

# Teaching Vocabulary By Using Cartoon Movies For Junior High School Students

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## Abstract

This paper aims to discuss vocabulary and cartoon movies, and how to teach vocabulary by using cartoon movies. Vocabulary is a list of words express a wide range of meaning. Cartoons are designed not only to entertain children, but cartoons can be also used to teach and educate children. In order to find the relationship between cartoon and education, the writer writes a paper which the title is “Teaching Vocabulary By Using Cartoon Movies For Junior High School Students”. It has a purpose to help children in learning English, more specifically it aims to improve English vocabulary for children whose age are between seven years old to fourteen years old. This paper discusses the usage of cartoon movies in learning English vocabulary for children. The main purpose this paper investigates teaching method of using audiovisual material as cartoon movies and this paper is a survey to get results of the effect of using cartoon movies to develop English vocabulary of first year students in junior high school. As a result, this paper proves that cartoon movie, such as: Animal Song for Children can be good media for children in learning English vocabulary.

**Key Words : Vocabulary, Cartoon Movies, Media Teaching.**

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### A. INTRODUCTION

English is a bound subject taught at junior high school. It is needed to develop some aspects of life, especially for science and to make interpretation with other people.

In teaching English in junior high school, there are four language skills taught to students: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The four skills require students to have sufficient mastery of English vocabulary.

Vocabulary is basic element in learning English. Many language students

cannot communicate well because they have limited vocabulary. The students should have many vocabularies so they can speak English well and they can express what they want. If the students cannot master vocabulary, they cannot express their ideas clearly and the hearer cannot understand what they say. It means that the students have to enrich their vocabulary as much as possible. In other words, without having sufficient preparation of vocabulary students cannot express their idea briefly and clearly.

As non- native speakers of English, Indonesian students have very limited

English vocabulary. Therefore, students generally consider English vocabulary as boring and difficult subject. In learning vocabulary, the students are trying to memorize words and to get the meaning of words. There are many words in English language because it is difficult for the students to memorize them. Consequently, the teacher often finds that the students make many mistakes in doing the vocabulary exercises and in using English vocabulary to practice the four language skills.

Based on the fact above, the writer should try to use media, to make the learning process more interesting for students. By using media, teacher can make teaching learning process run well, either can get the goal of teaching also make learning process effective and efficient.

Here, the writer would like to focus on using cartoon movie in English language particular vocabulary because it is one of the alternative ways of several medias used in teaching vocabulary to students. Therefore, the students will not be bored in learning vocabulary. The writer makes this paper to describe about the cartoon movies that can be used in teaching vocabulary. A complete description and discussion of the movie will be given in the next chapter.

## **Concept of Vocabulary**

There are some definitions of English vocabulary. According to Finnochiaro (2010) vocabulary is the content and function words of language which are learned so thoroughly that they can be used in the performance of any communication act.

According to Hornby (2005:1707), gives definition that vocabulary is as a collection or list of words with brief explanations of their meanings. Vocabulary is very crucial in language learning and one of the important factors in learning English especially in teaching elementary school students. Therefore, it is important for teacher to study methods and techniques in improving students vocabulary so that they can learn as effectively as possible.

Based on several authors of linguists view mentioned above, a simple conclusion can be drawn about vocabulary. Vocabulary means that, talking a number of words which is used by people in context in language with the meaning.

It can be concluded that vocabulary is a list of words express a wide range of meaning.

## **The Importance of Learning Vocabulary**

In every language, vocabulary is important to convey meaning, to express

wane desires and feelings, and to communicate with others. Vocabulary is one at the components which supports the speaker in communication, whenever we want to communicate with other people using a language. We should have mastered a stock of words (vocabulary) related to the topic spoken so vocabulary is very crucial to convey communication.

According to Brett (2012), there are some benefits of building vocabulary:

1. **Gives you the ability to say what you mean.** This increases your chances of having other people understand what you wish to express.
2. **Helps you understand other people.** Just as learning a second language can help you understand people from other countries, increasing your working vocabulary allows you to understand those who may share your mother tongue but also have a special “dialect” of their own.
3. **Helps you understand what you read.** Vocabulary not only aids you in understanding other people, it is also essential in comprehending the books and articles you read.
4. **Assists you in becoming a more informed and involved citizen.** The

better able you become to understand news and current events.

5. **Bolsters your ability to grasp ideas and think more logically and incisively.** While we often think of our thoughts as shaping our words, it works the other way around as well.
6. **Allows you to communicate effectively.** A masterful command of words, and the ability to select just the right ones to express a specific idea.
7. **Helps you make a good impression on others.** How articulate you are constitutes a big part of the impression you make on others.

Based on the theories above, it seems that the study of vocabulary is one of important things in teaching foreign language. Students often instinctively recognize the importance of vocabulary to their language learning.

Teaching vocabulary helps students understand and communicate with others in English. The writer believes that English language students generally would concur, yet learning vocabulary also helps students master English for their purposes.

## **Kinds of English Vocabulary**

Teaching vocabulary is important in language acquisition. Vocabulary is one element that links the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing all together. One of the requirements to communicate well in a foreign language, students should have an adequate number of words.

There are two kinds of vocabulary (Templeton, 2004), namely active vocabulary and passive vocabulary. Active vocabulary refers to the words the student understands, can pronounce correctly and use them constructively in speaking and writing. On the other hand, passive vocabulary refers to the words in which the students can recognize and understand while they are reading or listening to someone speaking, but they do not use the words in speaking or in writing

## **Kinds of Media of Teaching**

Education association defines that media is thing that can be manipulated, can be seen, can be heard, can be read, and can be talked with instrument which is used well in the teaching learning process, and can influence effectiveness of instructional program.

According to Hamalic, there are four classifications of teaching media:

- 1) Visual media, such as filmstrip, transparency, micro projection, bulletin board, pictures, illustration, chart, graphic, poster, map, and globe.
- 2) Audited media, such as phonograph record, electric transcript, radio, recorder of tape recorder.
- 3) Audio visual media, such as film, TV, and three dimensions things.
- 4) Dramatization, role play, socio drama, etc.

Those media can be used in teaching according to the materials and students' level and interest. In this study, cartoon film is chosen as a media of teaching English vocabulary.

## **The Concept of Cartoon Movie**

Here are many definitions of cartoon. Some experts give their opinions dealing with cartoon as follows:

- 1) Cartoon is one of the major forms of graphic communication. They have the power to capture attention and influence attitudes and behaviors.
- 2) Cartoon is caricature; often representing important events of politic or important public figure.
- 3) Cartoon is an amusing drawing or series of drawings in a newspaper.

From definition above, the writer concludes that cartoon is an amusing, which gave a story about person, group or situation.

Movie is one of the audio-visual aid. Pujiasih (2007) explains that a cartoon movie is moving diagrams of cartoon that are made up of a sequence of images displayed one after the other.

In addition, Pande (2008) explains that a cartoon movie is an exaggerated amusing illustration caricaturing in moving diagram way of criticizing a person or event with some thoughts. A cartoon movie is a special form of art to present amusing appearance with the help of colorful moving diagram exaggerated. In short, it can be seen in cartoon movie how to shown people's imagination that is revealed in drawing forms.

The high entertainment value of movies can hinder actual learning process if viewed constantly for an instructor needs to overcome the students' tendency to "read smart and view dumb," that is their tendency to see films as entertainment rather than as learning texts. Most of the movies deal with controversial themes so to showcase such movies becomes a difficulty. The students might get caught in the loopholes of the plot and loose complete focus of the language

aspect that is being given through the movies.

Teacher's role is very important in this kind of learning process considering the students are children. They are not as active and fast as young-adult learners, but with the use of cartoon movies, they are expected to be active and able to follow the story and remember the words in the movies.

### **The Advantages of Cartoon Movie**

Cartoon movies are attractive and effective media to teach vocabulary. It can build the students' enthusiasm to learn pronunciation. Moreover, by using pictures with text line in the movie, the students were helped to grasp and recall the words better.

Margono (2010:3) defines that movie is a good alternative media for teaching vocabulary. It is an interesting which given audio visual examples through the acting in the scenes.

The advantages of using movies, besides strengthen their understanding of those new vocabulary, the students can also learn the visual image of the things they learn so that they will remember the words, the meaning and how to use those words in their daily life.

Media such as a movie has a very significant role to motivate the student to

learn vocabulary and to make the atmosphere of teaching and learning more interesting. They will feel something new and different from what they usually get in their class. By using cartoon movies, they will learn new vocabulary as well as the visual images to help their understanding. Although, these kind of learning techniques give a lot of advantages, but still teachers need to be aware of some features of the movies which can be the disadvantages of learning.

The writer hopes that with the use of English movie they will become more active as participant and more confident in express their feeling.

### **Teaching English Vocabulary by Using Cartoon Movie**

Numerous of media can be applied in teaching vocabulary. However, it is a must for teachers to be careful about choosing them so that the process of teaching and learning vocabulary success with the satisfactory result. One of the media of teaching English vocabulary is by using vocabulary cartoons movie. Cartoon movies are suitable for students in junior high school.

According to Hamalik, a movie is naturally being used in class because it is not only giving a fact, but also providing an answer in the matters and an understanding

of the students themselves and their environment. They like watching cartoon films. Their world is still full of enjoyable activities.

In this study, cartoon movie is chosen as a media for teaching English vocabulary. By using a cartoon movie in their lessons they can learn words correctly. The writer chooses the cartoon movie to teach names of object because through the cartoon movie children will learn names of object by seeing the object in that movie. So, it will help students to memorize the names of object.

The writer assumes that this media is appropriate for junior high school and as expected by the English curriculum in which the teaching at junior high school can be more cheerful and encouraging.

### **B. THE PROCEDURES OF TEACHING VOCABULARY BY USING CARTOON MOVIES**

#### **Preparation**

Before the teacher starts to teach in the classroom, she or he should prepare the material at home.

- a. The teacher selects words that are relevant to the theme of the lesson (if we discuss about the animals, the words that related to animals are: cow, sheep, horse, lion... etc).

- b. Teacher should know the meaning of those words and how to apply it in the sentence, (e.g; Lion- The lion is the king of the jungle, Horse- The horses run so fast).
- c. The teacher should have listed of the words before class begins.

### **Application**

To create a good environment, both teacher and students should follow several procedures. Students should do the activity in learning process based on the command given by the teacher. There are three activities that should be considered by teacher in teaching vocabulary by using cartoon movies.

#### **1. Pre- Teaching Activities**

To stimulate the student's background knowledge, teacher should do pre-teaching at the beginning of the class. There are some activities in pre- teaching phase, such as:

- The teacher comes into the classroom and brings a cartoon movie that has been selected for the teaching purpose. It is best to pick some cartoon movies that student know well because many movies may present excellent opportunities to improve vocabulary.

- The teacher does greetings to all students.

Teacher : “Good Morning, Students”.

Students : “Good Morning, Teacher”.

Teacher : “How are you today?”.

Students : “Fine, and you?”

Teacher : “I’m fine too, thanks”.

- The teacher checks attendance and ask about previous lesson.

Teacher : “I will check your attendance first, Dody”.

Dody : “Present mam”.

Teacher : “Ani’s here?”.

Ani : “Yes mam”.

- The teacher is asking several questions related to the theme of the lesson.

Teacher : OK students, have you ever watched cartoon movie?

Students : Yes, mam.

Teacher : What is your favourite cartoon movie?

Students : Spongebob, Dora, Sinchan, Cinderella, Doraemon... mam!

Teacher : Where do you usually watch the movie?

Students : At home, mam!

Teacher : Alright, today our topic is about the animals. Do you like animals?

Students : Yes, mam.

Teacher : What animals do you protect at home?

Students : There are cat, bird, dog ..... etc.

Teacher : Is there animal that you are fear of?

Students : Yes mam, we are fear of the wild animals such as lion, crocodile, tiger, and bear.

watch, ask several questions based on what they watch.

*For example:*

Teacher : “All of you. Have you watched the movie?”

All students : “Yes mam”.

Teacher : “What is the movie about, Rina?”

Rina : “The movie is about kinds of animal mam”.

Teacher : “Do you still remember some words in this film?”

All students : “Yes mam”.

- The teacher instructs each group to write the things that they see in the movie. (It’s better to replay the movie once again so the students can remember well the things in the movie).
- All groups discuss the meaning of word based on the some things in the movie.
- The teacher monitors the students during doing the task.
- The teacher instructs each group to write the things in cartoon movie.
- The teacher instructs each group to collect the discussion report.  
Teacher: “OK, students have you finished? And now collect your discussion report to me”.

## 2. Whilst- Teaching Activities

In whilst-teaching activities, teacher may conduct several activities like distributing the selected material to the students and instruct them to do the activities. Here, there are some teacher’s activities in whilst teaching.

- The teacher divides the students into some groups. Each group consists of five students.
- The teacher presents a cartoon movie and then play the movie in front of the class.
- The teacher instructs each group to watch the movie and after they

## 3. Post- Teaching activity



Post teaching activities are necessary as the follow up phase on what the student have studied. Here, there are some activities in post teaching to follow.

1. The teacher gives exercises to the students by asking students to arrange the letters of animal's cartoon movie.

*For example:*

Teacher: Right students, please arrange the letters of animal's movie below into correct word. There are twenty words and I'll give you time about 30 minutes to arrange them.

Example: G- I- E- T- R. The correct one is TIGER.

2. After students finish them, teacher asks one of them to write the answer on the board. As the result, they all can see the wrong and the right answers of the word in animal's cartoon movie.

### **C. CONCLUSIONS**

The result shows that cartoon movie are attractive and effective media to teach vocabulary. By repeating after the narrator saying in the film, the students can minimize their mispronunciation. In addition, the students were enthusiastic and become active in joining the class.

This choice aims to find a new and interesting material to teach English

vocabulary. It helps the students to learn new vocabulary items from the cartoon movie. Therefore, it can be concluded that by using cartoon movies as teaching media, students' vocabulary mastery can be improved.

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