

IMPROVING THE STUDENTS VOCABULARY MASTERY USING CROSSWORD PUZZLES WITH HOT POTATOES APPLICATION AT VIIA SMPN 3 BALUNG IN THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEARS.

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ABSTRACT

Improving The Student's Vocabulary Mastery Using Crossword Puzzles With Hot Potatoes Application At VIIA SMP 3 Balung In The 2017-2018 Academic Years. Thesis. The English Education Program, Language and Art Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Jember. Advisors : (1) Dr. Hanafi, M.Pd. (2) Indah Werdiningsih, M.Pd.

Key Word : Crossword Puzzles , Vocabulary Mastery.

Vocabulary is the most important aspect that the students have to master and plays a very important role in developing the students' four skills of English. However, they still face lot difficulties to understand the text and to answer the reading question because of their lack of vocabulary. Therefore, it is important to do a research entitled "Improving the seventh grade students' vocabulary mastery by giving vocabulary exercises through crossword puzzles with hot potatoes application".

The research design of the research was classroom action research which was conducted to improve the seventh A students' vocabulary achievement by giving vocabulary exercises through crossword puzzles at SMP Negeri 3 Balung in the 2016/2017 academic year. The respondents of this research were class 7A students of SMP Negeri 3 Balung in the 2017/2018 academic year. The total numbers of the respondents were 38 students from class 7A. The research target was 75% students get score at least 65 in the teaching and learning process of vocabulary exercises through crossword puzzles with hot potatoes. The actions in cycle covered 1) planning, 2) implementing, 3) observing and 4) reflecting.

The vocabulary test was administrated at the end of cycle 1 and cycle 2 to know the students improvement on their vocabulary achievement. Based on result of reading comprehension test in cycle 1 and 2, it showed that there was improvement of the students who got score 65 or more. There were 52.6 % of the students who achieved the standard score in cycle 1, while in cycle 2, the number was improved to 76.31 %. It indicated that the number of students who achieved the standard score improved and reached the target percentage of this research that was 75 % of the total number of the class 7B students got 65 or more.

Finally, it could be said that the use of crossword puzzles could improve the seventh grade students' vocabulary mastery and active participation in teaching learning process at SMP Negeri 3 Balung in the 2017/2018 academic year.

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I completely realize that this piece of writing is far from being perfect, therefore criticism and advices are highly appreciated for better writing result in the future.

The Vocabulary

According to Brown (1995:1), vocabulary refers to list or set of words that individual speaker of a language might use. Then, William (1970:17) defines that vocabulary is a word or sequence of letters that convey a meaning in the language. Hornby (1995:133) says that vocabulary means a number of words with rules of combining them to make up the language.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is a number of words with their meaning to make up the language. It is important for the students to master vocabulary in learning English, because the quality of their language depends on the vocabulary they have.

One of the essential in learning language is vocabulary. We cannot understand the words or sentences without understand the meaning of them. According to Thornbury (2002:13) without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. Besides, vocabulary plays a very important role in developing the students' four skills of English, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The students who have more vocabularies will be easier to develop their four language skills.

Crossword Puzzle by Helped with Hot Potatoes Software

Orawiwatnakul (2013: 6) proposes crossword puzzle as an attractive vocabulary game which requires the students to fill the blank squares with the accurate words based on the clues provided. Besides, Cheryl (2014:1) draws crossword puzzle as words that arranged horizontally and vertically, so each word will cross one to another through a letter which is common to both. Thus, crossword puzzle is a word game with some clues that must be answered accurately by writing the vocabulary into the blank squares either in across or down. There are a lot of ways and usefull media for teaching crossword puzzle, one of them is using Hot Potatoes Software in term of Jcross.

Hot Potatoes is a set of software tools produced by the university of Victoria/Half-baked Software, it has been developed by the TESL department in this Canadian University. It takes several tried, tested and 'best practice' second language teaching techniques and adapt them into a pre-programable interactive learning program which has the cpability to go deeper than 'drill and practice'. Hot Potatoes program is very useful electronic to help the learner interesting in practicing some exercise. We could creat our interactive exercise by adding a reading text, timer, sound, video, graphics, and link.

DESIGN OF THE RESEARCH

The design of this research is collaborative Classroom Action Research (CAR) which focuses on a particular group of students in a certain classroom. This research is done in collaboration with the English teacher. Based on the finding, the English teacher and the researcher discussed and carried out some actions to find an appropriate strategy in teaching vocabulary. It is apply to improve the students' vocabulary achievement by giving vocabulary exercises through Crossword Puzzles with Hot Potatoes.

DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the result of the test that using Crossword Puzzles with Hot Potatoes could improve the students' Vocabulary Mastery. Crossword Puzles has never been used by English teacher in SMPN 3 Balung, as teaching learning technique. Crossword Puzzles technique made the students easier to study English especially in remembering vocab.

In the first cycle, the students' do some crossword puzzles exercise that given by the teacher but it was unsatisfying yet. It was found that the percentage requirement of vocabular mastery in the first cycle had not been achieved and it can be said that it was not successful. There was some students not achive yet the target score, Some problems considered as the cause of the unsuccessful in cycle 1 were explained below:

1. The students still did not understand about the using of crossword puzzles, how do they have to fill the blank space, because it was new experience for them using this technique in vocabulary class.

2. The students were still afraid and shy to express their ideas and answer the question of the teacher.
3. Some students did not pay attention to the teacher explanation.

The researcher made some revisions to be done in the second cycle to get better result. They were as follows:

1. The teacher gave the clearer explanation about doing crossword puzzles exercise.
2. The teacher gave the students's more time in developing their ideas.
3. The teacher gave more explanation about crossword puzzles using hot potatoes.

By doing those revision, there was improvement on the students' vocabulary mastery in cycle 2. It can be proved by seen the result by vocabulary test in cycle 2 was satisfying. In this cycle indicate that the use of media hot potatoes is effective for the students. In this case hot potatoes become inappropriate media for enhancing students' participation. They could give positive response during teaching learning process. They had interest to do activities in group and also it was very important to let students get involved in various activities that were relevant to teaching vocabulary.

Based on the result of two cycles it could be said that teaching vocabulary through crossword puzzles with hot potatoes as one of the technique in cooperative learning was able to improve the students' vocabulary mastery . It means that Crossword Puzzles one of cooperative learning technique is succeeded to make the students cooperative in teaching learning process.

Concerning to this research, the result of this action research in two cycle proved the action hypothesis stated in chapter II which says “ The use of Crossword Puzzles with Hot Potatoes technique can improve the 7A class students' vocabulary mastery and students' participation at SMPN 3 Balung in the 2017/2018 academic year” was accepted.

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