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The Role of The Storytelling Method in Increasing Literacy Interest For Children

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ABSTRACT

Storytelling is an activity carried out by someone to explain a concept, information, or other mere tales which can be done in writing or orally. This type of storytelling can be done with or without props. Storytelling is a universal communication method that has a big impact on humanity. It can be said that through good stories, children can not only learn about fun or entertainment, but also gain broader education. It is even more accurate to say that stories that highlight various aspects of children's creation and storytelling are an effective way to develop interest in reading. This research uses the Library Research method, namely the study of literature related to research and data collection through surveys. Interest is not an innate factor, but a taught factor. The interest and habit of reading, especially in children, cannot be overcome by itself. Therefore, it is necessary to develop habits and introduce reading. A child's love of reading is greatly influenced by the behavior of his teacher and the people around him. Children who enjoy learning often have teachers and tutors who can help them learn. The desire to learn can be cultivated in children by providing appropriate examples. Children love to imitate the attitudes and behavior of people they admire during their early childhood.

Keywords: Storytelling, Interest, Literacy.

ABSTRAK

Bercerita adalah kegiatan yang dilakukan seseorang untuk menjelaskan suatu konsep, suatu informasi, atau dongeng belaka lainnya yang dapat dilakukan secara tertulis atau lisan. Penuturan alur cerita jenis ini dapat dilakukan dengan atau tanpa alat peraga. Bercerita merupakan salah satu metode komunikasi universal yang mempunyai dampak besar bagi umat manusia. Dapat dikatakan bahwa melalui cerita yang baik, anak tidak hanya dapat belajar tentang kesenangan atau hiburan, tetapi juga memperoleh pendidikan yang lebih luas. Bahkan lebih tepat dikatakan bahwa ternyata cerita yang menonjolkan berbagai aspek embentukan dan mendongeng

anak merupakan cara efektif untuk mengembangkan baca minat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode Library Research (Penelitian Kepustakaan), yaitu studi literatur yang berkaitan dengan penelitian dan pengumpulan data melalui survei. Minat bukanlah faktor bawaan, melainkan faktor yang diajarkan. Minat dan kebiasaan membaca, khususnya pada anak-anak, tidak dapat diatasi dengan sendirinya. Oleh karena itu, perlu dikembangkan kebiasaan dan memperkenalkan membaca. Kegemaran membaca seorang anak sangat dipengaruhi oleh perilaku gurunya dan orang-orang di sekitarnya. Anak-anak yang senang belajar sering kali memiliki guru dan tutor yang dapat membantu mereka belajar. Keinginan belajar dapat ditumbuhkan dalam diri anak dengan memberikan contoh yang sesuai. Anak-anak suka meniru sikap dan perilaku orang yang merekagumi selama usia dini.

Kata Kunci: Berkisah, Minat, Literasi.

1. INTRODUCTION

Children's literacy interest in Indonesia shows a concerning trend, where UNESCO (2019) noted that the reading interest index of Indonesian people is only 0.001, which means that only one in a thousand people has a high interest in reading. This is exacerbated by the 2021 PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) report which ranked Indonesia 62nd out of 70 countries in terms of reading literacy (Pritchett & Viarengo, 2022; Nurhayati et al., 2023). This condition indicates a serious challenge in fostering a culture of literacy from an early age, especially in children as the next generation of the nation. In the midst of this situation, a fun and relevant learning approach such as the storytelling method is one of the potential solutions to effectively attract children's literacy interest. (UNESCO, 2019; Hewi & Shaleh, 2020; PISA, 2021).

The storytelling method has been widely recognized in various studies as an effective way to increase children's engagement in literacy learning (Nurbaiti et al., 2020; Pradana, 2020). According to Hamilton and Weiss (2005), stories have an emotional appeal that can motivate children to learn to read and write. Research conducted by Paley (2007) also shows that the storytelling method can create connections between the text and children's lives, thus increasing their understanding and interest in books. Other literature confirms that through stories, children not only learn new vocabulary but also develop their critical thinking skills and imagination (Collins, 2016; Trimansyah, 2019; Rohim, 2020). This fact confirms the relevance of the storytelling method in addressing literacy challenges in children (Barwasser et al., 2021; Rahiem, 2021).

This study aims to explore the role of the storytelling method in improving children's literacy interest, especially at primary school age. It will discuss how this method can be practically applied in educational and family settings and its impact on children's literacy skills. By combining social facts and relevant literature, this article is expected to make a significant contribution to educators, parents and policy makers in designing engaging and effective learning approaches for children.

Based on the social facts and literature presented, the hypothesis proposed in this paper is that the storytelling method can significantly increase children's literacy interest by providing an interactive and fun learning experience. The author argues that this method not only helps children understand the reading content but also builds an emotional connection with the learning material. Thus, the storytelling approach can be an important catalyst in building a culture of

literacy among the younger generation, especially in the midst of the digital era that often distracts children from reading activities.

2.   RESEARCH METHODE

The type of this research is Library Research, namely the study of literature related to the discussion and is the main source in this study. Where this library research aims to collect data and information with the help of various materials that are literature (Siregar, R, 2021: 11). Therefore, this method aims to explore the role of the storytelling method in increasing students' literacy interest. The literature method involves collecting data from various written sources, such as books, journal articles, official documents and related research reports. The main purpose of this approach is to analyze various theories and empirical findings relevant to the research topic.

3.   RESULT AND ANALYSIS

According to Tyasmaning (2022: 32) method is a branch of science that studies various ways to carry out organized activities in an environment involving educators and students, who interact with each other in order to carry out certain activities, so that the learning process can run effectively and the teaching objectives are achieved. Some known teaching methods include: storytelling method (lecture), discussion method, demonstration method, lecture plus method, resitation method, and so on. Then Hamiyah and Jauhar in (Arifudin, 2021) explain that methods are ways to implement plans that have been prepared in the form of real and practical activities in order to achieve learning objectives.

Sulaeman (2022) argues that learning methods not only function to convey material, but are also responsible for managing learning activities so that learning objectives can be achieved appropriately. Thus, learning methods are operational steps of the learning strategy chosen to achieve these goals (Arifudin, O, 2021: 30). So it can be concluded that the method is a way or technique used to implement learning plans in organized activities, which involve interactions between educators and students (Jesionkowska et al., 2020; Pettersson, 2021). This method aims to achieve learning objectives effectively and appropriately. In addition, learning methods also function not only to deliver material, but also to manage learning activities so that the learning process runs smoothly. Thus, learning methods are the operational steps of the chosen learning strategy to achieve the predetermined goals. Therefore, in this study, what will be discussed is the storytelling method.

According to Tyasmaning Endang (2022), the storytelling method is a teaching method that conveys information and knowledge orally to a group of children, who usually receive the information passively. This method can be considered as the most economical way of conveying information, and is very effective in overcoming the limitations of literature or references that are in accordance with the purchasing power and understanding ability of children. More clearly stated by Subur (2015) that the storytelling method means "A way of conveying subject matter by telling chronologically about how things happen, which tells the actions, experiences or sufferings of others, whether they actually happened or are just a fabrication" (Subur, 2015: 73-74). By listening to stories in children, children can learn to conclude the story or message conveyed from the story, whether the delivery is oral or visual aids, the storytelling can use their own language.

The benefits of the storytelling method in fostering children's literacy interest include: Encourage thinking, The storytelling method is often used because it is able to arouse children's spirit of thinking through stimulation of imagination, Strengthen understanding Psychologically,

when children have difficulty understanding the explanation of something, this understanding can be strengthened through certain stories. This is due to the presence of the "x" element in the story that is able to arouse the curiosity of the listener, thus encouraging them to know the whole story., Helps to connect with other worlds, Storytelling can describe events from the distant past, as well as remove the boundaries of distance in the story. Thus, the stories are able to present distant events as if they occurred at a very close distance (Hanifah, 21: 17-20).

The purpose of storytelling is to entertain children and make them happy through ideas, imagination, and interesting storytelling, increase children's general knowledge, enrich language styles and increase vocabulary, develop imagination, educate character, hone sensitivity, and train the ability to express ideas through words supported by demonstrations.

Literacy refers to the ability to read and write. In addition, literacy culture refers to the application of a mindset followed by the process of reading and writing, which can ultimately produce works of art (Haryanti, 2014; Sulfemi, 2023). The concept of literacy was initially limited to the ability to read and write, which is often called literacy. However, over time, literacy developed into four essential elements: reading, writing, speaking and listening (Abidin, Mulyati and Yunansah, 2021). Literacy culture includes the habits of the community that are closely related to reading and writing activities. To realize a good literacy culture, three things need to be considered: first, diligent reading; second, diligent writing; and third, being able to think critically. In the modern era, literacy has a broader meaning, encompassing various types of literacy, such as computer, media, technology, economic, information and moral literacy. Literacy culture also relates to learning patterns in schools. For a student to be a good literate, it is important to have sensitivity and critical thinking skills. Critical thinking helps one to sort and choose information wisely, so as to avoid inappropriate emotional reactions (Sukmawati, A, 2023: 2051).

To implement the first literacy culture, a student must have the willingness or interest to read and write. According to Slameto (2010: 180) Interest is a feeling of liking and interest in a matter or activity that arises without coercion. Basically, interest is an acceptance of the relationship between oneself and something outside oneself. The stronger or closer the relationship, the greater the interest that arises. Then according to Hanifa (2021: 27) Interest is a change in energy in a person's personality characterized by the emergence of affective (feelings) and reactions to achieve goals. Interest is the internal state of organisms, both human and animal, which encourages them to do something.

Interest arises as a result of motivation, which can be defined as the drive or power that drives a person to do something (Lens & Vansteenkiste, 2020; Reeve, 2024). Motivation functions as a driving force within a person to carry out certain activities to achieve goals. Students carry out learning activities because of encouragement, and in this case motivation is the basis that encourages them to learn. Interest itself is a psychological potential that can be used to explore motivation. When students are motivated to learn, they will carry out learning activities well (Hanifa, 2021: 29). According to Irna (2019: 03), children's interest can be recognized through several characteristics, namely: (a) a sense of pleasure or interest, (b) attention, and (c) involvement in the activity.

4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the storytelling method is one of the effective approaches in education that can increase children's literacy interest. This method is able to convey information in an interesting and economical way through structured and chronological stories. The advantages of this method include stimulation of children's imagination, strengthening understanding, and the

ability to bridge past events to the present. In its implementation, the storytelling method encourages children to think critically and be curious about the storyline. In addition, stories told verbally or with visual aids can enrich vocabulary, improve language skills, and instill moral values. This method also provides an interactive learning experience, making it easier for children to understand abstract concepts. Thus, this discussion confirms that the success of the storytelling method depends not only on its delivery but also on the role of the educator in creating an interesting atmosphere. Therefore, this method is one of the strategic ways to overcome children's low interest in literacy in the modern era.

From the results of the information data that has been presented, to increase interest in literacy for children, they must have more interesting stories to arouse children's interest in reading. For example, introducing children to folktales or fairy tales from various cultures as part of literacy activities. This not only increases interest in reading but also introduces children to different cultural values.

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