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**ENGLISH LEARNING
“ENGLISH IS FUN”
FOR CHILDREN IN THE HAPPY FAMILIES COMMUNITY IN MEDAN DENAI,
MEDAN CITY, NORTH SUMATERA**

Oleh

Desmalia Purba ¹⁾

Ismarini Hutabarat ²⁾

Humiras Betty M. Sihombing ³⁾

Fransiskus Gultom ⁴⁾

Universitas Darma Agung, Medan ^{1,2,3,4)}

E-mail:

minsontamsar@gmail.com ¹⁾

ismarini.hutabarat23@gmail.com ²⁾

bettyasihombing1807@gmail.com ³⁾

fransiskus_gultom2277@yahoo.co.id ⁴⁾

ABSTRACT

This activity aims at improving the English language skills of children in the Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera. The activities are carried out for one day, namely on Saturday, April 4, 2022, where the activities include academic and non-academic activities. The activities in question are training in speaking skills in English, Training in Reading Poetry in English and Studying the Bible in greater depth. This activity involved 2 lecturers and 3 student representatives from the Student Executive Board of the Faculty of Letters, Darma Agung University. Through this activity, the role of parents and the community is even more intense in educating and guiding children in academic and non-academic activities (especially those related to religion).

Keywords: *English Speaking Training, Poetry Reading, Academic, Non Academic, Happy Families.*

ABSTRAK

Kegiatan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbahasa Inggris anak-anak-anak di Komunitas Happy Families di Medan Denai Kota Medan Sumatera Utara. Pelaksanaan kegiatan dilaksanakan selama satu hari, yakni pada hari Sabtu, 4 April 2022 dimana kegiatannya meliputi kegiatan akademik dan non-akademik. Kegiatan yang dimaksud adalah pelatihan kemampuan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris, Pelatihan Membaca Puisi dalam bahasa Inggris dan Pendalaman/Telaah Alkitab secara lebih mendalam. Kegiatan ini melibatkan 2 dosen dan 3 mahasiswa perwakilan Badan Eksekutif Mahasiswa Fakultas Sastra Universitas Darma Agung. Melalui kegiatan ini, peran orang tua dan masyarakat lebih intens lagi dalam mendidik dan membimbing anak-anak dalam kegiatan akademik dan non akademik (khususnya yang berhubungan dengan agama).

Kata Kunci: *Pelatihan Berbicara dalam Bahasa Inggris, Pembacaan Puisi, Akademik, Non Akademik, Happy Families.*



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I. INTRODUCTION

English in Indonesia is as a foreign language. It means that English is not mastered by everyone as it is used by certain people in a certain situation. Because of that reason, English is learned by all students in all levels in Indonesia to make sure Indonesian people master this language.

English plays an important role in globalization era. In economy aspect, it is the tool of communication that can be used by people to deal or to bargain or do activities in economy side. Meanwhile in education aspect, there are many foreign books used in Indonesia especially for S-2 and S-3 programs. Students in these levels are required to write in an international journal before registering or before graduating from that schools. In health aspect, most medicines and health tools used in hospitals are imported from other countries in which transaction and also the writings in the medicines and tools are all in English. Then, in other aspects like social, law, politics are also in the same conditions requiring the ability in understanding English. It means that this language is very needed by all people no matter where they live.

Seeing this condition, many people try hard to master English by various ways. One of them is by going to English course, expecting that they can be good in English after having that course. The problem is the fee for having course, in a good course, is not affordable by everyone. It seems to be expensive that not everyone can join that course. There are still poor people who are caring their education or knowledge of English but they cannot pay the fee or tuition for that

course. The civitas academica of Letters Faculty cares about this situation because education and poorness are both important to be helped.

Based on the reason stated in previous paragraph, Letters Faculty determined to do Community Service in Medan Denai, city of Medan, North Sumatera. This activity entitled **English Learning “English Is Fun” for Children in the Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera**. The community is chosen as it consists of many poor children and some of them are from broken families needing love and caring. This activity is expected to be useful for them, giving positive impact for them both in education and also in other sides.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are many skills in language; they are listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They can be divided into two categories; they are receptive and productive skill. Receptive skills are those skill in which person just receiving without producing something; they are listening and reading. Productive skills are skills in which person produce something. The person have to take his effort to have that, the examples of this skill are speaking and writing.

Listening skill is the first skill and basic ability in learning a new language that beginners have to learn. It is a receptive skill meaning that the language learning beginners receive new words from what they have heard or listened to. The ability to receive will affect the ability to produce. If they are good at listening; as a result, they will understand and even have a good competency in productive



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skills namely speaking and writing. (Nurmala Hendrawaty, 2019 : 57). one of the foremost language skill that quite difficult for students. The students may have some difficulties related to the lack of participation, inability to express opinion, and low motivation in speaking.

(<http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/jelt/article/view/9019/7565>).

Speaking can be learned everywhere, not only in school but also in every places. Speaking needs process to be formed in which this skill is also affected by society or surroundings. The ability to master speaking are affected by many factors, some of them are: performance conditions, affective factors, listening ability, and topical knowledge. (<http://www.multidisciplinaryjournals.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FACTORS-AFFECTING-STUDENTS%E2%80%99-SPEAKING.pdf>)

Reading comprehension involves two levels of processing, shallow (low-level) processing and deep (high-level) processing. Deep processing involves semantic processing, which happens when we encode the meaning of a word and relate it to similar words. Shallow processing involves structural and phonemic recognition, the processing of sentence and word structure, i.e. first-order logic, and their associated sounds. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading_comprehension).

Writing skill can be obtained. Writing is a productive process done through some stages. Firstly, exploring and transmitting ideas, thought and feeling into written form. Secondly, conducting a number of revising process to carry out a grammatically and orderly texts. The

Listening has close relation with speaking skill. Speaking is Speaking is writing productions are in the forms of readable texts which should be meaningful to everyone who read the writing. (<https://eprints.uny.ac.id/9677/3/bab%20%20-%2008202241038.pdf>).

Poetry is a kind of literary works. What distinguishes poetry from fictions like short stories and novels is the form and use of the language. There is freedom of form in poetry that is not found in a short story or novel. If in a short story or novel a sentence must be written intact and end with punctuation, poetry has the free form. Poetry does not have to finish a sentence directly, but can be cut and continued in the next paragraph, ended with punctuation or not which is called an enjambment. Meanwhile, the use of language the elements of the language used in poetry are used as much as possible in terms, intensity and rhythm and also sound. The language in poetry is a language that is developed and has many possible meanings. This is different from the literal language used in short story or novel that can lead to one meaning as desired by the author. (<file:///C:/Users/DESMALIA%20PURBA/Downloads/10602-24302-2-PB.pdf>)

III. RESEARCH METHOD

In this activity, there are some steps done by both parties. First party here is lecturers and the students of Letters Faculty of Darma Agung University; meanwhile the second party is Happy Families of Medan Denai, Medan city, North Sumatera. The steps can be figured out below:

1. Pre-Activities

In this step, First Party did everything needed, they are:



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- a) Preparing documents like permitting letter to carry Activities from University of Darma Agung
 - b) Contacting Second Party to take permission doing Community Service Activities
 - c) Preparing lesson material presenting to the kids of Happy Families
 - d) Discussing the subject matter with the lecturer
 - e) Validating the lesson material
 - f) Preparing other accomodations related to the activity.
- g) out Community Service
 - h) Asking the children to speak in English
 - i) Asking the students to see and hear how the students of Darma Agung University to read a poetry.
 - j) Practicing reading poetry.
 - k) Asking the students the meaning of the poetry.
 - l) Explaining the maning of poetry.
 - m) Practicing (again) reading poetry.
 - n) Asking the students to practice that.

In this step, Second Party did these steps:

- a) Giving permission to the First Party to conduct Community Service Activities
- b) Informing the children of the Happy Families to have training
- c) Preparing place of training

2. Main Activities

In this step, First Party did these steps:

- a) Serving the children with worship
- b) Singing several Christian spiritual songs with the children
- c) Introducing poetry to the children
- d) Modelling the children to read the poetry
- e) Training the children to speak up in English

In this step, the Second Party did these steps:

- a) Listening the First Party that were explaining the poetry
- b) Practicing to read the poetry
- c) Practicing to read the poetry
- d) Practicing to read to speak up in English.
- e) Seeing and hearing the students of Darma Agung University to read a poetry.
- f) Answering questions of the students of Darma Agung Unive about the meaning of the poetry.
- g) Practicing (again) reading poetry.

3. Post-Activities

In this step, First Party did these steps:

- a) Giving he children tools needed for schools
- b) Thanking the committee of Happy Families



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In this step, First Party did these steps:

- a) Receiving the gifts from the First Party
- b) Thanking the First Party

Then the activities were closed by having some photos and friendly activities, just like having nonformal conversation with the kids and also the teachers/people who organize them.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

By doing the community service entitled *English Learning "English Is Fun" for Children in the Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera*, it was found that:

1. The children of Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera have different ability in English. Most of them were not able to speak English but some cannot do that.
2. Most of the children of Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera have low grade ability both in speaking and reading (a poetry).
3. The children of Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera have high enthusiasm and curiosity in English.
4. The children of Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera are close to one another.

V. CONCLUSION

1. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, the conclusion can be drawn below:

- a) English Speaking Training are needed by the children in Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera are close to one another.
- b) Teacher/Committee of Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera should be helped by the society as they helped the children without any salary because it is only by their sincere wishes/willingness.

2. Suggestion

Based on the findings, it can be suggested that:

- a) Teacher/Committee of Happy Families Community in Medan Denai, Medan City, North Sumatera should be helped by the society as they helped the children without any salary because it is only by their sincere wishes/willingness.
- b) The children should be loved and cared by parents, no matter what conditions faced by each families because children deserved for their parents' love and care.
- c) Parents should pay attention to their children education.



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LAMPIRAN KEGIATAN



Gambar 1. Spanduk PKM Fakultas Sastra Universitas Darma Agung



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Gambar 2. Mahasiswa Fakultas Sastra Universitas Darma Agung sedang melakukan pengajaran Speaking





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Gambar 3. Mahasiswa Fakultas Sastra Universitas Darma Agung sedang melakukan pengajaran Poetry didampingi musik agar suasana lebih hidup



Gambar 5. Penutupan kegiatan dengan berfoto