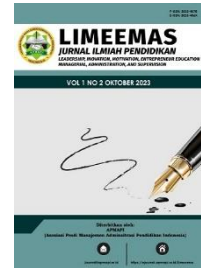


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## PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF ENGLISH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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**Abstrak:** Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mempelajari bagaimana perspektif orang tua dan guru tentang nilai bahasa Inggris untuk anak-anak berbeda. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi deskriptif, kualitatif di TK Bustanul Arifin 2 Kab. Pringsewu, itu diadakan. Analisis temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa orang tua dan guru setuju bahwa mengajar bahasa Inggris kepada anak-anak sangat penting. Paparan awal terhadap bahasa juga bermanfaat bagi ingatan dan perkembangan otak anak-anak, dan anak-anak kecil memiliki tingkat keingintahuan yang tinggi yang membuatnya tepat untukajari mereka bahasa Inggris atau bahasa lain. Keingintahuan ini juga terkait dengan perkembangan anak-anak selama "tahun-tahun emas" mereka. Faktor bahasa Inggris pada anak memiliki pengaruh positif yang dapat meningkatkan penguasaan bahasa anak dalam perkembangan bahasa anak, sedangkan faktor bahasa Inggris pada anak juga berdampak negatif seperti rendahnya kemampuan bahasa pertama anak.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa Inggris anak usia dini, persepsi guru, dan persepsi orang tua

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to learn how parents' and teachers' perspectives on the value of English for young children differ. This study used a descriptive, qualitative methodology and FGD. In TK Bustanul Arifin 2 Kab. Pringsewu, it was held. The analysis of this research's findings reveals that parents and teachers agree that teaching English to young children is crucial. Early exposure to the language also benefits children's memory and brain development, and young children have a high level of curiosity that makes it appropriate to teach them English or other languages. This curiosity is also linked to children's development during their "golden years.". English factor in children has a positive influence that can enhance child language acquisition in children's language development, while English factor in children also has a negative impact as the low ability of the child's first language.

**Key Words:** Early childhood English, teachers' perceptions, and parents' perceptions

## INTRODUCTION

English is a very important language in the international world, especially in the era of globalization like today. English is used to communicate with other people in various countries. By mastering English, people will be able to enter and access the world of information

technology easily. With the introduction of English from an early age in kindergarten, children will know and know English earlier. Thus, they will have a better basic knowledge before continuing to a higher level of education. Teachers can provide provisions for children that by mastering English, it can provide more open opportunities to develop themselves to get better opportunities to face job and career competition in the future. English has become a very decisive tool for the continuation of education, employment and social status of the community. Parents who want their children to develop linguistically in mastering several languages are not only welcomed by their children, but also by the country, with sincerity. The family as the main and first educational institution is increasingly difficult in carrying out its functions. The role of the family (parents) has not only become heavier, but also complex (Resmini, 2019). The condition of the intensity of the relationship between parents and children is not determined by the quality of communication that has been successfully built, namely interpersonal communication between parents and children. Early childhood education as the first gate to education is expected to be able to lay solid foundations as preparation for education and further life.

In this case, the family has a very important and strategic role in the child's education process. Perceptions of Parents and Teachers, English Humans since they were created and born are more perfect than other created beings, the difference is not only from their physical appearance (physical) but humans are equipped with reason and five senses, (Liton, 2015). With that potential, humans can grasp stimuli and know the outside world to be able to recognize themselves and assess the stimuli they perceive and make adjustments to the surrounding conditions which are related to perception. Language is a form of communication carried out either spontaneously, written or in the form of signs, which is based on a system of symbols. Language consists of all the words used by a community and all the rules for changing or combining those words.

English is the official language of many Commonwealth countries and is widely understood and spoken. English is spoken in more countries around the world than any other language and more than any other language except Chinese, it is also spoken by more people. English as an international language plays an important role to communicate with the outside world, especially in absorbing science and technology, (Tadger et al., 2022). One aspect that needs to be mastered by children is good English skills, both oral and written. Good English skills must master all four language skills and vocabulary as well as grammar. In line with that, Erik, a neurologist, revealed that before puberty, children's thinking power is more flexible. Therefore,

children are easier to learn languages, while afterwards it will decrease with not maximum achievement.

English is an international language where at this time the introduction of English learning has begun in kindergarten. The introduction of English in kindergarten is in the form of vocabulary about things closest to the child, this aims to make it easier for children to remember it. In addition, in teaching vocabulary to children can use various ways that can attract children's attention through media, games, and interesting learning methods with this it is hoped that children can be interested in learning activities that take place. The ability of children to know and master English is a necessity for the rapid advancement of science and technology. The role of English as a second language in Indonesia serves as a tool to help competition and cooperation on a global level both through education, trade, the use of science and technology and other human interaction activities.

The active role of parents is very necessary in this matter, in other words parents are also required to know a little about English so that they can buy books about basic English and teach it to their children at home. Parents who provide warmth, comfort, love and affection to children from an early age, will allow children to develop a sense of trust in their environment. If these stages are passed well, children will more easily develop confidence and initiative in themselves. In other words, children will not be dominated by doubt or anxiety in exploiting their environment. The education of the child is basically the responsibility of the parents. Only because of the limited ability of parents, there needs to be help from people who are able and willing to help parents in their children's education, especially in teaching various knowledge and skills that are always developing. Capable and willing people who work in schools, these are often called teachers. Therefore, students look at their teachers instead of their parents, look at their teachers as they look at their parents, tend to have feelings for teachers as they do for their parents. Djadja, Cece Wijaya Rusyan (1992, p. 197) In language learning, whether the first, second, or foreign language teaching language component is part of the language program. Although practical teaching in the field takes place, in an integrated manner, teachers and prospective teachers need to understand some important concepts related to the three language components, especially those regarding the English component.

To extent does English language teacher education curriculum prepare prospective teachers for teaching young learners (Özkan & Arikan, 2010). With recent changes in the Turkish education system, fourth graders are introduced to English in their primary school curriculum. The changes resulted in the growing importance of teacher education practices in relation to the

teaching of English to young learners. Teachers' Beliefs in Teaching English for Kids at a Kindergarten: A Case Study of Students from the Department of Applied English (Chu, 2014). Teacher confidence includes four aspects in terms of English language teaching, teacher-student interaction in the classroom, curriculum planning and English language learning. Teaching Young Learners to Efficiently Communication in English, Brunello & Borsan (2013, p. 123).

Young learners should have fun with English! introduce learners to the theory and practice of teaching young learners in EFL classrooms. They will engage in fun activities designed specifically for young learners, such as songs, singing, finger drama, and storytelling. In addition, participants will discuss approaches to language instruction in meaningful contexts and share effective techniques to make language input comprehensible and encourage student participation. Which is the Most Appropriate Strategy for Very Young Language Learners. Er (2014, p. 289). Results showed that compared to less engaging teachings, pleasurable instruction was found to be more effective in developing English sociopragmatic awareness of children in terms of tasks involving demand strategies as opposed to reciprocating strategies. The above results suggest that, in addition to teaching pleasantly, speech acts are an important variable influencing language second sociopragmatic competence in early childhood.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In qualitative research, data collection is carried out through Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Luketić (2017, p. 26) on natural settings, primary data sources, and data collection techniques are more on observation, in-depth interviews and documentation, Sugiyono (2019, p. 213). The research place chosen was TK Bustanul Arifin 2 Kab. Pringsewu. Meanwhile, the research time is adjusted to the schedule of the school concerned in semester 1 by approaching key informants first, determining informants, collecting data and analyzing data, and finally writing research reports. The analysis model used in this study is an interactive model that starts with data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion/verification. The data analysis process is carried out continuously in the data collection process during the study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The understanding of all parents about the importance of English in Early Childhood is very important according to parents English for early childhood because English is currently an international language that in almost all countries have learned this English, language is

communication, language is the key to everything so it is undeniable that if children want to succeed children must be taught / introduced to the language as early as possible, English is also a language that is very compulsory or we must know, we parents feel it is too late to learn the language so we do not want our children to be like us, we want the best education for children.

According to parents, the earlier children are taught, the easier it is for children to receive lessons, children will often listen to English, the longer children will understand and get used to the English. According to the theory, English learning in early childhood is only limited to introduction and the basics. So, we as educators teach them very basic things first, such as letters of the English alphabet, numbers, various fruits, various animals, various colors, and a little simple and easy conversation (such as good morning, how are you, etc.).

The active role of parents is very necessary in this matter, in other words parents are also required to know a little about English so that they can buy books about basic English and teach it to their children at home. So, according to parents, the importance of English in early childhood is very important, it would be better to be learning not just an introduction, according to parents and according to theory, English is very important too, but in early childhood it is only limited to introduction and the basics (Umar et al., 2023). The attitude of parents regarding English for early childhood is that most of them really agree with the existence of English learning for early childhood, so most parents give a positive attitude with additional or extracurricular lessons that already exist in Bustanul Arifin 2 Kindergarten, Pringsewu District. Because according to them today is not the same as their era, so we as parents have to keep up with the times, where now English is the second language in Indonesia, English is also one of the keys to world communication today, just look at the current media, electronics and others use English more. The role of parents according to (Hurlock, 1978), especially mothers, will greatly determine the magnitude of the influence of the child's educational process in the family environment, and which will ultimately affect children's learning achievement at school.

The role of the family is very dominant in providing early childhood education before children enter kindergarten school. Reese (Morrison et al., 2009) suggests that: The quality of mother-child conversation at ages 3-4 particularly about past events was a strong predictor of literacy skills prior to entering first grade. Most influential was mother's use questions and comments that helped children elaborate on events or link them with other incidents. Children who took the lead in these conversations were more likely to be competent storytellers as kindergartners. So, according to the attitude of parents that I see about English is an affirmative

and positive attitude, because they look for the future of children who are different from their time. Similarly, with the theory that I see, according to the theory of attitudes or the role of parents is very influential in the process of children's education, so if their opinions are agreed and positive, so that if aligned with the theory that is very influential in the process of children's education, I think this is very appropriate regarding the acceptance of parents with English for Early Childhood. (Purwanto, 2023) states parental comprehension teaches languages other than the mother tongue to children at home. According to parents, teaching languages other than the mother tongue is accustomed from childhood indeed (Indonesian) because Indonesian is also very important if they can only speak Javanese, later we parents ourselves will be troublesome to teach children if not taught or if not balanced with Indonesian, maybe children will use Indonesian when they are in school, if at home or playing, then use Javanese.

The active role of parents is very necessary in this matter, in other words parents are also required to know a little about English so that they can buy books about basic English and teach it to their children at home. Parental care given to their children is not temporary and short parenting, but parenting in the nature of direct interaction between parents and children, in parenting is not only able to communicate facts, ideas and knowledge, but directly helps grow children to the maximum. In the implementation of parenting, parents should not impose their will, but must know what the child needs and is in accordance with the child's developmental age. All of that is understood by parents if they understand and care about the process of parenting children in the family. Parents' concern for parenting is not only based on natural factors but also because of their educational background factors, the educational role of each parent is very influential on providing care.

Children will grow and have character because of the underlying parenting role. The difference in education owned by parents will be seen in the quality of the results of the parenting process. So according to researchers, when going directly into the field, many parents said that most parents do teach other languages or second languages at home. According to the theory, parents must communicate well while at home so that children can use and so that children get used to English so that children are not rigid or feel that learning English is only at school.

Parents' understanding of English. So far only a few parents understand English, some do not understand English. Of the eight informants, two parents understood English, while the other five parents did not understand English. Because in their opinion, it is too late to go back to learning English so there is no need to study anymore it's just that they don't want all that to

happen to their children again, so they want the best education for their children. And one more parent who really didn't understand English because according to the informant, it was his last educational background that made him so blind to English. He also complained a lot when children asked their parents when they were at home, they both really did not understand English, they could only divert activities, for example changing toys that referred to questions about English that the child asked them.

To quote one of the hadiths in Islam: "Learn your children because they are God's creatures who will enter an age different from the circumstances of your time". According to Moon (2000, p. 69) educators including parents (fathers and mothers) are required to be able to monitor and predict future change trends and to plan and implement learning activity programs that are closer / suitable to the demands of future life. Parents as child educators in the family are the most responsible for the growth and development of children. This is where researchers find parents' opinions and theories can be aligned that parents should have a good understanding of English so that children can understand well when children are at home. Communication must run well between parents and children so that child development can be achieved according to the growth and development of children. According to theory, parents are indeed required to have the ability in everything, including one of them can understand English, because parents are the first teachers of children. However, children will definitely ask more parents than teachers, because indeed more time at home than children are at school.

According to the theory, language development or communication in children is one aspect of the stages of child development that should not escape the attention of educators in general and parents in particular. Language acquisition by children is the greatest and most amazing human achievement. That's why this issue has received great attention. Language acquisition has been studied intensively for a long time. By then we have learned much about how children speak, understand, and use language, but very little we know about the actual process of language development (Muhlisin, 2015). So, the teacher's opinion is very positive and agrees with the theory that also says that children's language development should be taught from an early age because at this age the sensitive period and the period of language development become more formed.

## CONCLUSION

Language is a means by which humans communicate and interact with each other in their community groups. With the medium of language, humans can understand and know the ideas



of others as well as express concepts that were previously still abstract. English should be taught to children from an early age due to the impact of globalization and English is also becoming an international language. English learning in early childhood is carried out gradually and is taught only limited to knowledge or the basics, not in depth. Learning English can be done in various ways, for example by singing or games so that children do not feel bored and more enthusiastic in learning English. The role of parents is also very important in the learning process by using English at home even in a short time so that children's English is growing. In addition to the first group whose language can be directly mastered by children, there are groups outside it that have their own language. This happens because language is arbitrary and is a general agreement of the group of speakers of the language. The language belonging to this second group is hereinafter referred to as the second language. Humans need to learn it if they want to communicate with the second language user community so that existing communication runs more smoothly. Second language learning (English) is then provided to meet this need. The impact arising from second language learning given from childhood, among others, makes language acquisition in children increase. LAD as a language device acquired by children from birth will become more active thereby increasing children's language acquisition. Another impact is that second language learning given from an early age can affect children's pride in Indonesian or regional languages as a first language (mother tongue). The sense of nationalism and love for the homeland is then at stake because second language learning is accompanied by globalization which brings the flow of foreign ideas, understandings, and cultures very easily.

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