



The Importance of TPR (Total Physical Response) Method in Teaching English for beginners

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ABSTRACT

This article's purposes are to describe the implementation of TPR method in teaching English, to know parts of activities in the implementing of TPR method that make students become more interest and active to the English subject, and to know the students' response after learning English. This method is qualitative descriptive. The data sources are from teacher and students. The students' role was as imitators because when the teacher acted out the imperative sentence to the students, they imitated the teacher's actions physically. They became more active and interest to learn English because the teacher taught them by using imperative drilling and modelling concept that became the basic concept of TPR method.

Keywords:

Implementation, TPR Method, Teaching English, verbal communication

Introduction

English is as an international language. In Indonesia, English has been applied for any levels. It has been applied from kindergarten up to college. It means that, English is not something new in our country. Many people use it to communicate each other in daily life. In fact, children also use it to communicate each other, to sing a song (kid songs), and to mention simple something such as numbers, colors, animals, etc. They use it like their first language although, sometime they use it by using bilingual. They are enough brave to practice it. Actually, they are still children but they are easy to memorize something that they ever see and listen it. McLaughlin stated that childhood is golden age period, whereas their brain can save memory in the long term accurately [4]. Learning English for early childhood is so appropriate to be learned because their brain is still fresh, so the storage language process in their brain are pure, accurate, and so long. It can work in their brain effectively. In the kindergarten, Learning English for children under 6 years old to be done

as the integrated language only. It is not a core subject.

According to some scientists that children, who are at 3 - 6 years old, are faster to understand English if they often make interaction by using English in their daily life. Thus, Learning English in early childhood is the appropriate way to be done because we can teach English for them easily. They can understand the English subject easily by memorizing, imitating, modelling, and demonstrating based on the teacher' instruction.

Teaching English for children are so different than other second language learners. It is also not easy job for the English teacher. The English teacher should know the ways, such as appropriate tricks and treats, to make the students interest and pay great attention to join with the English teaching learning process in the classroom. So, they can learn English happily.

Besides that, Asrifan said that it is possible for the teachers to teach the young learners through fun activities [1]. It means that,

the English teacher should teach the students happily. Happy English learning for young learners as students is a learning English that create relax situation, fun, happy, and unfear for the students. Here, the English teacher should lost the students negative feeling in learning English, such as worry, shy, nervous, difficult, unconfident, scary, etc. The English teacher should show to the students that learning English is easy, fun, and happy. So, the students can interest to study it.

Teaching English for children, should be enjoyable, interesting, repetitive, and understandable. In this case, the English teacher should be creative in the English teaching learning process. The English teacher also should attend to the children development in using English as verbal communication. Scott and Lisbeth stated that the teacher role is so important in giving chances for them to use English as second language bravely [5]. That's why, there should be appropriate methods for teaching English to them. It is said that one of successes the English teacher aspects in teaching English for children depends on how the teacher uses his/her teaching method. One of the appropriate methods that was implemented by the English teacher. It was TPR (Total Physical Response) method. It is one of the English teaching approaches and methods developed by Dr. James J Asher. It has been applied for almost thirty years. This method attempts to center attention to encouraging students to listen and respond to the spoken target language commands of their teacher. In other words, Larsen-Freeman stated that TPR is a language teaching method built around the coordination of speech and action [3]. It also attempts to teach language through physical (motor) activity. It tries to introduce some language skills or components in an action in which a teacher serves three roles. They are an order taker, a model provider, and an action monitor in which learners serve as models and action performers until they feel ready to speak out.

Imperative drills are the prominent classroom activity in TPR. Teachers can communicate by using English in their daily life, although they are still early childhood. They

used English easily when they communicate with their friends or their teachers. Besides, they are also so brave to used it in their environment without shy and fear feelings. From those examples, they are easy to imitate from what they saw, from what they listened, and from what they did, based on the English teacher's instruction because the English teacher at that school implemented TPR (Total Physical Response) method in the English teaching learning process. Whereas in this method, the English teacher is as a model and the students are as imitators. So that, the students imitate what the English teacher said. They also do what the English teacher instructed. These are few characteristics of TPR (Total Physical Response) method. Finally, they could use English as their second language easily. Based on the phenomenon above, we would like to know the importance of TPR (Total Physical Response) method in the English teaching learning process for kindergarten kids. Here, we would like to mention three aspects. The first, to know the importance of TPR (Total Physical Response) method in the English teaching learning process for beginners. Second, to know parts of activities in the implementation of TPR (Total Physical Response) method that can motivate the students greatly to join with the English teaching learning process in the classroom. And the third, to know the students' responses after join with the English teaching learning process by implementing TPR (Total Physical Response) method.

The Students' Responses TPR (Total Physical Response) method has been appropriate to be implemented in the English teaching learning process for the kindergarten kids. Because they are early childhood. They prefer to learn English by imitating, memorizing, repeating, and demonstrating by using response physical totally. Teaching English for early childhood should be happy, interest, enjoy, fun, unbarring, understandable, and memorable for them. So, they can implement it easily in their daily life. Generally, most students were interest and happy when they joined with the English subject because they were still early childhood. According to

Muhren that singing, imitating, demonstrating, and imperative drilling are the easy strategy to teach foreign language for early childhood. They could practice it directly in the classroom. They also felt easier to understand the English lesson explained by the teacher because the teacher gave clues to the students to try rapidly until they got the point. In addition, there were little students also did not great pay attention in English learning process because they prefer to play by himself or herself.

It was obtained that the students usually felt boring and lazy in learning English if the English teacher was not creative and selective in choosing her English teaching method. Furthermore, in order to they can learn English happily, great spirit, unfear, unworried, and enjoy, so the English teacher can teach English by implementing TPR (Total Physical Response) method because in this method, the teachers are responsible for giving commands and monitoring actions taken by the learners.

On the contrary, the learners are imitators of teachers' verbal and non-verbal models. In teaching-learning process, the first phase is modeling. In this case, a teacher issues commands to learners, and performs the actions with them. In the second phase, learners demonstrate that they grasp the commands by performing them alone. The teacher monitors the learners' actions. Above all, the interaction between a teacher and learners is signified by the teacher speaking and the learners' responding nonverbally. Later on, the learners become more verbal and the teacher responds nonverbally. In doing so, the students can be easier to remember the English lesson.

Conclusion

Based on the result of research, we can conclude that TPR (Total Physical Response) method was appropriate to be implemented in English teaching and learning process for the kindergarten kids. In teaching English activities, there were three phases in the English teaching and learning process. They are pre-teaching, whilst teaching, and post-teaching. Each of them has different activities. It depends on a certain topic that discussed by the teacher. In teaching English, the teacher also combined TPR (Total

Physical Response) method with the English song in order to make the students interest to joint with the English teaching process in the classroom. So, they were not boring and lazy to learn it. In the first observation, the students more motivate and satisfied to join with English teaching process in the classroom at the whilst-teaching. While the second observation, it appeared at the whilst-teaching and post-teaching. In this case, generally, most students were interest, happy, and satisfied when they joined with the English teaching and learning process because they could practice it directly in the classroom.

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