

The importance of english language learning in primary schools in the era of globalization

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Abstract

This research aims to gather information on the importance of English language learning in primary schools in the era of globalization. This research method uses literature studies, such as analysis and also review of books, articles, and other relevant sources to answer the importance of English language learning in primary schools in the era of globalization. The results of this study inform that the English language skills of Indonesians are still low in the eyes of the world, this shows that the important role of global language can advance our lives. In the era of globalization related to science, education, technology, health, business, politics, and in other fields are always written using English. Therefore, the role and challenges of English in the era of globalization will affect the development and progress of the Indonesian nation in the eyes of the world. But it is unfortunate that the English language skills of Indonesians are still very low, so it is important that English is taught since elementary school. There must be a habit of speaking English from an early age. Make English learning a compulsory subject at school.

Keywords: primary school; english; importance of english learning; era of globalization.

INTRODUCTION

In the increasingly sophisticated era of globalisation, the ability to speak English determines the progress of one's life. If observed, all sources of information from several fields of life almost use English. English language skills are not only enough with one lesson, but must be several times in the habit of learning, in the process of learning English is not with a short time but with a long process, so it should be learned English language learning since elementary school. The position of English is important in Indonesia, so it must be mastered and learned, therefore the Indonesian government implements English language learning from an early age, namely in elementary school. English learning at school becomes a mulok lesson, which must be pursued in the learning process, this is viewed from the aspect of the importance of learning English in the era of globalisation that is increasingly advanced at this time.

According to Sjafty Nursiti Maili (2018), as cited by Aedi, N & Amaliyah, N (2016, p. 195) said that "In today's increasingly sophisticated modern times, young people from an early age have been required to compete with each other in learning English." Therefore, this means that children at an early age such as children who are still in elementary school if their understanding of English learning is not intensified then they will be left behind in English subjects, this will be one of the causes of the child who will appear in his child's lack of confidence, always feel ostracised around his environment, always inferior to his shortcomings, and so on. The ability to speak English is no longer something that must be put aside but must

be endeavoured, so as not to be left behind by the times, at least people understand the basics of learning English. Learning a language is actually not so difficult, to be able to speak we only need habits. In fact, learning English is the same as other languages, for example, such as regional languages, namely Sundanese, Javanese, we live in Indonesia and the surrounding community must already understand the daily language, but if we live in an area that is included in the Javanese or Sundanese tribe, Indonesian is not so highlighted but regional languages are often used as a means of communication between people with each other, we who are not accustomed to speaking with regional languages may have difficulty, But if we live in the area then by itself will be accustomed to hearing word by word, sentence by sentence related to spoken by local people with their respective regional languages, to be able to communicate well with foreign languages even though it does not actually need special learning but only needs the habit of hearing some foreign vocabulary that has not been heard at all, then the vocabulary over time will get used to hearing and stored in our memory.

To improve language skills, especially foreign languages, it should be recommended to learn from an early age, considering that a person's ability to receive new knowledge in his brain is more optimal when it is still early, this is because the memory of young children is still very good to receive all forms of knowledge. Person in his childhood has an easy time receiving all forms of knowledge information, especially in terms of knowledge of accepting language, this is because in childhood it is not yet possible to separate which is the function of the left brain and which is the function of the right brain, even otherwise the child's ability to accept language will actually decrease when the child has entered adolescence towards adulthood. According to Na'imah as cited by (Sabaniah *et al.*, 2021) said that "The growth and development of a person's language learning will have a big effect on life, it should also be learned by being taught since they are still in childhood, later it will make it easier for someone to pronounce in the vocabulary list of the language they have so that they are fluent in stringing sentence after sentence, then the positive impact is that the person is fluent in communicating with other people, and other people will also understand what they say." According to Na'imah as cited by (Pagarwati & Rohman, 2020) said that "In the process of language growth and development, there is a control centre in the human nervous system, namely in a person's left brain nerve in terms of language, as well as in communicating with someone."

METHODS

The method used in this research is using the literature study method, from several research results that have been published in national journals. Literature study research is an activity related to data collection methods, reading and recording library materials, and managing research materials. References are obtained and searched for in books, magazines, research report articles and internet pages. The result of this literature review is a set of references that are very important to formulate the problem. The results of the research related to the study of the importance of English language learning in primary schools in the era of globalisation, from the results of the literature review will be presented in the form of diagrams that can facilitate readers' understanding of the importance of English language learning in primary schools in the era of globalisation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research using the literature study method, the results of research from several theoretical opinions that have been published in national journals, state that it is important to learn English in elementary schools. It is necessary to know that the development of the times in the era of globalisation is increasingly sophisticated, so the younger generation is required not to be left behind by the times, this increasingly modern era in every field always uses English, so inevitably English language learning must be learned at various school levels.

Learning English in early childhood is very important and should be taught from an early age. So that from an early age the child is proficient in English, and will not have difficulties when the child grows up. If there are children who are not interested in learning a foreign language, then it is the job of the teacher and parents to direct and guide and motivate the child, that how important it is to learn English. Make children's interest in learning foreign languages high, because no matter what, English lessons will not be eliminated or avoided, even though English is a lesson included in local content, but its status in the world of education is very important, because there are no subjects that have no benefits, everything must have benefits in life both benefits for individuals, the general public, and also the country.

English is indeed a foreign language in Indonesia, but English is one of the languages that must be learned in children from an early age, because English is an international language that is almost used by people around the world. English is also a means of communication or direct conversation with foreign nationals. It is not only our citizens who learn English but foreign citizens all over the world also learn English, because of its many benefits both in education, social, economic, legal and in other fields.

Discussion

English is referred to as a foreign language which means that English is only used and its level is only as a learning or so- called subject in an educational institution in Indonesia, for example, both in terms of the background of formal educational institutions and the background of non-formal educational institutions and is not used as a conversational language or communication tool in social life, as well as in daily life talks are not used as an important language in a country (Tomlinson, 2005).

English is indispensable today, because in the era of globalisation where all systems use English. Based on research from various reliable information from various sources that have been published nationally, all English teachers in every elementary school in all regions of Indonesia all reasoned in agreement by saying that it is important to learn English, because every learner currently lives in the era of globalisation where all systems both on and off the network use English, such as if in electronic gadgets, computers, televisions and other electronic devices, even manual ones use English such as daily news in the form of newspapers.

English language learning has actually been around for a long time, but it has not been optimal in the implementation of the learning process in elementary schools, as for the efforts made by the government for this problem, the government is trying to reoptimise this English language subject by being included in or grouped into the realm of local content abbreviated

(*mulok*). Based on the results of the decision of the minister of education and culture number 060/U/1993, which has the authority to determine related to several subjects that are made into the realm of local content, namely the head of the office of the department of education and culture or now referred to as Depdiknas stands for the Department of Education Nasional level II city or district with the approval of the regional office along with provisions related to local content is English is defined to provide a race in understanding related to oral and written as well as simple expressions. In the decision statement it is explained that English language learning in elementary schools can be learned and taught since grade IV, stated by (Sudrajat, 2015: 13). Because at the age of grade IV children are already able to respond to new subjects well, let alone receiving English lessons.

Learning English at the secondary school level is different from teaching English lessons to children in primary school. But at least English learning if it has been applied since elementary school, children who are educated in elementary school will have basic knowledge related to English, but it should be noted that the provision of material regarding English learning for elementary school children must be given appropriately tailored to the character and development of children in receiving knowledge at elementary school. Because the level of elementary school children is different from children who are in middle or high school. It must be adjusted from the material, the learning method, to the learning models, so that children can follow the learning process easily, according to their basic thinking capacity. The main purpose of recommending English learning since elementary school, later elementary school children when they will continue their education level to junior high school, then continue to high school and even to college, they will feel the benefits by no longer feeling shocked and stressed, when required to learn English.

English is a subject that should be taught to students in primary school. Give only a basic introduction to the English subject matter taught. Because every elementary school teacher must adjust the characteristics of each student's personality, children need English in the future and in the learning process elementary school students tend to still like to play, play while learning. To implement English lessons optimally then invite students to learn but as if they were playing. Because in the minds of children playing is a very fun thing, not only a sense of comfort, pleasure but children also get additional knowledge related to English. Therefore, it is better to teach English while playing games or it can also be sung, they while singing. Some research and development obtained from various sources taken from various periods which discuss the importance of learning English in primary schools in the era of globalisation will be presented in table 1 as follows.

Table 1. Research on the Importance of English Language Learning in Primary Schools in the Age of Globalisation

No.	Peneliti dan Tahun Terbit	Judul
1.	Brian Tomlinson, (2005).	<i>"English as a Foreign Language" in Eli Hinckell " Handbook of Research in second Language Teaching and learning".</i>
2.	Kusuma, C. S. D. (2015).	<i>Pentingnya guru dalam pengembangan minat belajar bahasa Inggris.</i>
3.	Sudrajat, D (2015).	<i>Studi Tentang Pelaksanaan Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris.</i>
4.	Maduwu, B. (2016).	<i>Pentingnya pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di sekolah</i>
5.	Juriana, J. (2017).	<i>Pentingnya penggunaan bahasa Inggris dalam komunikasi dakwah pada era global.</i>
6.	Kusuma, C. S. D. (2018)	<i>Integrasi bahasa inggris dalam proses pembelajaran. Efisiensi: Kajian Ilmu Administrasi</i>
7.	Maili, S. N. (2018).	<i>Bahasa Inggris pada sekolah dasar: Mengapa perlu dan mengapa dipersiapkan.</i>
8.	Putranti, B. E., & Ambawani, S. (2019).	<i>Pentingnya belajar bahasa inggris untuk anak usia sekolah dasar di lingkungan rt 37 rw 13 kelurahan giwangan kecamatan umbulharjo.</i>
9.	Rohmah, S. N. (2019).	<i>Eksistensi bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa Inggris dalam ilmu pengetahuan di era globalisasi.</i>
10.	Suhardiana, I. P. A. (2019).	<i>Peran teknologi dalam mendukung pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di sekolah dasar.</i>
11.	Pagarwati, L. D. A., & Rohman, A. (2020).	<i>Grandparenting Membentuk Karakter Anak Usia Dini di Masa Pandemi Covid-19.</i>
12.	Suharti, S. (2020).	<i>Implementasi Muatan Lokal Bahasa Inggris dalam Meningkatkan Kemampuan Berbicara Bahasa Inggris Siswa di Sekolah Dasar.</i>
13.	Sya, M. F., & Helmanto, F. (2020).	<i>Pemerataan Pembelajaran Muatan Lokal Bahasa Inggris Sekolah Dasar Indonesia.</i>
14.	Sabaniah, S., Ramdhan, D. F., & Rohmah, S. K. (2021).	<i>Peran Guru dalam Pelaksanaan Pembelajaran Jarak Jauh di Tengah Wabah Covid - 19</i>
15.	Dini, J. P. A. U. (2022).	<i>Urgensi bahasa inggris dikembangkan sejak anak usia dini. Jurnal Obsesi: Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini</i>

Based on Table 1 above, from fifteen research articles published from several years, it can be concluded that English language learning in primary schools in the era of globalisation is very important to learn at the education level, starting from primary education in order to facilitate English language learning at the secondary education level, up to college.

Primary school is the time when the right time to introduce English lessons to children in primary school, because during the age of children at the primary school level there is still a sense of curiosity or curiosity possessed by every child, from their curiosity they will be happy to accept all forms of new knowledge that they have not at all known or even owned. So that primary school teachers can take advantage of this to maximise foreign language learning to students in primary schools. Therefore, if the period of children in elementary school is not optimised, learning English is very unfortunate. Although English is included in local content subjects but the same level as other compulsory subjects is equally important to learn, if at the primary school level it is not optimised in the learning process in English subjects, it is unfortunate that every student in primary school when continuing their education at the secondary education level, then to upper education, to college, they are not optimal in following English lessons. English subjects at any level of education cannot be avoided, because there must always be both in elementary school, junior high school, high school to college in each department must study English. Because it is indeed as important as English lessons, because it is important because of its many benefits, being able to speak English in the era of globalisation will increase one's confidence, people who have an understanding of English skills will find it easy to socialise with anyone, because English is called a universal language. So foreign nationals also participate in learning English to expand social networks internationally. For students at the elementary school to university level who have expertise in English will be prioritised to take part in a student exchange scholarship programme abroad, of course it will be a memorable experience, not only boasting yourself, parents but boasting the country of Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Indeed, learning English is a necessity for every child, but not only children of early age even teenagers, even adults really need English skills. Because in the current era of globalisation, someone who has proficiency in English will be easy to survive in the progress of his life, from what is observed that all information that exists almost all use English, so that learning English has been made as a necessity that is pursued by children since elementary school. Many benefits are obtained when from an early age have been proficient in English, for children will grow self- confidence, not left behind by an increasingly sophisticated era, become a pride for a child, and later will be able to communicate using English fluently. The positive impact will be felt by students when they are in college or in the world of work.

Therefore, although English is also called a foreign language in Indonesia, the government authorises the compulsory study of English from primary school to university. Because the government understands very well the technological advances that almost all use English, the government does not remain silent, so English lessons are made as local content in schools, which are recommended to be studied. So that the nation's young generation is not blind to language and is not left behind by the sophistication of the times in the era of globalisation.

As for the efforts made by the government to foster elementary school children's interest in English lessons, it must be from the English teacher who is given direction or provision, to be at the forefront of students' progress in mastering foreign languages.

As an elementary school teacher must have a creative, innovative mind in creating a role model learning system in the classroom to be fun and not boring, elementary school students if they feel comfortable and happy in the learning process, then the teacher easily provides knowledge material to elementary school students, and students also easily accept what is learned. There must be an approach first to students in elementary school, as a creative teacher must be able to read the characteristics of each of his students in elementary school. If a teacher has succeeded in knowing the characteristics of each student then the teacher easily provides the material and determines related learning strategies which include methods as well as learning models in the classroom. The Conclusion section must restate the objective of the research and the main findings of the research. Some recommendation and/or implication can also be written in this section. The conclusion must answer the research objectives according to what is written in the introduction. The proportion is a maximum of 10%. Avoid conclusions in the form of points in the form of numbers or bullets. It is recommended in the form of simple sentences that conclude the results of the study.

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