

THE USE OF SPELLING BEE GAME TO INCREASE THE STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY OF THE SEVENTH GRADE AT SMPN I BANTAN

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Abstract: *The aim of the study was to find out the effect of using Spelling Bee game on students' vocabulary mastery before and after being taught by using this game. Simple random sampling was used to determine the sample where 20 students in controlled class and 20 students in experimental class. There were three formulations of the problem: a) how is the students' vocabulary mastery before being taught by using spelling bee game. b) How is the students' vocabulary mastery after being taught by using spelling bee game? c) Is there any significant effect by using spelling bee game on students' vocabulary mastery of the seventh grade at SMPN I Bantan. Based on the result of post- test of experimental class was 83, controlled class was 67, 5 and t_{test} was 6, 18. It showed that t_{test} is higher than t_{table} in 1% and 5% ($2.02 \leq 6, 18 \geq 2.69$). It meant that H_a was accepted and H_o was rejected. On the other hand, Spelling Bee Game was effective to increase the students' vocabulary mastery of the seventh grade at SMPN I Bantan.*

Key Words: *Vocabulary, Game, Spelling Bee Game.*

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is an active process in which one person share information to make behavioral changes. Learning is the process of assimilating information with a resultant change in behavior. On the other hand, learning is the cognitive process of acquiring skill or knowledge Lewis in Romirez, (2008:14). The process of teaching

and learning is the most common element in the language classroom. Teaching and learning is the activity that done in the classroom. In English, one of the aspects that support four skills is vocabulary. Vocabulary is the most important thing that must be learned before others because language consists of words. As linguist Wilkinsin Thornbury, (2002:13) said that the

learning vocabulary is very important “without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed”. Consequently, learning English vocabulary has become the most important thing for English students. Only with sufficient vocabulary one can express his ideas effectively, can understand the language task and foreign language conversation. With the limited vocabulary the students will have the difficulties in learning and understanding the foreign language. Vocabulary is the set of words for which we know the meaning when we speak or read orally Hiebert and Kamil, (2005:3). It is central to English language teaching because without sufficient vocabulary students cannot understand other express their own ideas. Based on the observation at SMPN I Bantan, almost of the students still had difficulties in vocabulary. This case can be seen that some of the symptoms as follow:

a. Most of the students were still weak of vocabulary

b. Most of the students were lazy to memorize vocabulary.

c. Many of the students could not memorize new words in English.

d. Majority of students had difficulties in mentioning words in English.

Based on the explanation above, teacher must take more attention for the students. The students have to be active, and the teacher to be creative. There are many ways to learn and remember vocabulary and one of them is using game. Therefore, it is important to use the interactive game in teaching vocabulary. The use of game in teaching vocabulary is a way to make the lesson more interesting, enjoyable and effective Azar, (2012:253). One of the games named as Spelling Bee. Spelling Bee is a competitions help children improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, and develop correct English usage Macmilan, (2012:3).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Nature of Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to words we use to communicate in oral and print

language. Receptive vocabulary refers to the words us understanding and through reading and listening. Productive vocabulary refers to the words we use to communicate through writing and speaking Hanson and Padua, (2011:5).

Vocabulary is central to language and is of great significance to language learners. Words are the building blocks of a language since they label objects, actions, ideas without which people cannot convey the intended meaning. Vocabulary consists of the words that understand and can actively listen to speak, read, or write and a vital foundation thread in tapestry of reading. It should be moves into the fabric of everything that is being studied Tankersley, (2005:66). Vocabulary is one of five components of reading instruction that is essential to successfully teach children how to read. These core components include phonemic awareness, phonics and word study, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Vocabulary knowledge is important because it encompasses all the words we must know to access our background

knowledge, express our ideas and communicate effectively, and learn about new concepts Sedita, (2005:1).

Vocabulary as one of the language aspects have to be learned when people learned a language. Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learners the language. Nunan, (2003:134) explains that vocabulary not only be known it must be ready available for use. It is important to see fluency as being related to each of the four skills of Writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

The Nature of Spelling Bee

Definition of Spelling Bee

A spelling bee is a competition help children improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, and develop correct English usage Macmilan (2012:3). They also help build children's self-confidence and more importantly, they are a lot of fun. Accurate spelling is one of the sub-skills of writing. Also, being able to pronounce a word on the basis of its written form is a useful speaking skill. The spelling of seventy percent of English words is

predictable, three percent of the words. However, are so irregular that they have to be learned as individual items. Spelling bees are an exciting way to helping children overcome any difficulties they have in spelling problematic words.

Sebba in Rohmawati, (2011:6) defined spelling bee as a competition which requires the contestant to spell words. The game of spelling bee can be used as an alternative activity teaching vocabulary. It is a good alternative game to practice students' spelling skill. According Payra and Stephanie, (2016:1) the spelling bee is among the oldest educational competitions in the United States of America. With an increase number of young English language learners from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, it has become increasingly important to adequately support this young generation in building as solid foundation in spelling and vocabulary, leading to greater literacy. The spelling bee, an educational competition of spelling and vocabulary, can be an exciting, enriching experience. In other to understand, how to support these

young minds, we examined the study tools that elementary and junior-high level spellers use to prepare for the spelling bee and the factors that affect their engagement.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Spelling Bee is one of an effective games to increase vocabulary mastery and also Spelling Bee give positive impacts to the students.

Benefits of Spelling Bee

There are three important things of the learning Spelling Bee game:

1. Spelling Bee helps students improve vocabulary mastery.

Wright, (1984) in Rahmawati, (2015:10) said that Spelling bee is one of a vocabulary games that can improve students spelling skill, vocabulary mastery and also comprehension toward the text. Games help the students know the meaning of the language that students know the meaning of the language that students listen, read, speak, and write because students experience it directly

by themselves and therefore it helps to memorize word well.

2. Brings students a fun way learning.

Spelling Bee creates relaxed and fun atmosphere in the classroom. By using game in learning vocabulary, students get a chance to practice and to learn new words by their own.

3. Encourage students motivation in learning vocabulary

Spelling bee improves their learning vocabulary. This is supported by Lewis, 1999 in Rohmawati, (2015:11) who stated that games add variation to the lesson and increase motivation by providing a plausible incentive to use the target language.

From the explanation above, the researcher can concluded that many benefits of using spelling bee game in teaching vocabulary. Kichura in Rohmawati, (2015:7) stated that Spelling Bee helps students in encouraging their spelling words, as well as to learn how to compete with one another. When students feel encourage about their

ability of spelling words, it means they will increase their vocabulary which will help in understanding the text especially descriptive text.

Descriptive text is description about sensory experience-how something looks, sounds and taste. Mostly it is about sensory experience, but description also deals with other kinds of description. The purpose of descriptive text is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing in details or specifics to make the reader be able to visualize the description Kane, in Harmenita and Tiarina, (2013).

In addition, Schacter mention that the reason why write descriptively. Writing descriptively teaches students to:

1. Organize their thinking
2. Search for and communicate details
3. Define people, place and things
4. Write with clarity and purpose.

Descriptive gives sense impression like the feel, sound, taste, and look of things through words. Its aim is also to inform the readers about how something or someone looks like.

The Steps of Using Spelling Bee

Council of local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) (2013:185) explains the procedures of spelling bee:

1. Divide the class into two teams. Have them stand in two lines facing each other.
2. Stand at the front of the room between the two teams.
3. Reading from a prepared list words. Give the first students word to spell.
4. The students must repeat the word, spell it, and then repeat the word again. If the word is spelled correctly, the other team will be given a new word.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the study was defined as quasi-experiment research which subjects of the research was the seventh grade students. The subjects were divided into two classes. The way to choose the group is by random (R). The first group would get a treatment (X) as experimental group and the other one was as controlled group with conventional strategy. Both

experimental group and controlled group got the same test before the treatments namely pre-test. Then, the post-test also was given to the experimental group that treated by using Spelling Bee game and controlled group with the conventional strategy. The samples were the seventh grade students at SMPN 1 Bantan with total number 20.

DISCUSSION

The data were taken from the scores of experimental class and control class. To know the students' vocabulary mastery in using Spelling Bee Game, the scores were categorized into five levels namely excellent, very good, good, fairly good and poor category and the mean score of the pre-test is 56.25 and categorized into good level. Two classes are divided as the controlled class and the experimental class where the treatment of using Spelling Bee game was given to the experimental class with six times of teaching. The result of the pre-test in experimental class as follows : out of

20 students, no student gets (0%) poor level, 2 students (10%) get Fairly good level, 8 students (40%) get good level, 7 students (35%) get very good level, and 3 students (15%) get excellent level. The result of post-test of experimental group can be seen as the following explanation: out of 20 students, no student (0%) is in poor level, no student (0%) is in fairly good level, 4 students (20%) are in good level, 8 students (40%) are in very good level, and 8 students (40%) are in excellent level. The mean score of experimental group in pre-test is **56.25** and categorized into good and the mean score of the post-test is **83** and categorized into excellent. Meanwhile the result of pre-test in controlled group showed that none of students (0%) is in Poor and Fairly Good levels, 5 students (25%) are in Good level, 9 students (45%) are in Very Good level, and 6 students (30%) are in Excellent level. The result of post-test in controlled group explained as follows : none of the student (0%) is in Poor and Fairly Good levels, 6 students (30%) are in Good level, 8

students (40 %) are in Very Good level, and 6 students (30%) are in Excellent level. Mean score of pre-test in controlled group is 67 which categorized into very good while the mean score of post-test 67,5 and categorized into very good level as well. It means that controlled group taught by conventional strategy had low increasing.

CONCLUSION

The students' mastery of vocabulary can be enhanced through Spelling Bee Game. This study showed that the students' result between pre-test and post-test had the different mean where using Spelling Bee Game could increase the test. It can be said that this game was effective to be used in teaching vocabulary. There are some points in this study: the students should always practice the vocabulary either in speaking, reading or writing. The students are suggested to have motivation to increase their vocabulary and should have strategies to memorize and practice new words. The students are suggested to improve their

competence in English vocabulary. Anywhere and every time do not be lazy to practice of English vocabulary in daily activity. Because vocabulary is very important that can help students to master other skills such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

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