At the same time, learning English in virtual reality is the opposite. The role of technology at the macro level is related to the policies implemented by many countries in the use of technology in English teaching.

## **METHOD**

The methodology of this research is library research. Using previous research as the basis of what is being researched. Understanding the important things to take as material from this research. Sugiyono, cited in Mirzaqon & Purwoko, (2017) stated that library research is a theoretical study, references and other scientific literature related to culture, values and norms that develop in the social situation under study. "... data were extracted from various documents, mainly official website, government report, thesis and journals". Keng, Jusoh, & Nor, (2017). However, still utilize resources through digital technology, in the form of other sources from the internet, in the form of online journals and online encyclopedias.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To improve young learners vocabularies by technology, need guidance between parents, teacher, and school environment. Parents needs to provide good facilities to help young learners to be motivate to learning English. School must prepare facilities and infrastructure to support the learning process, a good learning environment. Teachers also play an important role in increasing the vocabulary of young students by using technology, teachers must know the right digital technology to make students offer to master various vocabularies. Teachers can choose some interesting videos via youtube to teach children, also usually use several quiz sites to make it easier for students to remember the vocabulary they have learned. As a form of response to technological developments, stakeholders are Education sector conducts teacher training, teacher education and teacher professions developing.

Youtube is an online video sharing platform. There are many types of content on Youtube, including entertainment, business, news, education, and live broadcasts. Through Youtube, anyone can create and watch any program. However, the sad fact is that entertainment content still dominates YouTube creators and viewers in Indonesia, while educational content is still scarce.

One of the advantages of educational content on Youtube is that it is presented in an audio-visual way. Bibitsku is an example of a successful YouTube channel that contains educational content in English in which there are interesting animated elements suitable for children.

Youtube serves as an alternative media for children's learning. The current generation is no stranger to the digital world. Unlike the previous generation, the current generation tends to be addicted to technology. So the learning model of this generation needs to be closer to their alternative media.

One of the conventional methods that can be integrated with digital technology is using the teaching technique, one of them is mind mapping technique. Siberman in Delatu, Wowor, & Kamagi (2020) stated that, mind mapping is a creative way for individual students to generate ideas, record learning, or plan a new project. Mind mapping is one of many solutions to improve students' abilities conventionally but can be integrated in a more modern way by combining it with digital technology. Increasing the ability of students not only to stick to technology, but also the techniques used. the ability of teachers to teach, is also very necessary. from previous research, "... Indicated that the use of mind mapping technique increased student's vocabularies Delatu, Wowor, & Kamagi, (2020).

## CONCLUSION

In terms of language learning, vocabulary is one of the most important words and important language component. Vocabulary not only mastered by young learners but there are others too. When they have oral or written communication

language, they use vocabulary to express their thoughts and ideas. Although in reading, one must understand the meaning of words write on the text. Of course, master English vocabulary takes time and process. Therefore, the researchers want to recommend some tips for young learners increase their vocabulary and parents to motivate young learners increase their vocabulary.

The era of technology is a natural and common thing to use technology as a learning media. There are so many positive impacts from technology, but there are also negatives. The require for encouragement and motivation from parents and control from parents to improving young learners vocabularies by using digital technology to increase integrated skill.

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