The Role of the Surrounding Environment in Improving English Ability and Developing Students' Vocabulary

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Abstract

Language plays a vital role in everyday life, communicating ideas to others. Language skills are basic subjects for everyone to draw away from the feelings, desires, opinions, and needs of each person and each individual. Student English skills should be enhanced when English is already an international language. The neighborhood also played an important role in improving English quality. This study aims to know the role of the environment in the increasing abilities of students' English. Next to know the role of the environment in adding a student's English vocabulary. The study used in this study is a qualitative method using interview methods with MA Darurrachmad students. Studies suggest that the environment and schools of students greatly influence the promotion of improved English ability and the development of learners' vocabulary.
Keywords: English, Environment, Study, Vocabulary.

INTRODUCTION

The surrounding environment is a means for students, where students can do activities, recreation, and innovation, including developing thoughts to form new behaviors in their activities. In other words, the environment can be used as a "laboratory" or a place for students to explore, experiment, and express themselves to obtain new concepts and information as a form of learning outcomes (Haryati & Dini, 2016). An environment is a place where students can express all their thoughts and activities in the learning process.

The use of the surrounding environment as a learning resource by elementary school teachers is still lacking. Learning generally conveys more information on concepts and facts with the classical lecture method. Not many teachers present learning with relevant problems to be solved and discussed cooperatively in small groups (Febriani, *et.al.*, 2019). And also the environment outside the classroom or the natural environment has not been widely used by teachers.

They are used to and often focused on the classroom environment only. In terms of potential, the environment outside the school needs to be considered as an alternative to providing variety in learning. This natural environment can be very effective if the teacher can use it creatively. In addition, the use of the natural environment can enrich the teacher's teaching strategies (Holidazia & Rodliyah, 2020).

An environment is a place where everything that is heard and seen by language acquirers is related to the second language being learned (Amiruddin & Jannah, 2019). What is classified as the environment is the situation at home when watching television, interaction with parents, interaction with relatives, interaction with friends, interaction with teachers, class situation, teaching and learning process in class, rules at school in acquiring

English at school. The interaction between students and fellow students and the interaction between students and teachers that are created in schools is an environment that can help and support students' skills in communicating in English by greeting and responding to each other in English.

Today in the industrial revolution 4.0, English was needed in many aspects of daily life. English is an international language, which has been spoken by many because it is now a means of communication for most people. English can be learned from a wide range of pathways, one way through school education. Existing schools have already adopted English lessons at school because English is vital for individual handbooks, especially for students.

In English, there has to be a vocabulary. Vocabulary was vital for success in the use of a foreign language, for without a broad vocabulary one would not be able to use the structures and functions learned to communicate fluently. According to Haryati & Dina (2016), "*vocabulary is a language center and is vital for language learners, without enough vocabulary a person cannot communicate effectively and cannot express his ideas in either oral or written form.*"

Having a limited vocabulary also prevents students from learning a foreign language. School English is the right step to implement. Teachers in schools can teach to use English intact easily. Using English as a whole would mean that the child not only understands what he reads in English but also understands what he hears, speaks, and writes his thoughts in English. English is best taught in school. Because a child's brain is fresh, which makes language absorption more smooth. The mastery of the child's vocabulary will increase rapidly as he learns new words and new meanings.

English plays a crucial role as an international language that has had a profound impact on global communication, career advancement, and educational opportunities. Therefore, increased English-language skills and the development of students' vocabulary are priorities that must not be ignored. However, English education is not limited to a school or class environment. The surroundings also play an important role in creating comprehensive and sustained learning experiences. This article will explore the role of the environment in improving English skills and the development of students' vocabulary.

In learning a new language we can't start if we don't know the right words. Since communication tools are language, lexicon knowledge or knowing vocabulary is the most important in language learning. Therefore, the competence and communication acquisition of other languages is the lexicon. In studying our vocabulary we can not only find it in the classroom but we must find a vocabulary outside the class, the school environment gives learners an important role in developing English ability and adding vocabulary.

In learning English there will be many factors that can affect the improved ability of learners' English, one of which is the environmental in both home and school. The ward can influence the individual, by giving experience to the individual the ward is the place. Because of this, the experience will influence individuals in learning. The presence of a first ward affecting the quality of a child's learning is the family ward, which is the first preschool education in its growth and development. The family environment may also influence the developing ability of learners, when no one can support or help learners to improve their English performance lowering the table will become obvious.

The impact of the environment on the development of individual language is significant. When it comes to English in particular, the environment may be a crucial factor

in creating optimal learning opportunities. An environment that is rich in English language and culture allows students to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in real-life situations. Several environmental elements play an important role in improving the English language ability and the development of the student's vocabulary.

The environment around which a learner's level of ability in learning English is crucial. When learners do not get an improvement in school then the school environment outside will be an option in helping their English improve. Apart from the learning environment, vocabulary mastery also has an impact on the student's ability to speak English.

METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research. One of the research approaches is based on the philosophy that truth is obtained by recording the phenomena of the subject under study (phenomena), which are interpreted by the researcher. In qualitative research, researchers must understand the respondents, the validity of the research depends on the skills of the researcher, requires original data, and prioritizes the process over the results of the study. Qualitative research is also natural research (state of nature), namely research conducted under natural conditions of the subject. Researchers do not make generalizations but analyze the research subject in detail. Qualitative research is descriptive, because the purpose of data analysis is not to accept or reject the hypothesis (if any), but to describe the observed symptoms (Assingkily, 2021).

Qualitative research tends to be more developed and widely used in the social sciences related to social/human behavior. Qualitative research writing frameworks are inherently related to scientific writing frameworks. However, certain sections will differ depending on the tendency to clarify what the research is about. Qualitative research methods are less procedural than quantitative research methods. The problem-solving process may have evolved in response to the research context. Data collection techniques in qualitative research are interviews. Interviews were conducted to find ways to complete the data and obtain accurate data and the right data sources. In this study, the authors interviewed Darurrachmad MA students.

In this study the authors chose a MA Darurrachmad student as our research informant, we conducted interviews by providing several questions according to our research. In addition, we observed the MA Darurrachmad school by paying attention to the surrounding environment at the school.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sumaryanti (2017) says that English is one of the most important languages in the world today. Where English is needed in all aspects of life including educational, business, corporate, and otherwise. When we spoke English it was said we would have a great chance at opportunities to find work today. This is evidenced by the student's statement from interviews that researchers have conducted.

> "*English is so important to study because it will come in handy when it comes to finding work and is necessary for us to go on long trips and find English words and we don't need Google translate to translate the word since we already know it.*" Informant statements.

From the perspective of an informer, English has a very important role in our lives. It was very convincing, saying that learning English was a must because it would have great benefits in the future. One major advantage is job hunting. In this age of globalization, many companies require employees who communicate well in English. English expertise can improve the chances of finding desired employment.

Not only in the career context but also on long trips, the English language has enormous benefits. When we are in countries where English is spoken as the primary language or the international language, English ability can be a savior. When we are abroad, we can easily communicate with the local people, ask for directions, order food, or interact with new people without difficulty. These English-speaking skills give us great confidence and enrich our travel experience.

The point of the informant's quote is that we need to learn English because it will be very useful in the future, especially when looking for work and when traveling a long distance. English translation will enable us to easily find and understand English words without resorting to Google Translate. Hence, expertise in the language became a necessity.

The result of the interview is that English is now an international language and is a language that must be studied in Indonesia, it is also known that English is an important work, education, and other work. But this would be a huge challenge as Agistiawati & Asbari (2020) said that English as a foreign language position would have its challenges. Learning will be difficult for learners when they do not get relevant and good teaching at school. When learners are taught in the class by simply giving assignments and listening to the teacher's explanations, then learners will not reap improvement over them alone.

> *"I had a hard time understanding the material that was taught because the teacher just gave the task and listened to the explanation, the teacher didn't make it practice speaking in groups, and I couldn't improve my speaking ability in English much less to increase my vocabulary"* Ripley.

> *"Yes, brother, since we rarely speak English in school, we only learn English when we are in class"* Man statement.

In a statement, an informer presents the challenge of understanding the material taught at school. He found it difficult because the teacher gave only assignments and explanations, without giving any opportunity to practice speaking in groups. These limitations leave him feeling frustrated in improving his English ability, especially in expanding his vocabulary. According to the informer, he rarely used English in his school for everyday speaking. They only learn English when they're in the classroom. This suggests that the school environment does not provide sufficient opportunities to practice active English outside of class.

This raised concerns about the school's ability to speak English. With the practice of speaking in groups and lack of actual English use, the students have difficulty improving their speaking ability and also developing their vocabulary. Improving the effectiveness of English teaching in schools requires a more holistic approach. In addition to giving duties and explanations, teachers also need to involve students in speaking activities in groups, where they can practice actively using English and interacting with classmates. It is also

important to create an environment that promotes extra-curricular English use, such as extracurricular activities or school English meetings.

Applying these strategies, it is hoped that students at the school will find it easier to improve their English skills. They will have more opportunities to practice speaking in groups and expand their vocabulary, enabling them to meet the challenge of English communication with more confidence in the future. From the results of the statement it can be known that in class, students feel less effective in improving their English and developing their vocabulary, the vocabulary in middle school is important and it helps the vocabulary gain in college.

The student's difficulty in developing his language ability is influenced by a school environment that is less supportive or encouraging to students in developing their English skills. And the lack of student mastery is due to the monotonous learning when something is explained in inappropriate and fluent English. Lack of facilities (such as books) that are incompatible with the correct use of English to develop speaking skills. The environment can affect the individual and also provide an experience that the individual acquired that affects the learning involved. The environment may affect a student's ability to develop English skills and a student's vocabulary.

As the student said in the interview:

"Yes, I think it is very influential is, especially in this English we need someone who can help boost our performance, especially when the absence of a supportive family makes for fear and insecurity. That's why we need to find an environment that supports us in increasing our abilities, sis".

In the dialogue, one student highlighted the ward's important role in developing English-language abilities. A supportive environment gives encouragement and confidence to students. A less supportive family environment can lead to fear and a lack of confidence in the use of English. Hence, students need to locate a supportive environment in which to improve their English-speaking ability.

Schools also play an important role in creating a supportive environment. Through interactive teaching and extracurricular programs, students can feel more confident and motivated in their use of English. With an understanding of the importance of supportive environments, students are expected to create a positive environment in the development of English-language abilities. The support of family, friends, and school will help overcome fear and boost students' self-confidence.

From the results of the interview in which we conclude that the effectiveness of a ward can affect the increase of students' English-language abilities, the support given by both parents and the ward has a profound effect on the levels of students' capabilities. If the family environment is unable to encourage, it will affect fear and lack of confidence in improving students' abilities. With this students should be able to locate the environment and someone who can support them and can encourage them to balance their English vocabulary and ability.

CONCLUSION

So as a result of this study, researchers might conclude that learning English is a major factor in education, work, and so on. Students felt in class they could not obtain suitable materials and could not help them improve students English. Studies also provide

results that the student's environment will profoundly influence the increased student's ability to develop vocabulary and English. The support of parents and the environment will greatly affect the student's ability to improve his or her abilities. It's very convincing, saying that learning English is a must because it will have great benefits in the future. Not only in the career context but also on a long journey, English has great benefits.

When we are in a country that speaks English as the primary language or the international language, English ability can be a savior. When we are abroad, it is easy to communicate with the local people, ask for directions, order food, or interact with new people without difficulty. The result of the interview was that English is now an international language and is a language that must be learned in Indonesia, and it is also known that it is an important job, education, and other work.

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