



**ENRICHING THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS'  
VOCABULARY BY INSERTING PICTURES IN MISSING LYRICS OF  
CHILDREN'S SONGS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this paper is to explain how to implement inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs technique in order to improve vocabulary. People may agree that vocabulary is important to language learning. Since the teachers do not have appropriate methods and strategies to interact with the students in the classroom, it is impossible to expect the students to be able to speak English well. Consequently, the students feel bored and even lack of their motivation in learning English. One way to make the environment in the classroom becomes interesting is by using inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children songs. This technique can be conducted as a recreational activity to avoid monotonous routines. Through inserting pictures in missing lyrics' technique, the students will have fun and understand their lesson easily. It is expected that the students will have higher motivation because the activity could catch the interest. Furthermore, by singing a song, it can also improve students' pronunciation.

Key words: missing lyrics, pictures

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Vocabulary is an important and essential element in language learning since it helps someone to express his feelings and opinions well. Students who have many vocabularies tend to be easy to

understand the material that is taught by the teacher accurately and effectively.

Vocabulary as one of the main components should be taught since the beginning level (young learners). It is important because the

mastery of vocabulary affects the mastery of the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). It is due to the fact that learning vocabulary is the essential aspect that cannot be separated from learning other skills in English. For instance, in speaking, it influences the choices of words in a conversation. Meanwhile in writing, it shows how students choose the word to express their ideas.

By enriching many vocabularies, students will have better understanding in English. Unfortunately, many elementary school students are lack of vocabularies. This expectation is proven by the observation and questions that is done to some elementary school students randomly. It was found that they have some problems in learning English. First, the students still thought that English is a boring, uninteresting, and difficult lesson. Second, the students had low motivation in learning English. They did not realize the importance of English except just for their final examination. Third, the inappropriate and unattractive methods used in

teaching English to children especially in vocabulary teaching. The teacher tended to be monotonous in teaching English without considering about the students motivation. For instance, the teachers only use the student's worksheet in the class. In short, the teachers still did not optimize the use of media for teaching.

As a result, the students got trouble in learning English and then they got bad mark in English. Therefore, the teacher should find another way in teaching that could attract the attention of the students and make them more interested in acquiring their vocabulary. One interesting way that the teacher can use to overcome this problem is by using songs. By using songs, children will be more attractive in the class because they stimulate their motivation to study. This is supported by Church (2001) who states that songs can build language. Children will hear a song with a repeating phrase. By adding a good beat and some playful rhyme, the teacher will have the strategy to make language more enjoyable to be learnt. A song can introduce children

to new vocabulary, rhyme, phonemes, word patterns, and sequence. Through repetition, children gain familiarity with these elements of language and begin to apply the words and phrases to daily conversation.

There are numbers of technique that can be done by using songs in teaching vocabulary. Among those techniques, missing lyric by inserting picture is one of the interesting techniques for teaching vocabulary to young learners. In activity for this technique, the teacher provides a simple song that has missing words as well as a number of pictures to be inserted into the missing lyric. Then, the teacher asks the students to guess the words based on the pictures and fill them into the lyrics based on the arrangement of the lyrics. After completing the song, the teacher and the students discusses the students' answer and finally, teachers and the students sing the complete song together. This activity is useful to enrich the student's vocabulary especially for young learners. Besides, it can also be used to improve students' pronunciation.

Furthermore, it builds an enjoyable activities in learning English.

Regarding to the advantages of using songs and inserting pictures in missing lyrics in teaching vocabulary, the writer would like to discuss about how "using inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs" applies in the class activity in order to enrich elementary school students vocabulary.

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Young learners are children who are involved in the formal school, especially at the elementary school. According to Slattery and Willis (Shin, 2006) young learners are children on the age of 7-12 years old. Teaching children and teaching adults are not the same matter, they are different. To be successful in teaching children in second and foreign language, it requires specific skills and intuitions that are different from those appropriate for teaching adults. The children have their own characteristics, which are different from adults. The characteristics cover their ways of thinking, their attitude, their aptitude, etc. They also

prevail to the children's ways of learning language. This, of course, influences the ways of teaching them.

In the teaching process, there are many approaches and techniques that the teacher can do to develop students' vocabularies. Linse and Nunan (2005) list some classroom techniques and activities that the teacher can do in teaching vocabulary to young learners:

1. Connecting vocabulary to young learners' lives through personalization

In this technique, the teacher may ask the students some questions that will help them to relate new words to their own lives.

2. Word for the day

For this technique, the teachers select a specific word that will be focus in on each day.

3. Categories.

In this technique, the teachers may ask each student to create a set of picture cards or words cards with different vocabulary items on them. The teacher asks them to put one vocabulary item on each cards.

4. Scavenger hunt

For this technique, the teacher gives the students an EFL or ESL course book that is appropriate for age and language level.

5. What is missing?

The teacher may place 12-20 picture or word cards on a table or the floor. Then, the teacher tells the students to look at the cards for minutes, and then have them to close their eyes. The teacher removes one card. Finally, the teacher asks the group or an individual learner to tell the teacher which card was removed.

6. Mystery words

In this technique, the teacher will read or says a sentence aloud and leave out a word. Then the teacher asks the students what word that is missing.

2. Concentration

Concentration games can be made using picture or word cards.

Based on the lists above, there are some classroom techniques and activities that are applied in the inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs technique. Those

activities are number 5 and 8. In this technique, the teacher has a cardboard that has missing lyrics and in those blanks, the teacher insert some pictures. Therefore, the students have to guess the words that are represent by the pictures.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that in teaching vocabulary for young learners, the teacher has to concern about the characteristics of the young learners, their needs, and their interests. Therefore, the teacher should use an interesting technique with interesting media to make the young learners to become interested in learning. So, the teacher can use inserting pictures in missing lyrics in children songs technique that can help the young learners easier in remembering vocabulary, besides it also creates an interesting and relaxing environment in the classroom.

### **Inserting Pictures in Missing Lyrics of Children Songs**

In teaching vocabulary by inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children songs technique, the writer makes a modification of missing lyrics technique by inserting a

picture in each of the missing words in the lyrics of the song. The pictures itself represent the words that are missing in the songs. It will help the students become easier in understanding the vocabulary that is taught by the teacher.

In this technique, the teacher shows a song that has been written or stick in a big cardboard. The songs have some missing words in its lyrics. In that blanks, the teacher puts some pictures represent the words that is missing. Then, the teacher asks the students to find out the words of the pictures. The teacher asks the students to write down the name of the pictures. After that, the teacher and the students discuss the answer. Finally, the teacher and the students sing the song together.

This activity can help the students to remember the words easily, because most of the children songs had repetitive words in its lyrics. Furthermore, the use of the picture is helpful to make the students easier to guess the words. In addition, by adding the picture, it will attract the students interested in studying.

### **III. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used library research whose information is gotten from books and internet. To collect the data, the writers did interview to some English teachers at elementary school and some elementary school students, to sum up writers' data or opinion for this article

### **IV. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs is a technique of teaching vocabulary that combines lyrics in a song and pictures. The teacher will delete some certain words in a noun form in its lyrics, and replace it by pictures. After that, the students are asked to guess the missing words by the help of the pictures. This technique actually is a modification of missing lyrics technique that is made by the concept of the gap filling cloze procedure task.

Usually, the cloze procedure is used in assessing reading where every  $n^{\text{th}}$  word is deleted from a reading text. Based on the theory, cloze task requires the ability to

understand context and vocabulary in order to identify the correct words or type of words that belong in the deleted passages of a text.

This technique is helpful to enrich the students' vocabulary because this technique is enjoyable, simple, and interesting. The students find that sing a song is entertaining and relaxing. Furthermore, the activity in this technique will change the situation from the routine classroom activities. In addition, for the teacher, this technique is simple and easy to be done in the classroom. It helps the teacher to teach vocabulary and help the teacher from the excessive explanation.

#### **A. Teacher's Preparation**

Preparation is the first thing that the teacher needs to consider before teaching. The teaching learning process will not run well if the teacher does not have a good preparation before starting the lesson in the classroom. This preparation helps the teacher to control the teaching and learning process. In teaching vocabulary through missing lyrics by inserting pictures, there are several preparations that the teacher should do. Followings are the

explanation of how teacher should prepare in using inserting picture in the missing lyrics of children's songs.

### **1. Selecting the Topic and Songs**

The first thing that the teacher needs to do is to select the topic that will be brought into the classroom. The topic that is chosen surely needs to be appropriated to the syllabus and curriculum as well as appropriate to the students' ability level. Furthermore, the teachers also need to choose the topic that the students will be interested in it. Therefore, it helps the students to understand and learn the material easily.

Then, in selecting the songs, the teachers have to consider some aspects:

1. The teachers have to choose the appropriate songs that related to the topic. For instance, if the topic is about "human body", the songs that will be chosen must be related to human body too. And also if the topic is about "the weather" or "jobs", the

songs must be related to weather and jobs too.

2. The songs that will be brought to the class have to be enjoyable and interesting. It really helps to increase their motivation.
3. The teacher has to find the songs that are familiar to the students. It also helps the students in increasing their motivation and their anxiety. In fact, the students will be more interested to the songs that they are familiar with.
4. The teacher also needs to consider about the appropriate songs to the students' level and age. It is important to be considered because it is related to the use of verbs in that song. The teachers have to choose the songs that do not consist of too many difficult words in it.

### **2. Preparing Media**

After selecting the topic, the second thing to do is preparing the media. The media must be appropriated to the topic. It should be interesting for the students. Thus, it

can gain the students' motivation and interest to the lesson.

In teaching vocabulary through 'missing lyrics by inserting pictures', the media that need to be prepared are

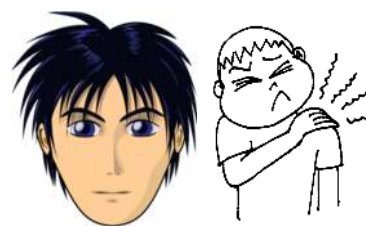
1. The song
2. Cardboard
3. Colorful Ballpoint
4. Pictures
5. Glue
6. If there is an in-focus in that school, the teachers just need to prepare the layouts from the power point.

### **3. Procedures in Making the Media.**

1. The teacher prepares the songs that related to the topic. For instance, the topic is about the human body. Therefore, the teacher should find the song that related to human body. One of the songs that will be appropriate is "*Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*" song.
2. The teacher should find some pictures that are stated in that song. They will be "head,

"shoulders", "knees", "toes", "eyes", "ears", "mouth", and "nose". It will be better if the teacher choose the interesting pictures too. For instance, the teacher can choose cartoon pictures. Followings are the samples of the pictures.

#### **Head and Shoulders**



3. Then, the teacher sticks those pictures based on the arrangement of the lyrics in "*Head, shoulders, knees, and toes*" song in a big cardboard.
4. The teacher has to give space below the pictures to write down the lyrics. In this case, all of the lyrics in this song are included on the pictures. There is no other word in this song except the word "*and*".
5. The teacher may give some decorations on the cardboard to make it become interesting. Following is the example of inserting pictures



in missing lyrics of children's songs.

## **B. The Implementation of Teaching Vocabulary Through Inserting Pictures in Missing Lyrics of Children's Songs**

In the implementation of the teaching vocabulary to elementary school students through inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs, teacher can use the three-phase technique. They are pre-teaching activity, whilst-teaching activity, and post-teaching activity.

### **1. Pre-Teaching Activity**

- i. Teacher begins the class with greeting.

*Teacher: Good morning everybody! How are you today?*

*Students: Good morning, Mam. I'm fine, and you?*

*Teacher: I'm very well, thanks.*

- ii. Teacher looks at the seats. If the seats are not well organized, then, teacher asks the students to arrange their

seats. So that, the teachers and students find the classroom will be more interesting and comfortable.

- iii. The teacher asks the students a question whether they like singing.

*Teacher: Do you like singing?*

*Students: Yes, Mam.*

*Teacher: OK. I have a song for you.*

Then, the teacher shows the cardboard that contains "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" song or the teacher may write down the lyric in front of the class.

- iv. The teacher sings the song first, and after that, the teacher and the students sing the song together.

*Teacher: Do you like to sing this song?*

*Students: Yes, Mam*

*Teacher: OK, listen to me first.*

*Teacher: Let's sing together!*

The teacher may repeat the song by two or three times.

## 2. Whilst-Teaching Activity

a. The teacher shows the cardboard that contains the lyrics that has some missing words and there are some pictures inserted in it (figure 1) and stick it on the blackboard or whiteboard.

b. After that, the teacher will asked some question.

*Teacher: OK, now look at this. Do you still remember the "head, shoulders, knees, and toes" lyrics?*

*Students: Yes, Mam.*

*Teacher: Good. So, what is the name of this picture in English based on the song? (The teacher point picture of "head")*

*Students: Head.*

*Teacher: Good. (The teacher write "head" below the picture)*

*Teacher: So, this is a head. (The teacher point out the picture)*

*Teacher: And this is my head. (The teacher point her head)*

*Teacher: Where is your head?*

*Students: This. (The students point out their head)*

*Teacher: You say "this is my head, okay"!*

*Students: Yes, mam.*

*Teacher: Very good. And what is this? (The teacher point out the picture of "shoulder")*

*Students: Shoulder.*

c. After finishing the activity above, the teacher and the student sing the song again. After that, the teacher explains the parts of human body and its function.

d. Then, the teacher pronounces the words

and asks the students to follow her. It will help the students in pronouncing the words correctly.

- e. To make them more understand, the teacher gives other song that also has missing lyrics and the teacher inserts some pictures in that missing. The teacher has to create the media as like as the figure 1.

*Teacher: Do you want another song?*

*Students: Yes, Mam.*

*Teacher: OK. I have another song for you.*

*But, find the name of this pictures first. You can discuss with your friend and you can use dictionary too.*

The teacher can use the “Me” songs.

*Here are my **fingers** and here is my **nose**.*

*Here are my **ears**, and here are my **toes**.*

*Here are my **eyes** that*

*open wide.*

*Here is my **mouth** with my white **teeth** inside.*

*Here is my pink **tongue** that helps me speak.*

*Here are my **shoulders** and here is my **cheek**.*

*Here are my **hands** that help me play.*

*Here are my **feet** that go walking each day.*

(The words that were bold will be the missing words and the teacher has to find the pictures to create the media).

- f. After that, the teacher and the students discuss the student’s answer and then, the teacher explains the song. Finally, the teacher and the students sing the song together.

This activity will make the students become excited and happy. Moreover, they can remember the words easily because there are

many repeated words in it.

### **3. Post-Teaching Activities**

- a. The teacher gives an exercise to the students that is related to human body. This exercise is given in order to know whether the students understand or not about the lesson.
- b. The teacher takes the mark from what they have done.
- c. Then, the teacher concludes the lesson and reviews it. After that, the teacher asks the students whether they understand or not about the lesson and the teacher gives time to the students if they have any question.
- d. The teacher ends the class.

### **C. The Advantages of Inserting Pictures in Missing Lyrics of Children's Songs Technique**

### **in Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners**

There are many advantages of using this technique. Followings are the advantages.

1. This technique helps students to improve their vocabulary because of the repetitive of most of the children's songs. Thus, the students will be easier to remember the words.
2. The use of pictures will also make the students interested and easy to remember the new words that will be taught by the teacher.
3. The activity in this technique is relaxing and entertaining. Students will enjoy in studying in the classroom because most of the students enjoy listening to songs after studying by using textbook and workbook routine.
4. This technique also helps the students to improve their pronunciation.
5. The songs are easy to find. The teacher may find the songs in the internet by searching from Google.

6. The media that is used in this technique is easy to make. The teacher also can utilize power point as the media.
7. This technique can also be used in higher level of proficiency by using appropriate songs and pictures

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Inserting pictures in missing lyrics technique can vary teaching and learning activity in the classroom. It is one of creative and interesting techniques in teaching vocabulary. This technique will help the teacher to increase students' motivation and find solution to teach vocabulary.

There are three-phase techniques in the implementation of the teaching vocabulary to elementary school students through inserting pictures in missing lyrics of children's songs. (1) Pre-teaching activity. In this activity, the teacher gives a song to the students and they sing the song together. (2) Whilst-teaching activity. In this activity, the teacher shows a cardboard that contains a song that they had sing

together where there are some missing lyrics and some pictures inserted in that missing lyrics. The teacher asks the students the name of the pictures based on the lyrics. After that, the teacher explains about the material that is discussed and gives another song. (3) Post-teaching activity. In this activity, the teacher gives an exercise to the students. The exercise is related to the topic in the song. It is useful for the teacher to know how well the students understand about the lesson.

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