

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Language serves as a structured system of communication and constitutes an essential component of human society and culture. It functions as a medium for expressing thoughts, emotions, and ideas, as well as for transmitting information. Beyond spoken forms, language can also be represented through sounds, symbols, and gestures. Fundamentally, it plays a pivotal role in human cognition, communication, and social interaction, acting as a conduit for the exchange of knowledge, the articulation of ideas, and the fostering of relationships. Considering the profound significance of language in human life, it is evident that acquiring proficiency in English is of paramount importance.

From ancient times to the present, English has been recognized as a global language. It is the most widely spoken language worldwide and serves as a native tongue for over 400 million people. This widespread use highlights the importance of learning English, particularly as it can significantly benefit future career prospects. In today's professional landscape, many companies and organizations prioritize employees who are proficient in English. Additionally, English serves as a tool for fostering relationships, enhancing personal development, and facilitating interactions with individuals from different cultural backgrounds.

Considering the numerous advantages of English proficiency, it is highly beneficial to introduce English to children at an early age. Early language acquisition has been shown to be significantly more effective than learning a language in adulthood. Numerous studies have demonstrated that children who begin learning languages at a young age exhibit enhanced

cognitive abilities, including improved problem-solving skills, stronger memory, and greater adaptability to change. Their brains are highly receptive to absorbing information, and they possess an innate motivation to learn languages without conscious effort. This perspective is further supported by Mardison's research (2017), which indicates that children's language abilities develop progressively throughout their schooling. Based on this understanding, the researcher has chosen to focus on elementary schools, particularly the early grades, where students are typically within the developmental stage most conducive to language acquisition.

In addition to considering the optimal timing for language learning, the choice of learning methods plays a crucial role in ensuring effectiveness. One of the key factors in successful language acquisition lies in the use of appropriate and effective teaching strategies. The writer emphasizes that teaching vocabulary should be a fundamental focus in language education for children, as vocabulary serves as the foundation of communication in any language. To improve vocabulary acquisition, technology can be utilized as a valuable tool to engage and assist children in the learning process. In today's world, where technology is deeply integrated into daily life, it offers a practical and innovative means to facilitate language learning and make the process more interactive and effective.

The rapid advancement of technology over time offers significant advantages, particularly when utilized as a medium for learning. One effective technological tool for teaching vocabulary to children is the use of songs, which serve as an authentic source of language input. The use of songs as a learning medium is highly flexible, allowing students to access and engage with them both inside and outside the classroom, whenever they choose. Incorporating songs into children's language learning not only enhances the

enjoyment of the process but also supports the development of various skills, making it a dynamic and effective approach to language education.

In this study, the writer plans to implement a treatment in a selected class by having students listen to English children's songs while paying close attention to the meaning of each word in the lyrics. The songs will be played repeatedly to reinforce the retention of vocabulary in the children's memory. This method aims to examine whether songs can effectively influence children's learning, particularly in improving their vocabulary acquisition. The writer will be conducted with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at MI Miftahul Khair Hartaco. The choice of this topic was also inspired by observations of children in the researcher's surroundings, who frequently watch YouTube and listen to English children's songs. From these observations, it became evident that listening to such songs helps children recall and use the vocabulary in their daily conversations, demonstrating the potential of songs as a valuable tool in language learning.

## **B. Identification of Problems**

In this research, the writer found some problems in improving children's vocabulary, as follows:

1. Lack of English teachers
2. English subjects was taught only for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
3. Uncreative learning methods that only based on text book
4. Students feel pressured during English lessons

## **C. Scope of Problems**

Based on the identified problems, this study focuses on utilizing children's songs as a learning method to enhance English vocabulary acquisition among children. The writer aims

to demonstrate the effectiveness of using songs in improving children's vocabulary skills. The writer believes that incorporating songs into the learning process can make language acquisition more engaging, enjoyable, and accessible for children, fostering greater enthusiasm and facilitating easier learning.

#### **D. Research Questions**

Based on the problems that have been mentioned above, there are several questions as follow:

1. To what extent does song improve children's vocabulary?
2. How children songs can influence children's English learning?

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

The significance of this study can be divided into two main aspects: Theoretical Significance and Practical Significance.

1. To explain the extent to which songs can improve children's vocabulary
2. To describe the impact of children song in children's English learning

#### **F. Signification of the Study**

The significance of this study can be divided into two main aspects: Theoretical Significance and Practical Significance.

##### **1. Theoretical**

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to the growing body of literature on language acquisition, specifically vocabulary development in children, by emphasizing the role of songs as an effective learning tool. The writer hopes that the result of this research is providing information about how effective children song in

improving children's vocabulary especially children at MI Miftahul Khair Hartaco. By looking at the results of the study it can be used as a consideration to be included in the elementary school curriculum in Indonesia. Furthermore, this study will also provide benefits for other researchers who want to conduct similar research in the field of children because the treatment used in this study will lead them to more interesting methods in improving children's vocabulary.

## **2. Practical**

From a practical perspective, this study provides valuable insights and benefits for various stakeholders, including teachers, parents, curriculum developers that are:

- 1) Students can improve their vocabulary through learning by using children's songs
- 2) Teacher can use song as a learning platform for students' vocabulary improvement.
- 3) A guide for educational institution to use and develop children's song as learning platform.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Previous Study

To support this research, the writer is searching for related research about the effectiveness of children song in improving English vocabulary at elementary school to compare the previous research with the writer's research. Based on the previous research, the writer found several similarities and differences. Below the previous Research that have been mentioned:

1. Triwardani, H. R. (2022). Building Vocabulary Through Song as Effective Method in Learning English

This research focuses on assessing how effective the use of songs in English learning methods. The background of the author raises this topic because the author sees the content using worksheets (LKS) provided by the government is lacking in adequate English learning, where the media used has not varied or is still lacking. This study also uses a quasi-experimental method where in this study divides into 2 research classes, namely experimental class and control class. This study also states that the use of songs as a medium for learning English vocabulary is successful. The difference between this research and the writer's research is the age of the participant and the research method used. This study also conducted pre-test and post-tests but there were differences in the treatment section there is control class.

2. Rizky Gushendra. (2017). An Experimental Study: Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery BY Using English Song

This research is one of the many studies that I found related to my research. This research also focuses on learning methods that use songs as a medium. This research also found more or less the same problem where the author found learning in the classroom was less interesting, especially in vocabulary learning where children were difficult in memorizing words. For this reason, it encouraged the writer to choose to research this issue to see how songs can have an impact on learning. And also I have more or less the same reason as this author that learning by memorizing is difficult and takes time. This research also has similarities with the first research where he divided the class into two, namely experimental class and control class. The difference between this research and the writer's research is the different age of the sample where this research was conducted on grade 2 junior high school students.

3. Anindyarizki, G. (2021). The Effectiveness of children YouTube Songs and Flashcard Games To Teach Vocabulary To Kdergarten Pupils With High and Low Levels of Parent Involvement in TK Karangturi Semarang By Online Learning

This research, conduct at Karangturi Kindergarten, the author of this research believes that children with strong parent participation during learning might improving their vocabulary more easily. One of the similarities and differences between this research and the writer's research is that the method used is the same as using songs and what makes the difference because in this study, besides using songs, it also uses flashcard games. According to this research YouTube songs and flashcard games were found to be efficient ways to teach English vocabulary. Based on their findings, they conducted a quasi-experimental study with two independent variables: in the first trial, the kids were taught through YouTube songs, and in the second, the kids were taught

through flashcard games. It demonstrates that parental participation was essential to the development of the child's vocabulary in English.

4. Shehadeh, I., & Farrah, M. (2016). The Effectiveness of Using Children's Songs in Developing Elementary Graders' English Vocabulary and Pronunciation in Jerusalem

This research also uses the same method, using songs as learning media but this research not only focuses on vocabulary but also on grammar and pronunciation skills. The similarity between this research and the writer is that the sample is at the same age grade 4 elementary school. In this research, the researchers used the following instruments: a vocabulary test, pronunciation test, and a questionnaire were used for data collection. The difference between this research and the writer's is the location of the sample and also the focus of different skills where the writer only focuses on increasing vocabulary. As the findings of this study demonstrate songs have the potential of playing an important role in English teaching and learning for young learners. As the research illustrates, the teachers indicated that songs are interesting, and enjoyable.

5. Ahzahra, D. F. (2023). Exploring Children's Vocabulary by Using Children Song On YouTube At Nurussalam Islamic Kindergarten

The research used quantitative methods and also had positive results. The increase in scores before and after the test reached 56.78 scores which concluded that the effectiveness of using children's songs in improving children's vocabulary was very good. This study also used interviews with teachers as additional data. The results of this study also stated that children responded positively by accepting learning with more enthusiasm and accepting learning easily. The age of the sample used in this study is the difference between the writer's research and the research location which is of course different.

## **B. Theoretical Background**

### **1. Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is a bridge in communication. Vocabulary is a crucial component of language proficiency, encompassing the ability to understand, store, and use words in various communication contexts. It is essential for effective speaking, writing, listening, and reading (Rasulova & Shamuratova, 2021). Vocabulary refers to the collection of words that a person knows and understands in a particular language. It encompasses the entire range of words and expressions an individual is familiar with, including their meanings, pronunciations, and how they can be used in context. Vocabulary development is a lifelong process, and individuals continually expand their vocabulary through exposure to new words, reading, conversations, and formal education (Trivonof, 2011). In language learning, vocabulary building is often emphasized alongside other language skills like grammar, listening, speaking, and reading. Effective communication requires not only knowing the meanings of words but also understanding their nuances and using them appropriately in various contexts.

Here's some definition of Vocabulary according to the experts. According to Alqahtani (2015) "vocabulary is the total number of words needed to communicate ideas and express the speaker's meaning." Additionally, vocabulary can be divided into active vocabulary and passive vocabulary, where active vocabulary refers to words a person can use, and passive vocabulary refers to words a person recognizes and understands but does not use actively. Other statement is from Ammon Shea, the author of several books on obscure words, "the vocabulary of English is currently 70 to 80% composed of words of Greek and Latin origin, but it is certainly not a Romance language, it is a Germanic one." Proof for this, he explains can be found in the fact that while it's relatively simple to

construct a sentence without using words of Latin origin, "it's pretty much impossible to make one that has no words from Old English."

Teaching and learning vocabulary strategies are important for students to expand their word knowledge and language skills. Here are some key aspects of children's songs from an expert viewpoint:

- **Educational Value:** Experts emphasize the educational potential of children's songs. These songs often incorporate elements such as letters, numbers, colours, shapes, and basic concepts, contributing to early learning in a playful and enjoyable way.
- **Developmental Benefits:** Children's songs are designed to support various aspects of development, including language acquisition, cognitive skills, motor coordination, and social-emotional well-being.
- **Sensory Stimulation:** Music, including children's songs, provides valuable sensory stimulation. The rhythm, melody, and lyrics engage different sensory modalities, promoting neural connections in the developing brain.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Experts recognize the significance of exposing children to a variety of musical styles and cultural influences through children's songs. This exposure fosters cultural awareness, diversity appreciation, and a broader understanding of the world.
- **Emotional Expression:** Children's songs often express a range of emotions, helping children identify and express their feelings. This emotional engagement supports social and emotional development.

- **Social Interaction:** Singing and participating in musical activities, such as hand-clapping or dancing, encourage social interaction among children. This collaborative engagement promotes social skills, cooperation, and a sense of community.
- **Repetition and Memory:** Children's songs frequently use repetition to reinforce learning and enhance memory. Repetitive patterns in lyrics and melodies contribute to the development of memory skills in young children.
- **Creativity and Imagination:** Many children's songs stimulate creativity and imagination, encouraging children to visualize and engage with the content. This supports cognitive and imaginative development.
- **Positive and Developmentally Appropriate Messages:** Experts emphasize the importance of delivering positive and developmentally appropriate messages in children's songs. Lyrics and themes are crafted to align with the age and developmental stage of the target audience.

## **2. Children Song**

Children's song is a musical composition specifically created and intended for young children, typically those in the preschool and early elementary school age range. These songs are crafted with simplicity, catchy melodies, and repetitive lyrics to engage and entertain young listeners. Children's songs often have educational and developmental goals, aiming to teach concepts such as numbers, letters, colours, shapes, and basic life skills in a fun and memorable way. Children's songs play a crucial role in early childhood development by promoting language skills, cognitive abilities, social interaction, and emotional expression. They are commonly used in educational settings, including

preschools and early childhood programs, as well as at home for entertainment and learning purposes. Many cultures have their own repertoire of traditional children's songs, and contemporary artists also create new and innovative children's music.

According to Lumen Learning, children's songs usually have a simple form with repeated verses that are easy to memorize. The lyrics in children's songs are related to themes that children like and daily activities. For example, about friendship, parents and family, as well as animals. Reporting from Social Science Libre Texts, this is because children listen, analyze, visualize, remember, and concentrate to understand what they sing. Children's songs also usually contain simple moral values and messages that children can understand.

Some examples of children's songs in English:

- 1) If you're happy and you know it
- 2) Wheels on The Bus
- 3) Head, shoulders, knees and toes
- 4) Hoke Pokey
- 5) There was an old lady who swallow a fly
- 6) London bridge is falling down
- 7) Twinkle-twinkle little stars
- 8) Bingo
- 9) Good Morning
- 10) Five little monkeys

Besides the positive impact there is a negative impact caused by children's learning through songs if displayed in video viewing (You-Tube). Ahzahra (2023) in her research

mentions that learning through YouTube songs that are done repeatedly can cause screen dependence, where children are more interested in visual displays and animations than understanding the meaning or vocabulary in the song. But there are certainly things we can do to prevent these negative impacts. Anindyarizki (2021) suggests that parents and teachers actively accompany children when watching and singing songs on YouTube. This assistance is important to filter out content that is not age-appropriate, provide explanations of vocabulary or song meanings, encourage discussion or questions and answers after the song is finished. To overcome screen dependency, YouTube viewing time should be limited and organized into a balanced study schedule. For example, songs are played only at the beginning of learning as an ice breaker. After that, learning is shifted to writing, speaking or role-playing activities. Rizky Gushendra (2017) emphasizes the importance of setting the duration of digital media use so as not to reduce children's focus and concentration.

Children's songs, from an expert perspective, are compositions specifically designed to cater to the developmental needs and interests of young children. Experts in child development, education, and psychology recognize the importance of music in early childhood. Children's songs are carefully crafted to engage, entertain, and educate young minds. Overall, experts recognize children's songs as valuable tools for early childhood development, providing a multisensory, engaging, and educational experience that positively influences various aspects of a child's growth.

### **3. Children**

The term "children" generally refers to young human beings who are in the early stages of their lives, typically from birth to adolescence. The specific age range can vary

depending on cultural, legal, and developmental contexts, but broadly, children are considered individuals in the process of growing and developing. Legally, the definition of a child may vary across jurisdictions. For example, in many countries, a person is considered a minor or a child until they reach a certain age, often 18 years old. This legal distinction is important for issues such as education, labor, and the protection of rights. In a broader sense, the term "children" is also used to refer to offspring in relation to their parents or guardians. It encompasses a period of dependency during which individuals rely on adults for care, guidance, and support as they gradually acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for independent living.

Here are some definitions of children according to experts. According to R.A. Kosnan "Children are young people at a young age in their soul and journey of life because they are easily influenced by their surroundings" Therefore children need to be taken seriously. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a child means "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to majority is attained earlier". The National Institutes of Health (NIH) defines a child as an individual less than 18 years old. The upper childhood age limit of 18 years may not hold in some countries where children attain majority earlier. The General Medical Council (GMC) uses the term 'children' to refer to younger children who do not have the maturity and understanding to make important decisions for themselves. Another opinion is according to Lev Vygotsky (1927) that Children are individuals who are in the social learning stage, and learn through social interactions with people around them.

In many societies, childhood is often divided into stages such as infancy (0-2 years), early childhood (2-6 years), middle childhood (7-11 years), and adolescence (12-18

years). During these stages, children undergo significant physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development.

- **Infancy**

Infancy is the early stage of a person's life, typically referring to the period from birth to about one year old. During this time, significant growth and development occur, such as learning to crawl, laugh, and communicate. Infancy is also characterized by the acquisition of language, which typically occurs approximately one to two years after birth. This period is crucial for the formation of emotional bonds with parents or caregivers, which lays the foundation for healthy emotional and social development through childhood.

- **Early Childhood**

Early childhood refers to the period of life from birth to age eight, which is marked by developmental milestones and rapid brain and body development. During this period, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second, and the experiences and opportunities offered in early childhood lay the foundation for how children learn, build relationships, and prepare for school. Early childhood education is critical in preparing children to enter school and diminishing their risk of social-emotional mental health problems and increasing their self-esteem. The Early Childhood Department provides educational services to children ages three to five in high quality Pre-K programs.

- **Middle Childhood**

Middle childhood is a developmental stage that occurs between the ages of 6 and 12. During this time, children experience significant physical, social, and mental

changes. They become more independent from their families, develop stronger friendships, and start to think about the future. Children in this age group may face academic challenges at school, but they also show rapid development of mental skills. Middle childhood is a critical time for children to develop confidence in all areas of life, such as through friends, schoolwork, and sports. Positive parenting tips include showing affection for your child, recognizing their accomplishments, and helping them develop a sense of responsibility. Middle childhood is often referred to as the "forgotten years" of development, but it is a rich time for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical advancements.

- Adolescence

Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood and adulthood, typically occurring during the teenage years. It is a time of rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth, which affects how adolescents feel, think, make decisions, and interact with the world around them. Adolescence can be a challenging time for both adolescents and their parents, as they navigate the many changes and transitions taking place. Understanding the stages of adolescence and providing support and guidance can help promote healthy development and well-being.

It's important to note that definitions of children can be influenced by cultural, societal, and legal factors. Additionally, the concept of childhood is dynamic and varies across time and different regions of the world. Overall, the term "children" encompasses a period of growth, development, and dependency, during which individual progress from infancy to adulthood.

#### **4. Elementary School**

Elementary schools, also known as primary schools or grade schools, are educational institutions that provide primary education for children aged 4 to 10 years old, and in some cases, up to 11 years old. Elementary school is the next level of education after kindergarten. In many education systems, elementary school usually covers the early years of formal schooling, before middle school or high school. The structure and grade levels of primary school may vary from country to country. It's important to note that while the general structure and purpose of elementary schools are similar across many educational systems, there can be variations in terminology, grade configurations, and educational approaches in different countries. The primary goal of elementary education is to provide a solid foundation for students as they progress through their academic journey.

Some terms or tenting points in the elementary school world that we need to pay attention to:

- **Grade Levels:** Elementary schools usually cover grades Kindergarten through. In some cases, they may extend to grade.
- **Curriculum:** Elementary schools focus on developing basic skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as introducing students to various subjects such as science, social studies, and art.
- **Foundational Learning:** Elementary education focuses on laying the groundwork for academic, social, and emotional development. Basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics are emphasized during these years.

- Classroom Environment: Elementary school classrooms are often designed to be child-friendly and conducive to learning. Teachers in elementary schools often use a variety of instructional methods to engage young learners.

Assessment and Grading: Students in elementary school are typically assessed through various methods, including tests, quizzes, projects, and classroom participation. Grading systems may vary but often include letter grades or a similar evaluation.