THE VIEWS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS ON THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

This study entitled “The Views of Parents and Teachers on The Provision of English Learning for Children” which aims to reveal the views of parents and teachers about giving English language learning to children. The research method used by the researcher in this study is a qualitative research method by conducting observations and interviews with parents and teachers about giving English language learning to children. The results showed that the majority of parents and teachers strongly agreed with the provision of English learning to children because they experienced a period so that it was easier to understand English lessons compared to adults. Others feel ashamed because the children are still too early to learn the lesson. The provision of English language learning has a positive impact on children in addition to communicating; English can also make children able to compete in the world of work in the future.

Keywords: The view of parents, teachers, English language

INTRODUCTION

Language is something that is always close and comes along in human life. That's why language is used as a tool to communicate both in spoken and in written form. With the existence of language, humans can tell what is in their thoughts and feelings so that they can be understood by their interlocutors. Language is something that humans use to communicate with words and gestures. According to (Debdikbud, 2021) language is an arbitrary sound symbol system, which is used by members of a community to work together, interact, and identify themselves. English is a universal language, and a number of countries in every corner of the world use English as the tool for communication. (Britannica, 2016) English language which comes from England is the dominant language in some countries in the world. Most countries in the world learn the English language. This is done to make it easier to establish communication with people who have different nationalities. With many English speakers, most regions make English one of the languages that must be learned. Humans are more perfect creatures that make them different from other creatures created by God. Not only physically, but humans are also equipped with thoughts and feelings. With these advantages, humans are able to develop and get to know the outside world so that they can adapt to their surroundings

Parents have high hopes for their children that they can develop and master English. According to (Friedman, 2010) parents are elders, which include mothers and fathers who are the
main examples and interpretations of society, the world and life for their children. The active role of parents is needed by providing comfort, warmth, love and affection, which can make it easier for children to develop self-confidence and initiative (Ariyani, 2016). Some parents know about the English language but some still do not understand it. Providing education to children is an obligation for every parent, but many parents have limitations in giving lessons to their children. As the first place of learning for children, this condition makes it difficult for parents to teach their children. This limitation causes them to need help from people who can teach various things and skills so that children can develop. Childhood is a time when children have a lot of free time to play, learn and know the world. With this free time, it is the right time for children to be given knowledge that can add insight for their future. Many parents feel that way and want their children to learn new things, especially English. English is important to learn because it is used in almost all countries in the world. But many parents do not have more knowledge about these new things so they need help from people who are experts in their fields.

We call these people “teachers” in the school. According to (Djamarah, 2015) Teachers are people who provide skills and knowledge for their students so that they can analyze and conclude the problems they face. Therefore, it makes students think of teachers as their parents at school, especially in mastering English. With the introduction of English in schools, teachers can equip children with learning English so that children are more open to develop themselves so they can compete with the surrounding environment and get a good career in the future. This study wants to examine the views of parents and teachers on provision of English learning for children. The data in this study came from observations and interviews with parents and teachers. From the background described above, the research questions of this study are: 1). How the views of parents about the provision of English learning for children?. 2). How the views of teachers about the provision of English learning for children?

METHODOLOGY

The research method used by the researchers in this study is a qualitative research method where this research tends to be analytical and descriptive. In the Module Penelitian Rancangan (2019) published by Ristekdikti, qualitative research is a producer of which data is used in the form of written or spoken words from the observed actors. (Sugiyono, 2015) said that the descriptive qualitative research method is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the person or actor being observed. Meanwhile (Wiratha, 2006) qualitative descriptive is to analyze, describe, and summarize various conditions, situations from various data collected in the form of interviews or observations of problems carried out in the field. This research tends to explain events, phenomena or a person’s perception of something. The research conducted by researchers has the aim of knowing the views of parents and teachers on the provision of English learning for children. The view can be interpreted as an action or
someone's way of thinking about something. Researchers in their research are more focused on the views of parents and teachers on the provision of English learning for children.

In this study the data collected from observations, interviews and documentation. The location of the research was carried out around the researcher's house on Radio Palasari street, Dayeuhkolot District, Bandung Regency, West Java Province. This research was conducted around the researcher's residence where there are many parents who have a child that is still studying at school and there are also several adults who work as teachers at the school. Researchers interviewed 11 parents who have children who are currently studying at school and 3 teachers who teach at schools. After the researcher collected the data, the researcher then analyzed and wrote a research report. In the research there is an interactive model of analysis which starts from the collection, presentation and withdrawal of data that has been collected previously.

FINDINGS

The provision of language learning is a process in which a person acquires knowledge and pursuits in the field of language. In Indonesia, parents generally give and teach Indonesian as the first language to their children, especially people who live in big cities. Others give their respective regional languages as their first language. For example, in the Sundanese community, most parents who come from the Sundanese give Sundanese as the first language for their children. Many parents do not have sufficient understanding of foreign languages, especially English. Government, to create the nation's next generation to make programs about providing English language learning in schools. This is because the government sees that English will be a universal language in the future. English will be the language used in the field of communication in the world. With the government program, parents' views on providing learning and mastery of English strongly agree and many also feel that it is very important. According to them, it is very necessary to master English for children because at this time English is the main international language in the world and we have learned it as a tool to communicate. Language is the key so that it cannot be denied if you want children to be successful, one way is to be given and introduced to language as early as possible.

Based on several theories about language learning, there are levels of subject matter in schools ranging from early childhood education to high school. During early childhood education, children will be given very simple things such as numbers, letters, and animals and so on. When entering elementary school, children will be given things that are more complex, starting from conversation using English then speaking, listening, structure, reading, writing but at a simple level. When a child enters junior high school, the child is given almost the same thing as in elementary school, only the level is more difficult. When the children enter high school, they are also given English lessons but the levels are more difficult than before. If we look at
early childhood education, Elementary School, Junior High School and High School. It was then calculated that the children had received English language learning for more than 12 years. This is a program from the government where English is the first foreign language that is made a compulsory subject in schools. The reason why choosing English as the first foreign language that must be given at various levels of education is because the government wants to prepare the Indonesian generation to compete globally. Alwasilah revealed that by making learning English one of the subjects in the curriculum because it can support the development of the Indonesian generation later. And nowadays many of the sciences or even electronic objects such as smartphones that we use, use the English language. If we want to know and access it, we have to study and understand English so that we can know it.

The influence of English in this world is so helpful. So that one expert calls English language as linguistic imperialism. His name is Phillipson, he described that after the British occupation in various countries ended, but England still had an influence from the linguistic aspect. Even English is used as a kind of industry that makes people feel the need for this language. Indonesian people learn English because it is one of the compulsory subjects at various levels of education but over time, both students and the wider community have made English a necessity. For example, when we apply for a job at a company, mastery of English is one of the requirements for applying. To meet these requirements, many prospective employees learn English first. As we know that this world is inhabited by various people and of course they come from different countries. We know that humans are social creatures where humans have to communicate and interact with other humans. Previously it was known that English is a universal language where English is the language most widely used by people in the world. Therefore, we are required to learn English, especially children who will become the nation's successors. By mastering English, it can help us in communicating with people from other countries.

DISCUSSIONS

Children in their time had a golden time but only used it for playing. Experts suggest that children must be given lots of lessons that can make it easier for them to reach their goals, especially in the field of language, namely English. By offering English learning to children, it can make it easier for them to understand and accept it compared to adults. This is in accordance with the problems discussed in this study which are divided into two sub-problems, namely (1) the views of parents about the provision of English learning for children and (2) the views of teachers about the provision of English learning for children. The following is an explanation of the data analysis that the researchers present.

1. The views of parents about the provision of English learning for children
Based on the things that have been described previously, the researchers want to know how the views of parents perceive the teaching of English to their children. Researchers at least conducted interviews with several parents related to the provision of English language learning. Below are some of the results of interviews that have been conducted with several parents.

a) Mrs. Rahma (32 y.o)

Mrs. Rahma is a housewife who has 2 children who are both educated in elementary school.

“Bahasa Inggris adalah salah satu bahasa penting yang harus kita ketahui, kami sebagai orang tua merasa sudah cukup tua untuk mempelajari bahasa Inggris dan kami tidak mau nantinya anak - anak menjadi seperti kami. Dengan adanya pembelajaran bahasa Inggris, dapat membuat anak saya lebih memahami dan menguasai pembelajaran bahasa Inggris yang berguna bagi masa depannya.”

Analysis from the interview with Mrs. Rahma, that parents have high expectations for their children, they do not want their children to be like them. Therefore, they are happy with the existence of a school that provides learning in mastering English so that their children get learning that parents cannot give at home.

b) Mrs. Amy (27 y.o)

Mrs. Amy is a mother who has 1 son who is currently studying at early childhood education.

“Saat ini putra saya sedang mempelajari bahasa asing di Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini (PAUD), dia sangat senang dalam pelajaran itu dan menjadikan bahasa Inggris sebagai mata pelajaran favoritnya, jika ditanya ‘kamu suka pelajaran apa?’ dengan semangat dia menjawab ‘bahasa inggris mah’. ”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Amy, according to her, early children are taught something, it is also good for them to understand the learning. During early childhood education, for example, children feel happy when they listen to English songs and other things related to English such as numbers, letters and animals. This can make children want to learn English more. And also they can make English language as their favorite subject.

c) Mrs. A’I Sakinah (42 y.o)

Mrs. A’I Sakinah is a career woman, working in a cooperative. She has 3 children. The first one is in high school, the second in junior high school, and the third has not yet entered school.

“Saya sangat setuju dengan pemberian pelajaran bahasa karena dengan penguasaan bahasa Inggris dapat memudahkan anak saya agar mendapat pekerjaan yang lebih baik dari saya. Saya bekerja di koperasi dengan pemberian pembelajaran penguasaan berbahasa Inggris saya harap anak – anak saya mampu memiliki pekerjaan yang lebih baik dari saya”
Analysis of the results of interviews with Mrs. Al Sakinah, according to her by presenting English lessons, can make it easier for children to achieve their goals. Many parents hope that mastering English can make their children have better jobs than their parents.

d) Mrs. Ana (26 y.o)

Mrs. Anna Amalia is a mother of 1 child. His son is not even 4 years old, so he has not received any education at school.

“Bahasa Inggris adalah bahasa yang dipergunakan dalam berkomunikasi hampir di semua negara, dengan adanya pembelajaran penguasaan bahasa Inggris dapat memudakan anak - anak berkomunikasi di masa depan”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Anna, according to her, English is the language used in communication in almost all countries and by providing learning about this, it can make it easier for children to communicate in the future. So it is very important for children to master English so that they can communicate easily in the future.

e) Mrs. Dewi Sunangsih (53 y.o)

Mrs. Dewi is a mother who has 3 children. The first child is studying at a university in Bandung, the other 2 children are both studying in high school.

“Menurut saya pembelajaran bahasa inggris penting diberikan karena dengan mempelajarinya anak - anak banyak mendapatkan manfaat bagi dirinya maupun teman - temannya. selain itu, menurut saya pribadi jika anak bisa berbahasa Inggris dia lebih terlihat keren.”

The analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Dewi, different from most other parents. Learning English is very beneficial for children because it can make children more confident and is also useful for friends who do not understand English so that it can make children more confident.

f) Mrs. Nurbaeti (46 y.o)

Mrs. Nurbaeti is a mother who looks for her husband's photocopy shop every day. He has 2 daughters, the first is in college and the other is in a boarding school.

“Saya tahu bahwa bahasa inggris adalah bahasa yang penting untuk dipelajari sehingga saya meminta putri pertama saya untuk les bahasa Inggris. Putri kedua saya sangat senang dengan bahasa Inggris, dia menjadikan pelajaran itu sebagai mata pelajaran favoritnya. Di rumah terkadang mereka menggunakan bahasa Inggris dan saya tidak mengerti dengan apa yang mereka bicarakan tetapi saya merasa bangga kepada mereka .”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Nurbaeti, According to her, English is an important language to learn apart from the mother language. That's why her mother facilitates
her child with tutoring so that her child can master English. When children understand and master English, they can easily use English in communicating, for example at home. Although parents do not understand what they are talking about, parents feel proud of it.

g) Mrs. Rokayah (49 y.o)

Mrs. Rokayah is the mother of 2 children who are both currently studying at Senior High School, her first child is in grade 12 who will be graduating while her second child is grade 10.

“Menurut saya kalau masalah pembelajaran pasti semua setuju dan pastinya tidak ada yang menolak ini karena pembelajaran bahasa Inggris sangat penting dan bisa membantu anaknya memiliki kehidupan yang baik juga. Orang tua mana yang tidak mau jika anaknya menjadi orang sukses? Salah satu caranya ya dengan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris yang berkaitan dengan masa depan anaknya.”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Rokayah, according to her, learning English is very important which can help children to have a better life. This is because learning English can make it easier for children to get jobs.

h) Mrs. Lina (26 y.o)

Mrs. Lina is a mother who has 1 child who is still 4.5 years old

“Sejujurnya saya setuju dengan adanya pemberiaan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di sekolah tetapi saya juga ingin anak saya mendapatkan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di rumah karena itu lah saya berusaha untuk memperkenalkan sedikit banyak tentang bahasa asing yang saya ketahui agar kelak nantinya dia tidak kaget bila mana ada pemberiaan pembelajaran di sekolah.”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Lina, according to her parents, must know a little more about mastering English such as numbers, letters, and other simple things so that later when the child enters school and gets English education he will feel familiar.

i) Mrs. Rina (25 y.o)

Mrs. Rina is a mother who has 1 child who is still 3 years old.

“Kalau boleh jujur saya sangat setuju dengan adanya pemberian pembelajaran bahasa Inggris kepada anak, tetapi ada beberapa hal yang perlu digaris bawahi yaitu minat anak dalam pelajaran bahasa Inggris. Anak terutama pada masa kanak – kanak cenderung merasa kesulitan dalam memahami hal baru sehingga diperlukan metode – metode yang dapat membuat anak merasa senang dan tidak membosankan.”
Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs R according to her, it is true that learning English is fun for children but keep in mind that not all children can understand English lessons easily, so learning methods are needed that can create a pleasant classroom atmosphere.

j) Mrs. Riska (33 y.o)

Mrs. Riska is a mother who has 1 child that is still in elementary school.

“Menurut saya itu hal yang bagus, pemerintah pasti sudah memikirkan matang – matang dengan program pemberian pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di sekolah. Selain itu, dengan pemberian pembelajaran bahasa Inggris kepada anak, dapat membuat anak memiliki masa depan yang cerah.”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Riska, according to her, the government must have thought carefully about the program to provide English language learning. In addition, offering English learning has benefits for children, especially in achieving many things.

k) Mrs. Siti (56 y.o)

Mrs. Siti is a mother who has 2 children, the first one has already finished senior high school and the second one is still in elementary school.

“Sebenarnya saya setuju dengan pembelajaran tersebut tapi anak bungsu saya selalu bercerita tentang pelajaran bahasa Inggris yang dirasa sangat susah dipahami. Saya merasa anak saya yang baru kelas 1 SD ini terlalu dini untuk mempelajari bahasa Inggris yang cukup rumit.”

Analysis of the result of the interview with Mrs. Siti. According to her, she agrees to provide English learning to children, but her youngest child does not like English. Mrs. Siti felt it was too early to learn English for her child. After conducting interviews, the researchers got the results and concluded that all the parents who had been interviewed showed an attitude of agreeing with the provision of English language learning for their children. Many of the parents showed a positive attitude with this learning. This is because today's era has developed far and is no longer the same as their time, so parents think that English is a language that must be learned and is one of the keys to communication in various parts of the world.

Most parents feel that English needs to be taught to children from an early age. They feel that language is an important means of communication. Be it mother tongue, regional, Indonesian or English. By practicing using English such as pronunciation, listening, can help children understand English in depth. By using various fun methods such as singing or reading stories, children who are learning English can feel happy when the learning takes place. Others also feel that offering English learning to children is important where children's brains are more receptive to new things than adults.
Giving English to children at an early age can help the development of these children where they will be more familiar with English. When they know some things about English then it will be easier to understand it. So if the child is proficient in English, then later the child will be easier to communicate with in the future. The role of parents, especially mothers, helps determine the educational process in the family environment and can ultimately affect children's grades and achievements in school. In learning English, the active role of parents is needed. In other words, parents are also expected to have a little - a lot of knowledge about the use of English language. So when we as parents become their first place of learning, we are required to teach basic things, such as letters, numbers, colors, and other things. So, the results of the interviews that the researchers got showed that the views of most people towards the provision of English language learning showed an agreeable and positive attitude. According to parents, learning English has a very important role for children. There are many benefits to learning English for yourself, others and the time you have available. This is because they see that times have developed and changed and are different from their times.

The majority agreed with the implementation of the provisions for learning English, but some did not. They argue that children are too early to learn languages other than their mother tongue and this can tire children out where they have to play but they have a lot to learn. Meanwhile, related to the child's age in language learning, a child has good mastery skills in terms of language learning. By providing English language learning to children, the abilities possessed by children continue to develop along with the child's physical growth. The social environment also plays a role in expanding children's vocabulary.

2. The views of teachers about the provision of English learning for children

Parents, especially mothers, usually provide teaching in Indonesian or regional languages. So far only some parents understand English. Most parents do not understand English so they need help from outsiders. This is because it is too late for them to return to learning English and they do not want their children to be like their parents so they are happy and grateful about the provision of English learning at school.

In schools, people who provide guidance in terms of lessons are called teachers. Teachers are influential people in providing learning to children at school. Therefore, teachers usually have a broad view that is able to facilitate their students so that the goals they want to achieve are realized. According to (Moon, 2000), learning English is a dynamic thing that can be ascertained to always change from time to time. However, the task of a teacher at school remains the same, namely helping their development, understanding, and mastery of the language. Thus, the background of a teacher, especially education, has a great effect, but the most important thing is how children can understand and easily understand things related to mastering English. Currently, there are many teachers who understand English, besides that they have been equipped with many things related to how to teach children properly and correctly. Apart from
that, they are also open and understand that English is one of the important things to be learned nowadays, so they can/have prepared appropriate learning for their students.

a) Mr. Dar (45 y.o)

Mr. Yunandar is a teacher at an elementary school located in Dayeuhkolot sub-district.

“Kalo menurut saya adanya pembelajaran bahasa inggris di sekolah sangat bagus karena bisa mengajarkan anak menggunakan bahasa asing, apalagi bahasa inggris adalah bahasa internasional yang harus bisa kita kuasai di era global ini.”

The analysis of the results of the interview with Pak Dar, according to him in English learning given at school, is really good because English is an international and universal language which is used by many countries in the world to communicate well if children can master the language.

b) Mrs. Sinta (23 y.o)

Ms. Sinta is a teacher at a kindergarten located in Dayeuhkolot sub-district.

“Sejujurnya saya sangat setuju dengan pemberian pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di sekolah karena dengan pemberian pembelajaran sedini mungkin kepada anak dapat membuat mereka lebih mudah mengenal dan memahami pelajaran tersebut. Tapi di tempat saya mengajar banyak anak didik saya yang masih berumur 5 – 6 tahun, sehingga saya harus mencari metode – metode menyenangkan agar anak – anak tidak merasa bosan dalam pelajaran bahasa Inggris.”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Sinta, according to her, is very good if children are provided with learning English as early as possible and the teachers will usually provide exciting teaching methods in order to create a pleasant teaching and learning atmosphere. This can be done with songs, mini games and so on.

c) Mrs. Rosa (44 y.o)

Mrs. Rosa is a teacher at one of the first secondary schools in the Cangkuang area.

“Saya sangat setuju dengan pemberian mata pelajaran bahasa Inggris kepada anak – anak karena anak – anak sedang mengalami masa keemasan di mana mereka akan lebih mudah memahami dan mengerti hal – hal baru dibanding orang dewasa.”

Analysis of the results of the interview with Mrs. Rosa, according to her the children are experiencing the golden time in their brains, where children will more easily understand new things than adults. In addition, children's brains will develop well if given such things.

Researchers have conducted interviews with several teachers about learning English in schools. According to them, the children will feel happy participating in learning English and the teachers
will not find it difficult to deal with children who are learning English. Children at an early age enjoy English lessons and use their favorites because of the songs provided - songs that can keep them from getting bored, pictures like cars, vegetables, animals that can make them more interested in English. This is the reason when children in English lessons do not feel bored and even more enthusiastic in learning. The teachers also think that learning English from an early age is good because children are at a time when they have a high sense of curiosity.

Based on the experience of English teachers, singing English can make it easier for teachers to provide learning so that it can be active, fun and not boring. Basically, most of the teaching process in schools is determined based on teacher competence. Especially in terms of providing an example through a long-term learning process that can comprehensively shape students. It is hoped that by offering language learning, students can use language to communicate, express what is on their mind and understand any existing reading material. So, the opinion of teachers about providing English language learning for children is something that should be done because children feel happy with learning English. In addition, according to teachers, the learning period for children is good for various kinds so that they can stimulate their brain development. With learning about English, children can also understand the material faster than adults.

CONCLUSION

Humans use language to communicate and also to interact. With the existence of language, humans can know each other's ideas that are owned by each individual. English is a universal language that is used by almost all nations in the world. Many countries require English to be one of the compulsory subjects taught in schools, especially for children who will become the nation's successors. Giving English language learning to children is not done slowly but gradually. Learning English is done in many ways, such as in the form of songs, games, pictures, and so on so that children do not feel bored with English lessons.

Parents' views on mastery of English are positive. According to them, it is very necessary to master a foreign language, especially for children because at this time English is the main international language in the world to use and learn it as a tool to communicate. They also present that by offering English lessons, children can get jobs easily in the future. In line with the views of parents, according to teachers, learning English for children is appropriate because children are in the learning period so that children are more able to understand than adults.

Researchers suggest readers to further develop English learning because English is one of the things that is useful for now and in the future. If the child from an early age is not given English learning, then it is not given now rather than later than never.

REFERENCE


