

# Improving The English Skills Of Elementary School Students Using The Phonetic Method

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## *Abstract*

*This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method. The study aims to know the effectiveness of phonetic methods in improving the English skills of elementary school students. Language plays a very important role in our daily lives, to communicate ideas to others. Language skills are the basic ingredients for everyone to express themselves starting from the feelings, desires, opinions, and needs of each individual. The more language a person knows, the easier it is for him to communicate. Understanding English must be solidified to students as an international language. The study was based in the thought that students should be speaking English in daily interactions in the school language program. Because of this, the need to learning pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar in English learning is essential for improving students language skills, students should study the pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar as much as possible to establish good communication with other students.*

**Keywords:** *phonetic method, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar*

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## 1. Introduction

The current situasional Covid-19 strongly affects learning effectiveness around the world especially in Indonesian, students' learning declined in all subjects, especially in learning English. In the process of learning English, a student must have experienced it's a learning disability. Such obstacles can result a lack of maximum student learning result. In addition, there are three language elements that play an important role supports all three skills namely pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar this always proves to be an obstacles to learning language English. (Susanthi, 2021)

There are two factors that influence the process and result of teaching interactions the teacher factors as the subject of learning and the students factors as an object learning (Roinah, 2019). There are two factors that arise in the development of learning : internal and eksternal. Internal factors, including attitudes toward learning, learning motivation, concentration of learning, the ability to prepare learning materials, the ability to store learning, the ability to achieve, the student's confidence, the intellect and succes of learning, learning habits, and student's ideals. There is an eksternal factor, including among them teachers as educators, the tools and

infrastructure of learning, assessment policies, and the school curriculum (Dimiyati, 2006).

Learning English was very complex because English consisted four skill, which is reading, writing, speaking, and listening. To achieve your optimal English skills, it is necessar professional language instructors to produce qualified learners. Also, mastery of materials and practices must be given a balanced portion (Susanthi, 2021).

## 2. Method

This Method of research uses descriptive abalysi by reviewing from the research journal and various references. Scientific journal criteria are published between 2006 until 2021. the purpose of this study is to describe, to represent the facts of the field systematically and factually, to be accurate with the result of some of the phonetic methods in swaps that still need to be developed and to implement the needs of learners so that educators need to give the learning system in process to develop a phonetic method for the need for learners at a higher level.

## 3. Disscusion

### 3.1 Learning English

#### **Learning Pronunciation in Elementary School**

Pronunciation is how we say a word in good and true English. The difference in the custom of our tongue with that of someone native speaker (a person who speaks English as a mother tongue) is the cause of the frequent errors in English pronunciation (Ningsih & Afningsih, 2019). In English teaching quite a number of problems were encountered by students who were a hndrance to the development of their English Speaking abilities. One of the many difficult problems faced is the problem inherent in speaking (Megawati, 2016).

Pronunciation is particularly important in the development of vocabulary because it involves differentiating between sounds that combine to form words. When a student is used to saying a word incorrectly, there is a tendency for him to be unable to give out clear information, lack of teaching media can also affect students interes in learning. So, teacher must prepare teaching media as well as other methods and tehnques, so that elementary students can be more interested and have English pronunciation skills (Yanti Sofiyanti, 2014).

So, it can be concluded that pronunciation is the way in which a word or a language is spoken. This may refer to generally agreed-upon sequences of sound used in speaking a given word or language in a specific dialect (correct pronunciation) or simply the way a particular individual speaks a word or language. Pronunciation is one part of speaking skills that will be directly observed an known.

#### **Learning Vocabulary in Elementary School**

A vocabulary is the total number of words in a language as well as the ability of words that a person knows and uses in speaking and writing. One has to have enough vocabulaty to understand what is read and heard, speak and write in the right words, so that other can understand (Susanti, 2019). Vocabulary study in elementary school should be taught bby sentence and not by single word. So takes a teacher's skill to select words that have the vocabulary to be taught. When the emphass of learning is on incereased motivation to study a vocabulary, then a teacher has to make it a point to guess the meaning of a vocabulary in sentence (Widiyarto Sigit, 2019).

Vocabulary mastery would influence student thingking and creativity in the language learning process, so that vocabulary mastery could determine the quality of a student in language. The quality of a person's language skills depends

on the quantity of vocabulary he has. The more vocabulary a person has, the greater his language skills become. Thus, it is clear that the importance of vocabulary learning toward the increasing and development of language students ability causes language learning to be more serious and purposeful (Kurniawani, 2019).

From the definitions above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is the total number of words that are needed to communicate ideas and express the speakers meaning. That is the reason why it is important to learn vocabulary.

### **Learning Grammar in Elementary School**

Grammar is a set ruler of language that set out the structure of itself. Grammar is used to determine the composition of words in forming a meaningful language unit (Anggraini, Arianto, & Hidayanto, 2020). Grammatical learning must certainly be adjusted to a child's class level. At the elementary school level as a whole, the suitable grammatical materials are easy grammar and easy tenses (Ambarini, 2020).

The importance of grammar mastery for elementary school students will make it easier for students to reconstruct English sentences of various tenses. By learning grammar, students understand the system of the language itself. Not only are able to understand how the language works but students also improve confidence in using English. Additionally, students could also build a conceptual map of the English structure (Agust, Gatot, & Candra, 2019).

From the text, it can be concluded that grammar is the system of a language. Grammar is the structural foundation of our ability to express ourselves.

## **3.2 Phonetic Method**

### **Definition of The Phonetic Method**

Phonetic is one of the methods for children used to know letters by children who find reading difficult. Furthermore, the overuse of this method is easy for a child to make automatic connections between one letter and another. At which school using English as a medium will certainly use phonetic as a lesson in reading and writing, because this method is used to make it easier for children to know the letters and words of the pictures longer (Siti Rahmati, 2021).

The phonetic method is a method that prioritizes aural training and speaking training, namely a way of presenting a foreign language through listening practice followed by practicing in pronunciation of words and sentences in a foreign language. This phonetic method can be said to be a combination of the two, natural and reading methods above. This method begins with listening exercises, then continues with the practice of pronouncing words or sentences in a foreign language. The process continues with reading conversation (Yurtti, 2019).

So, conclude that phonetic method is a branch of linguistics that examines various things about the sound of language without regard to whether the sound of the language has a function or not.

### **The Importance of The Phonetic Method in The Process of Introducing English Elementary School Students**

Phonetics or the sound system of tongues is one of the first aspects of language to be studied when a language is taught, since words are a language composed of such sound. One of the challenges of elementary school English learning has been the ability to recognize and pronounce sound well. This factor is due to the inconsistency from both the user and the study, and a lack of teacher's attention to phonetic knowledge, thereby a lack of use of the learning strategy. A way that can be done by empowering educators to be able to recognize and apply English phonetics. The purpose of phonetic teaching is to help students to be able to speak out of quickly identifiable written words (Widyaningrum & Prayogo, 2017).

The phonetic method suggests words through the process of listening to the sound of letters. At first the child is invited to recognize the sound of the letters

become become syllable and words. To introduce the sound of the various letters, we can usually associate these letter a with a picture of ant, letter with a picture of a book, and so on (Yurti, 2019).

By teaching this phonetic methods to help students to be able to determine the sound of unknown written words quickly. When students find new words in texts, they can use elements from phonetic to codify and understand these words, there are several ways to apply phonetic in reading. Synthetic phonetic builds words. There are several ways to apply phonetic in reading. Synthetic phonetic builds words from the ground up. In this approach, letters and sound units are associated and mixed together to create a word.

### **Steps For The Implementation of The Phonetic Method**

The steps for the implementation of the phonetic method, including (Yurti, 2019) :

1. The teachers reads foreign language reading in front of the class, or open activates a reading program in the form of radio or videos, listens, and pays close attention to this reading program carefully while reading it. Student must pay close attention to style, intonation, as well as certain imitative forms in reading.
2. The series in questioning readings are arranged in such a way that they become perfect continuous reading material.
3. The teacher can end certain if the lessons series considered complete and mastered by the students, the proceed to the next session or series.
4. After the reading lesson is over, the exercises can be done. For example, conversations that are simple in nature at first, then move on to complex or further conversations.
5. To clarify conversations, this method is more recommended to use teaching media props.
6. At the end of each lesson, the teacher I gave practical reading and conversational exercises to each student and don't forget to give various (providing motivation for students) to study really diligently and routinely every day of practice (Homework).

### **The Advantages and Benefits of The Phonetic Method**

The advantages and benefits of using the phonetic method for improving English skill of elementary school students, including (Yurti, 2019) :

1. Introduction the names of the letters and sounds  
The phonetic method in teaching English reading is a method that can introduce children to the alphabet and various sounds.
2. Introduction words and sentences directly  
The use of this method it to teach English words or sentences as a whole, not per sounds of the letters.
3. The phonetic method has the ability to manipulate words  
The phonetic method in teaching English reading is to make it easier for children to hear and manipulate sounds in spoken words so that children will find it easier to read English words.
4. Pronounce the word correctly  
The child's phonetic method can arrange the pronunciation of English vocabulary properly and correctly based on the sounds that have been learned. If educators continue to use this phonetic method, children can string the sounds of letters and sounds.
5. Memorize letters and sounds  
By using this phonetic method, children can memorize letters and various sounds in English. This method is also fun and easy to do. Children will see the shapes of sounds and letters of the alphabet in the form of flashcards so that children will easily remember them. In addition, educators can invite children to play games in English so that children will not feel bored.

## 4. Conclusion

The use of method is very important in achieving learning materials because using methods can increase students interest in learning. This method is a way or path that must be passed to achieve a goal. This means that the formulations of learning objectives is an absolute requirement before someone determines and chooses the right method. This phonetic method is a way of presenting foreign language lessons through listening exercises to pronounce words and sentences in the foreign language being studied. There for, the role of teaching method as a tool to create a teaching and learning process, with the use of methods is expected to grow various students learning activities in connection with teachers activities.

This method prioritizes ear training and speak training, namely how to present or add foreign lessons through listening exercises to pronounce the words and sentences of the foreign language being studied. Abilities achieved using through the phonetic method, children can practice their reading skills by listening and speaking better, the abilities achieved with the phonetic method have many achievements such as recognizing the names of letters and sounds, introducing words and sounds, introducing words and sentences directly with phonetic, pronouncing, words correctly, and memorizing letters and sounds well that's the ability that is achieved by using the phonetic method.

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