

Exploring the Dynamics of English Learning: A Case Study at SMP 7 Sabang

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Abstract. *In the era of globalization, proficiency in English has become a fundamental skill to compete in various fields, both in education and the workforce. Therefore, an effective English learning process is crucial to support students' language competency achievement. This study focuses on analysing the English teaching and learning process at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Sabang. It examines the techniques and methods employed by teachers to motivate students to learn English. Additionally, the study aims to identify the challenges faced by English teachers in the classroom. Data were collected through classroom observation and interviews with English teachers, and it was found that various teaching techniques were utilized, including lecturing and group discussion. The media employed by teachers included handbook, boards, and posters. Despite the use of diverse techniques and media, teachers reported ongoing difficulties. They noted that many students had low motivation in learning English, perceiving it as a challenging subject. This study highlights the need for further strategies to enhance student engagement and increase the overall learning experience in English at SMP Negeri 7 Kota Sabang.*

Keywords: *analysis, english, learning process*

1. Introduction

In the era of globalization, proficiency in English has become a fundamental skill necessary to compete in various fields, both in education and the workforce. Therefore, an effective English learning process is crucial to support students' language competency achievement. The importance of the English language in enhancing a country's education system cannot be overlooked. The government has taken various measures through educational institutions, such as creating a new curriculum. The syllabus, lesson plans, and examination frameworks should be designed in a way that ensures the implementation of modern policies reaches the younger generation. If this process begins at the secondary level, many students will need to improve their English language skills. This would help both students and teachers overcome challenges in learning English.

SMP 7 Kota Sabang plays a strategic role in improving its students' English language skills. The geographical location of Sabang, as one of Indonesia's outermost regions bordering neighboring countries, presents unique challenges in mastering the English language. Factors such as the availability of learning resources, teacher competencies, and student participation in the learning process significantly influence the success of English language education at this school. Located in an area rich in culture and history, SMP 7 is faced with the challenge of reaching students with diverse educational backgrounds. On the one hand, there are students who have a good interest and ability in English, while on the other hand, there are students who may not have a strong foundation. These differences require teachers to use flexible and adaptive approaches so that all students can learn effectively.

Sabang Island, an island rich in culture and natural beauty, students face unique

challenges and opportunities. With its stunning marine beauty and abundant biodiversity, Sabang is a tourist destination that is attracting worldwide attention. However, to be able to communicate with tourists and establish broader relationships, mastery of the English language is crucial. Through mastery of English, students on Sabang Island can open up job opportunities in the tourism sector, become tour guides, or even play a role in local business development. Furthermore, this ability will facilitate cultural exchange, allowing them to share their stories and traditions with the outside world, while learning from the experiences of others. With passion and continuous effort, these students are not only striving to master the English language, but also building a brighter future for themselves and for Sabang Island. Over time, it is hoped that these young people will become cultural ambassadors who are able to bring the good name of their island to the global arena.

English is one of the compulsory subjects that students should master in this era of globalization. English learning in Junior High School is targeted so that students can reach the functional level, namely Speaking and writing to solve everyday problems. English subjects in junior high school / MTs aim to enable students to have the following abilities: 1) develop communication competence in oral and written form to achieve functional literacy level, 2) Have an awareness of the nature and importance of English to increase the nation's competitiveness in a global society, 3) Develop learners' understanding of the relationship between language and culture. From the brief explanation above, the researcher reaffirms that English subjects in the Indonesian national education curriculum are held in order to prepare human resources who are able to compete in the national and international spheres. But in reality, English is still not well mastered by high school graduates.

Zulkarnindra (2021) suggested the main thing that students should remember to put the focus on learning the rules and procedures for using the English language, focus on learning the rules and procedures for using English properly and correctly, not immediately learning it and unconsciously embracing the foreign culture inherent in the English language itself without going through a filtering process that can have an impact on one's indiscretion in taking a stand on Action.

Success in learning English at the school level is inseparable from the selection of appropriate learning media by teachers. Practical learning media will be able to help teachers transfer knowledge to students. Qualified learning media will also help students absorb knowledge from teachers smoothly and without obstacles. Subjects that are considered by the majority of students as difficult subjects will be resolved by teachers using fun learning media in the classroom learning process. A fun learning process will make it easier for students to absorb the knowledge of English taught which will be useful for the lives of students after completing their education.

Learning media is one of the important elements in the creation of the teaching and learning process in the classroom. teaching and learning process in the classroom. Without adequate learning media, the teaching and learning process in the classroom will not run smoothly (Buchori et al, 2016; Budiman, 2017; Putri and Budiman, 2018). Likewise, the teaching and learning process for English subjects at the secondary school level requires adequate and practical learning media to be used so that both teachers and students will have no difficulty in participating the teaching and learning process.

Based on the researcher observation and interview that the ability in English of students at SMP Negeri 7 Sabang indicated by the students' performance in speaking and listening is still low. Whereas, in learning Foreign Language like English is difficult because the grammar rule is difficult and it also has different structure or vocabulary

with their native language. Through this research, the author aims to analyze the English learning process at SMP 7 Kota Sabang. The study focuses on various aspects of learning, including the teaching methods applied by teachers, the materials used, and the active participation of students in the teaching and learning process. This analysis is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of the learning processes implemented at this school, as well as identify the supporting and hindering factors affecting the achievement of English learning objectives. This research also aims to provide recommendations that can help improve the quality of English language learning at SMP 7 Kota Sabang, enabling students to master English more effectively and be prepared to face future challenges.

2. Method

This research employs a qualitative research method. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the qualities or characteristics of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach. Sugiyono (2011) stated that qualitative research methods are based on post-positivist philosophy and are used to study objects in their natural conditions (as opposed to experimental methods), where the researcher acts as a key instrument, with purposive and snowball sampling techniques, data collection through triangulation (combined methods), and data analysis that is inductive or qualitative. The results of this research emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

From the definitions above, it can be concluded that qualitative methods are used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the actual conditions occurring in the field. The data collection technique in this research are interview. The researcher conducted interviews with English teachers and students at SMP Negeri 7 Sabang. Through this interview, the researchers dig up the data, information, and description framework from the research subjects. The interview technique used is a guided free interview, meaning that the questions asked were not fixed on the interview guide and can be deepened or developed according to the situation and conditions in the field. The interview is used to find out deeply factors affecting the difficulty of students in learning English language by asking or discussing to the pupils and the English teacher. In addition to interviews, the researcher also collected data using observational techniques. The researcher observed that the school is a public institution with adequate facilities and infrastructure to support the learning process. The data analysis used by the researcher is the Miles and Huberman data analysis model. Miles and Huberman (2007), suggest that activities in qualitative data analysis are carried out interactively and take place continuously until completion, so that the data is saturated. Activities in data analysis, namely data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

3. Results and Discussions

SMP Negri 7 Sabang in learning English uses the Merdeka curriculum as a reference for the teaching process. English is included in the core subjects, as a handbook for English lessons students are given textbooks. There are several teaching methods used by the resource person in the teaching and learning process such as lectures, modelling in reading English texts, composing sentences, and communicating. In addition, the teacher also applies discussion techniques to improve students' understanding and cooperative learning which aims to make students in the class actively involved in the learning process, so this can minimize the occurrence if there are only a handful of students who

are passive while others are active. There are also several learning media used by teachers such as whiteboard and laptops to present power point slides. But there are also some obstacles from the students' side, sometimes they feel bored with the learning process, so they want learning media that can increase their interest such as English audio, English animated videos, and English cartoons. Another media used is audio, which functions to train students' listening skills in understanding the pronunciation of English words or sentences.

Some other obstacles found by the resource person when teaching in class are the difficulty of organizing and conditioning the atmosphere of children at the beginning of the class for conducive learning. A real case that often occurs, for example, children have just finished some outbound activities and then it is time for them to enter English lessons but they excuse themselves by asking for a moment to rest themselves first.

Before starting the learning session, the resource person also prepares lesson plans or teaching modules for the learning scenario that will take place in the classroom. The main content of the lesson plan and teaching module is what activities the teacher wants to deliver during the learning session along with the teaching method.

The observation also shows that the teacher uses a handbook as the main reference in teaching, students also use printed English books for junior high school students and notebooks to record material. Teachers also require students to have a dictionary to help them master vocabulary and look up the meaning of words they do not understand. In addition, there is also the use of posters containing English words or slogans displayed in the classroom. Before the learning activities begin, students are asked to read the writings in the hope that they will be more familiar with them.

4. Conclusions

The conclusion obtained from this research by the author is that the English learning process at SMPN 7 Sabang has used the Merdeka curriculum as a reference. There are several learning methods used by teachers in teaching English, such as lectures, discussions, and modeling. In terms of media use, teachers also use laptops, projectors, posters etc. to attract students' interest. But there are some obstacles faced, it turns out that students' interest is still lacking in participating in English lessons, students want digital learning media such as audio, animated videos, and cartoon films that can increase student motivation and interest in participating in English lessons, so that this can have an impact on improving students' English language skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing.

5. References

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