

The Use of Picture Series in Writing Skill

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Abstract

Teaching English is a challenging to teacher of English. They must work hard to teach, introduce and persuade students to learn. There are four skills in teaching English, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among them, speaking will be challenging for students. They are afraid to talk and no self confidence to write in English. It is totally hard for students who learn English as a Foreign Language. They don't have more opportunities to learnt English. It makes students lazy to learn, speak and write English. In this case, teachers must be smart to find strategy or right technique. In order to improve students' interest and ability a method can be used. Picture Series is one of the methods which is suitable to be applied in teaching students in the classroom. This method can motivate and inspire students to write. Students will find ideas through the pictures. It is so helpful and useful in order to improve students' writing ability.

Key words: Teaching English, Speaking English, Picture Series

Introduction

What will we do to communicate with also can be strength to support someone's life, example in a job field. It helps us a lot and useful to our life. Bryne (1998:8) states that speaking is oral communication between listener and speaker that involves the productive skill and understanding. In teaching English as a foreign language, speaking English will be hard to be conducted fluently. There are many factors which give influence in teaching speaking English, they are: Vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and fluency. Those factors have important role to support speaking ability.

In order to help and face the problem, we must look for a method or strategy which is suitable with our needs. The method can be applied to practice students in speaking English. There are many methods in teaching English; we can start from the easiest until the highest. The most importance thing that the method must be suitable with students' condition in the classroom. We must select a method based on students' ability. A method will be conducted is Picture series. It is simple but interesting. The method will help students to speak with some pictures, so they have a guide. The role of picture will be useful to help them. They can describe, see, and remember many things through those pictures.

Shortly, whoever will teach English have important role to persuade students to talk. As

an instructor, we can take a part in order to help students who really need to learn English. Motivation, advice and strategy can be conducted to reach a goal and achievement in learning English. Based on the illustration and explanation, this paper can elaborate the use of picture series to help students in speaking English.

A. Concept of Teaching

Teaching means sharing, giving, discussing and telling knowledge to others. It is an activity to learn, think, find out and get new thing. The role of teacher must be one of facilitator and coach, not an authoritative director and arbiter. This facilitative role of the writing teachers has inspired research on the role of the teacher as a response to students' writing. The first role is that the teacher becomes a motivator for the students. In this role the functions of the teacher are to motivate the student and to create the beneficial condition for the students in composing the writing. The teacher also persuades the students of the usefulness of this activity and the last encourage them to give the best effort to get the best result. The essences of teaching are guiding and facilitating students to work. This is supported by Brown (2000: 7) who proposes that "teach is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, and setting the conditions for learning". It implies that teaching cannot be separated from learning.

The following elaboration of the teaching and learning

1. Building knowledge of field.

This stage focuses on building up a shared experience and cultural context about the topic of text. The interactions mostly happen between teacher and class, and students and students. The focus is on the content information and the language of the genre of the text that is going to be used. It particularly focuses on controlling relevant vocabularies and grammatical patterns of the particular genre.

2. Modeling of text.

This stage focuses on introducing particular genre through a model of text that deals with the field that the students have already explored in the stage of building 17 knowledge of field. Through the model text, teacher and class work together exploring the cultural context, social function, schematic structure, and linguistics features of the text are using spoken language to focus on written text.

3. Joint construction of text.

In this stage, when students are already familiar with all of the features of particular genre, teacher and students work together to construct texts that are similar to the text that have already being learnt in the previous stage. In constructing the text, attention should be paid to the schematic structure, linguistic features and knowledge of the field of the text.

4. Independent construction of text.

In this final stage, students are ready to work independently to produce their own text. Teacher can let students to work on their own. In other words, teacher should minimize their support, scaffolding and interference on students learning process. It will provides students with the opportunity to show their ability to create a text that has schematic structure, linguistic features and knowledge of the field in accordance with the genre that is being studied.

B. Concept of Writing English

There are four skills in learning English, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. The most difficult skill is writing and the lowest is listening. Nunan (1999) states that speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning through the uses of verbal and non verbal symbol in various contexts. Furthermore, speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving and processing information (Nunan, 2003, p. 217)

People all over the world? The answer is speaking English. There are many benefits of using English, example having relationship with foreigners, promoting our business, travelling to all countries and understanding international journal. In Indonesia, Learning English is quite hard, it is because of students cannot practice their English anywhere. It makes teaching English will be challenging. According to English Proficiency Index (2014), Indonesia is the 24th rank among 63 countries in the world. It shows that Indonesia isn't in a good rank. This is very serious problem to our country. As teachers and lecturers who teach English, we have bigger responsibility to solve the problem. We cannot teach only, but we must find strategy to persuade many people especially students to learn and practice their English.

Some people suppose that Students are afraid, lazy and shy to practice their English. Why people say so? The answer is speaking English. Speaking English is scary to them. They need a brave and strong eager to face it. It sounds so sad. As we know that speaking is a tool to

communicate each other. It gives us information and message. How important speaking is. In the Global Era, speaking English is very important. It gives value to anyone who can speak English well. Speaking skill is one of the language skills that are very essential to support further oral communication especially in English, but it is the most difficult skill to develop (Ur, 1996).

As we talk above, there are five factors which give influence to speaking ability, example: (1) comprehension is the ability to interact with the meaning, context, and understand the conversation (2) fluency is described as the ability to report acts or situation, in precise words, or the ability to converse or to express a sequence of ideas fluently (3) Vocabulary is the high proportion of words and expressions that express their attitude (4) Pronunciation is the students' ability to produce pitch, intonation, individual sounds, sounds, spelling, and stress (5) Grammar is the system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence. There are five components generally recognized in analysis of speaking process. They are pronunciation (including the segmental features-vowels and consonant and the stress and intonation / pattern), grammar, vocabulary, fluency (the case and the speech of the flow of speech), and comprehension.

In order to help students to improve their speaking ability, a method can be used. A strategy will have important role to support students' motivation to talk and learn English. Teachers and lecturers must find a right strategy and method which is suitable to the students' needs. So, they don't learn English only but also play game in English.

C. Concept of Picture Series

In order to help students to speak and learn English, a method can be used. It must be suitable with the students' condition. It should be fun, interesting, easy but challenging. In this case, picture series can be one of the solutions to help students speaking English. It is like some pictures which give description and illustration. So, students can find ideas, suggestion and opinion during their performance. Callahan, et al. (1992: 479) suggests the teachers to use pictures effectively because the media are very useful for the teaching. Students can talk by looking some pictures, so they have confidence to speak and develop their ideas. In order to help students to talk, teachers can provide some pictures and ask them to think the illustration based on those pictures

Technique is an activity that use to change student characteristic, may be from not knowing to knowing. Teaching English in Indonesia commonly get trouble in interaction

between teacher and student. The technique that teacher uses also influence the student's ability. The teachers have to change their old technique to make students interest in learning activity.

Pictures as visual aids will attract students' attention, and motivate them to learn. In addition, using series of picture means that the students try to connect the plot in the picture to be a link of story. Brown (2004) stated that picture can be used in many stages of the instructional process, to introduce and motivate study of new topics, to clarify misconceptions, to communicate basic information, and to evaluate student's progress and achievement. Furthermore, he suggests some ways of using pictures for ensuring maximum students benefit from using them. Using pictures can be an effective technique for any proficiencies level or language skill. To teach speaking where the students share personal experiences that somehow relate to what is happening in a picture they have been given and drawn.

Pictures can motivate students and make them want to pay attention to take a part in class and also contribute their idea to the context in which the language is being used in class. This activity is based on several sequential pictures. Students are asked to tell the story taking place in the sequential pictures by paying attention to the criteria provided by the teacher as a rubric. Rubrics can include the vocabulary or structures they need to use while narrating.

As English teachers, it is useful to use some varieties of language to help them in teaching English. They are able to engage the students in a topic or as the basis of the whole activity. Using pictures is one of the ways that can be used in teaching English. Pictures can help the 19 teachers and students in teaching and learning vocabulary and other components of language.

The pictures are one of the solutions that can help the teachers to explain language meaning and construction. The teachers are able to cope with the problems in teaching English. A picture is an illustration of picture that can be used as two dimensional representation of person, place or thing. It means that picture is one of the media of communication that can show people, place and thing that are far from us. Picture can make anyone getting clearer ideator information than language term

There are some types of pictures used in the English teaching and learning. One of them is picture series. A series of pictures is sequence pictures of a single subject that is aimed to tell a story and also a sequence of events. According Brown (2004) to understand the way of the picture series, the students need to appreciate it in abstract way. In the same way, when they

express their ideas to construct the story in a good coherence as well as unity, they have to think it in abstract excessively. Both of them will be easier for them in learning process if the teacher can use picture series. It cannot only help the students to get ideas more realistic in understanding the recount text but also in constructing ideas to create it. During the students are writing the text, they can use top-down technique in predicting the content of the text based on understanding of picture series. Based on that, the pictures give the schemata to the students to construct ideas from their background knowledge and experience.

Harmer (2002 :69) states that there are various number of writing tasks that students can be asked to undertake and one of them is students can be given a series of pictures which tell story and they have to write story based on the pictures. He then adds that giving the students sequence picture as the writing task will incite them to be creative writers. The students will explain their understanding about the pictures. Picture series is recommended in the writing learning process.

The Procedure of teaching writing through picture series

1. Teachers or students provide some pictures (at least 5 pictures)
2. Each student must describe different pictures
3. Teachers ask students to write and describe based on the pictures
4. Students write those pictures
5. Students write those pictures and it consists of 5 sentences
6. Students present their work in front of the class and ask others to give respond

D. The Benefits of Picture Series

1. Pictures series create the enjoyment in the writing process. The use pictures series is one successful way to motivate students in learning English writing. It is an interesting way for the students. Teaching writing by using pictures series provide motivation for students to write. Pictures series can be used as device to create students' enjoy feeling in the writing process. When the students' environment is fun, they will be freer and more confident to share their feelings, ideas, and thoughts in writing. Then, the results of the students' writing will be better when they use pictures series as their guide in writing their narrative story.
2. Pictures series develop students' creativity in writing. "A picture is worth a thousand words".

Pictures can develop students' creative thinking skill. Students can develop their stories based on pictures series they see freely. This activity leads them to think about what they have never thought before. Students have to create their own stories by using pictures series they have. This activity expands their cognitive ability. They are able to write good stories with longer good sentences to develop their narrative composition. In this case, students can learn how to write stories in complete sentences and to develop their ideas to be better to describe the pictures series. Then they are able to produce meaningful stories.

3. Pictures series can increase students' vocabulary. Pictures series are suitable media to introduce new English vocabulary to the students. They are also the appropriate media for teaching and learning process, especially when these Medias are given in the right technique to make the learning activity runs well. In writing activity, the biggest problem for the students is their limited vocabulary. They usually use their dictionaries or try to find other references such as from internet to fulfill or finish their stories. From these references they will find some difficult words and they do not know how to use them in real life situation. In this case, the use of pictures series as media to increase students' vocabulary is needed. By using pictures series, students learn how to use their new vocabulary in writing. When the students have more vocabulary, their ideas in writing will be easier to be developed.

4. Picture series can give students motivation to talk. Picture series can be a guide to the students to grow their ideas and inspiration especially when the students lost of words or ideas. It seems so helpful and useful to students and also teachers.

On the other hand, there are two negative sides of using pictures series to teach writing to the students. First of all, students are not able to use oral language skill effectively. In this case, students find difficulties in presenting their writing in front of the class. They cannot present their stories fluently and communicatively. Therefore, teachers need to give the chances for the students to practice dialog or monolog in the stories they made before. Another negative side of using pictures series as media to teach writing is the teachers do not have enough time to teach and evaluate the writing process. In the writing process, students are given such pictures series to be done into narrative composition. Students have to work by their own. Teachers only give them some important rules which are usually become unclear directions. Teachers do not have enough time to guide them well, especially when the class consists of big number of students.

Conclusion

Pictures series can motivate the students. Pictures not only provide the students with basic material for composition, but also stimulate their imaginative power so that they will have a concept in their mind about what they are going to write. In other words, pictures series also help the students to visualize the object before they start to write a narrative composition. Therefore, the students can compose their ideas easily because pictures series can give them more information about the object clearer by looking at the pictures series. But on the other hand, there are two negative sides of using pictures series to teach writing to the students. Students are not able to use oral language skill effectively. Besides that, the teachers do not have enough time to teach and evaluate the writing process.

Shortly, the use of picture series really helps students to write in English. It improves student's motivation, ideas and desire to write. Do not hesitate to choose picture series as a method, technique and approach to persuade students to write. For the teachers who want to use Picture series to teach writing English, they should prepare a lot of pictures which are suitable to the topic of writing content. Teachers must be smart to select the topic and creative picture which can help students to write and grow their motivation to write. In fact that, motivation will give important role to the students, their prior knowledge about vocabulary and grammar will help them a lot to improve their ability in writing skill

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