

CHARACTER BUILDING SONGS IN TEACHING CLASS FOR KIDS

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KEYWORDS: English teaching, Kid Songs, Character building

ABSTRACT

Golden age is the prior age for children to learn languages and build their characters. In the golden age children are easier to absorb knowledge and learn new things. Building students' character while learning English in the early ages are prone. Teaching English for grade 4 up to 6 of elementary (age 10-12) in the basic level education takes media to enhance the teaching and learning process. Creating effective teaching media would encourage its development. The research focused on formulating concept of teaching English using character building songs. The concept of teaching English then realized using teaching media. This research has also yield in creating teaching media, English kids' songs, as the English teaching media for children at elementary school. These English songs contain good character values. This research was started by identifying problems and classroom observation. The result of the research shows that the teachers in some schools use recycled Indonesian songs to teach English. These made character building songs were applied in some elementary schools. By using these character building songs have accelerate the character building during English teaching for elementary students.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Of The Study

The first three years of children age are the most critical period. During these years, human brain grow rapidly. Brain rapid growth period is called golden age. During the golden age, childrens' motoric system grows enormously. The development of motoric, cognitive and psychomotor would rapidly increase by the stimulus from parents and the surroundings. As the motoric system grows, the children's ability and intelligence grow.

Children in the golden age are the elementary students. Teachers of elementary school need to develop interesting media as the students in the golden age are active and fast learners to enhance the teaching learning process. Song is one of the most common media used by elementary school teachers in teaching English Song is applicable media in teaching. However, teachers need to define the most appropriate song for the elementary students. The songs should be fun, easy listening and in line with the teaching materials. Teachers may create their own songs or recyclee the popular songs by changing the song lyrics.

In the other hand, some of elementary teachers do not consider the importance of the teaching media in English language classes. Instead, teachers only focus in teaching the materials and reach the students passing grade as it is required by school. Focusing on delivering the materials, teachers ignore the students' character values. Using songs as the media in teaching language subject, specifically English requires persist consideration for its design.

In creating teaching media, teachers may have some difficulties in designing the teaching materials. As lyrics in the popular songs are quite common to be changed for the reason of effectiveness in English language

class using media like songs in English class increases aspects in learning like awareness and communication skill (Liu Yang, 2011).

During the children's golden age in which prior to learn, teachers in the elementary school are demanded to use interesting media to teach and deliver the material and create learning while playing environment for the students. When the environment supports the students learning process, the teacher would be able to teach and implant the good character values as well. This research is focused on the creating concept of English language teaching using English Kids' song as the media of character building.

1.2. Research Problem

This research comes up with two research problems, they are; "Are the use of kids songs as the teaching media in teaching English effective?, are the character building songs useful to implant character values to young learners?"

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are; to know whether the use of kids songs as the teaching media affective, to know if the character building songs are useful to implant character values to young learners.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Songs as the Teaching Media

Song has been used in teaching English at any level of education. Some references are available for the similar subject. As Futonge (2005) states in his article for a journal, that a song is a complete package includes culture, vocabularies, grammar and language skills which written in lyrics. He also mentions that song would enhance the teaching learning process in the classroom. Song can be the base of all subjects in school. "It is very important to choose the appropriate songs for teaching English classes.

Furthermore, the use of song may focus on the lyric and meaning convey in the song,” Dumitrescu (2000).

2.2. Elementary Level of Education

Indonesian Ministry of Education has stated that elementary level of education is the basic level in formal education in Indonesia. It is 9 years for elementary, starts from grade one to six and three years of junior high. It is a compulsory for children of 7-15 years old to enroll in the elementary level. Generally, elementary students are in age 7-12 years old and 13-16 years old for junior high school students. Students who have graduated from elementary school will have to continue to study in junior senior high school and go on to higher education.

2.3 Character building

Character is a constant personal attitude as the result of progressive and dynamic personal integration and it is the statement of behavior (Khan, 2010). In National Education System, character building has become very important. National Education aims at developing one’s ability and character. Education is also aimed to build the dignified nation to be able to educate and develop the students to become a devote to God, noble, educated, competent, creative, independent and democratic personality as citizen of the nation. It refers to the law number 20, 2003, article 3 of law in National Education system.

The law of National Education System is focused on national character building for education and presents the character values to be implanted in schools.

The character values implant in the kids songs are as follows:

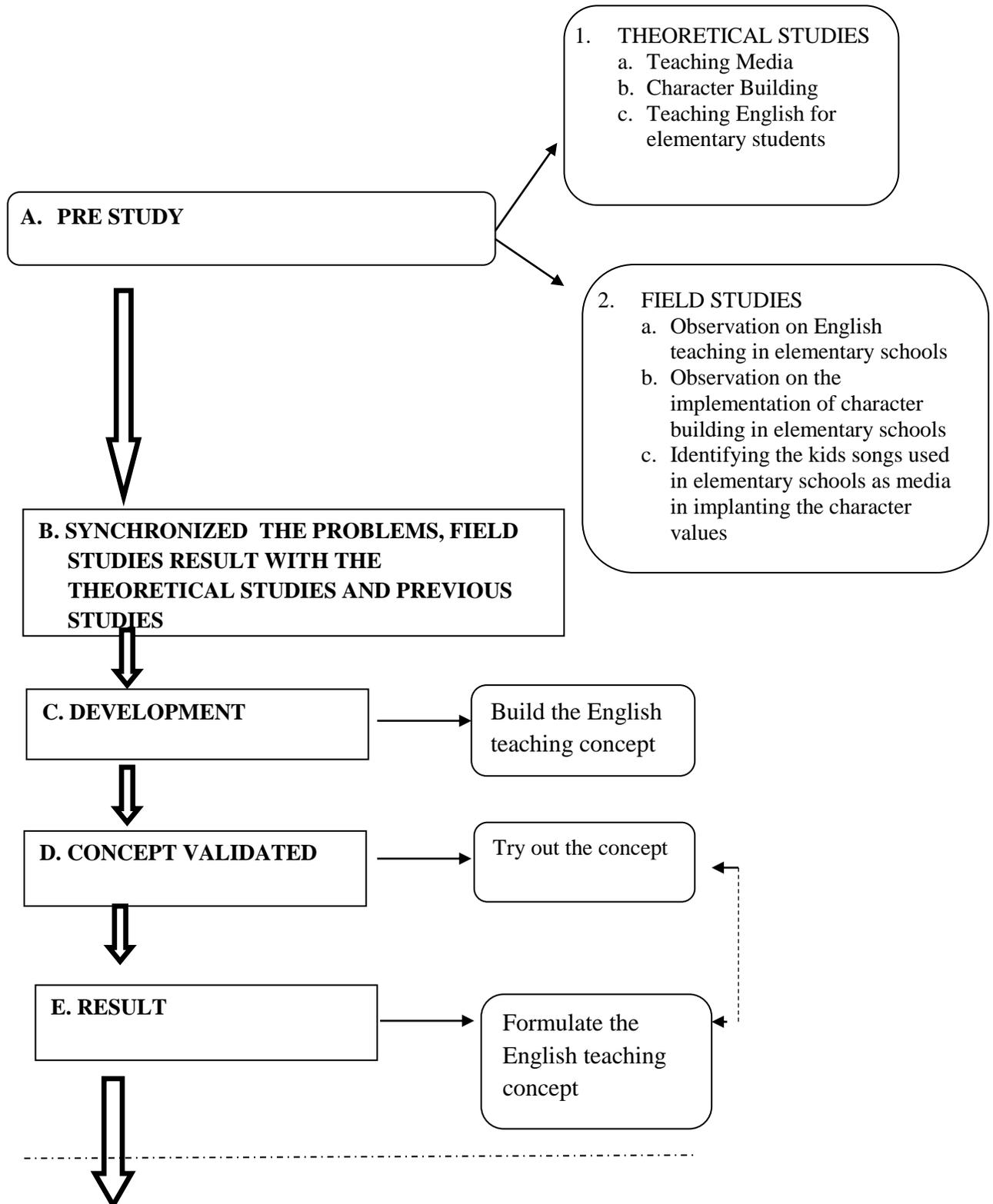
Table 1
Character Values

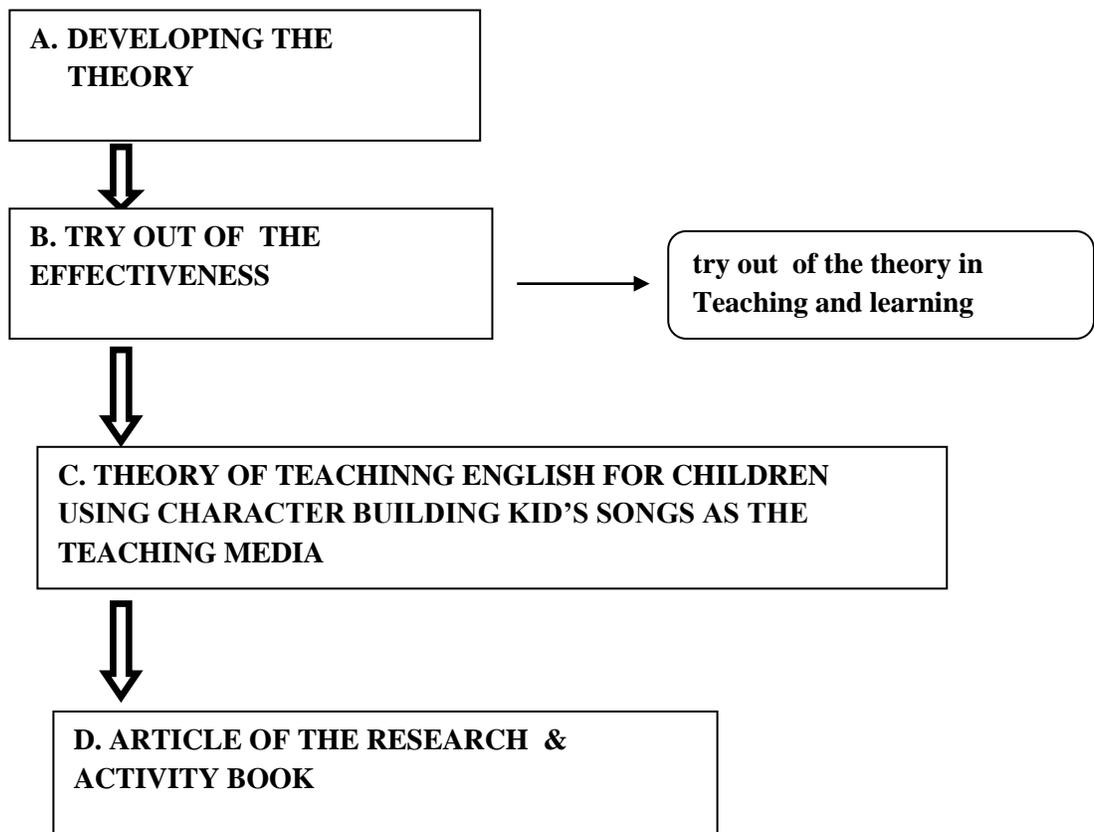
Values	Description
Religious	To devote to God, tolerant to other religions and live harmoniously with people of different religions.
Honest	An attitude with the effort to make which based on self integrity.
Dicipline	An attitude that shows the organized and obedient behavior. To be obedient
Creative	To think and do something in creating new ways and new outcomes.
Independent	Not depend on any other in carrying tasks. (To be independent)
Curious	Always to try to find out anything beyond.
Friendly	To act or behave happily, friendly, and cooperatively with others, communicative, easy going and cooperative.
Smart	To be clever, smart,and perceptive
Swift	To be intelligent, perceptive, quick,
Clever	To become a problem solver, to be able to find solution to a problem

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is a Research and Development research (R and D). The research aimed to create teaching media, English kids' songs, as the English teaching media for children at elementary school. The kids' songs are also used to implant the good character values stated by the government. This research is done by employing some instruments, such as observation sheet, interview guide, and questionnaires. The steps employed in this research can be seen in the following figure;

Figure 1. Steps in the Research





3.1. Pre Study

The steps of the research started from the pre study. Here, the researchers reviewed some references related to the topic of the study. The researchers also attended the classes of elementary schools in Semarang to observe the English teaching learning processes. During the observation, some questions came up: Do the teachers use songs as media in teaching English? What kinds of songs do they use? Do they use songs that contain/have character values

In this step of the study, researchers did theoretical study and field study. In field study researchers observed the English teaching processes in elementary

schools in Semarang by focusing on observing the character building and the media used in teaching English.

3.2. Synchronize The Problems, Field Studies Results with The Theoretical Studies and Previous Studies

The result of observation was synchronized with the result of interview done with the teachers. In teaching English they also mentioned that they did not use particular song which contain character values to their students. The teacher modified the song lyrics with English words and used them to teach English and get students get used to with good habits and attitudes that would lead them to have good characters.

3.3 Development

Based on the result of field study, the media for teaching English were developed. The researchers arranged the kids songs as the teaching media. The songs were composed by inserting the character values. Those characters were realized in some words like smile for friendly; God is great for religious; hands to help for swift. The composing lyric for the songs were considering the students age (10-12). In those ages students need easy listening songs lyric. The easy listening songs means songs with common used words or the words that the children have already been familiar with, and they know the meaning very well. As the result, there are 9 character building kids songs arranged. Each of the song represents one character value.

3.4. Validation and Try Out

The songs composed in the development step were then validated by three experts. They were expert of media and language teaching who were involved in developing character building education in Indonesia. The lyric, the language/vocabulary, and character value were validated. The media expert validated the music arrangement whether it was suitable or not with the level of students age.

The validated songs were tried out at elementary schools in Semarang. The teachers actually used the songs during the teaching process in the classroom. Only two or three songs were used in teaching process. Teachers used the songs by singing the song together with the students or play the songs in a CD player. The teachers also make kind of game to relate the song with the teaching materials. The teachers used one of the songs in opening part of teaching as the apperception and gathering students' attention before they started the class. The songs can also be used at the closing part of the teaching process.

4.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research Results

The researchers synchronize the theories and the results of field researches are as follows;

- a) The songs used as the media in teaching English are the popular Indonesian kids' songs, such as *pelangi-pelangi*, *Satu-satu* (Indonesian famous kid songs). Those Indonesian songs were translated. Then, the songs are used as the media to teach vocabularies and to implant the character values to children.
- b) It was found out that songs made students become more enthusiastic in studying English. The enthusiasm was showed by students who were willing to sing the song together with the teacher and also discussed some words of the lyrics.
- c) In some schools the teachers only used the songs as the media to teach English vocabulary and not particularly used the song to implant the character values to the students. (tolong dirapikan)

The data gathered from the observation showed that most of the elementary teachers use songs as the teaching media in teaching English. They used varied titles and theme of songs. Commonly, they use popular Indonesian kid songs which then modified. The teacher changed the lyrics to make it suitable with the

material being taught in the classroom. Some of the teachers sing or play the songs in the opening, main and closing of the teaching process in the classroom. Generally, students got enthusiastic and interested when the teacher played or sang the songs. They have full attention to the teacher in front of the class.

Besides doing theoretical research, the researchers did the researcher by using some instruments; such as observation sheets, interview guides, and questionnaires. Based on the result of interview, observation and questionnaire it can be defined that teachers in elementary schools has used songs as media in teaching English. Some of the songs contain character values for kids even the lyric is in Indonesian. The lyric of those songs are then being translated into English by the teacher. It is related with the theory of English teaching in which song can be used as the teaching media to teach vocabularies and to implant character building as well.

Teachers' respond given during the interview showed that teachers have been familiar with songs as the teaching media. Teachers use the songs to attract the students and to enable students understand the materials. They also use song as the media to develop students vocabulary. The reason for changing the song lyric was to make the song suitable with the

The following step is development in which the writers composed 9 kids' songs as media to teach English and to implant character values. The table below are the 9 character building songs and the character values contain in each song.

Table 2
Kids' Songs and the Character Values

NO	KIDS' SONGS	CHARACTER VALUES
1	I Can Do by Myself	Independent
2	What is it and that?	Curios
3	Be Honest	Honest
4	Good Morning	Discipline
5	I can Make It	Creative
6	Give Your Smile	Friendly
7	I am Smart	Smart
8	God with Us	Religious
9	Give Hands to help	Swift

4.2. Discussion

From the researches, both library and field researches, the writer got the following results:

a. Songs are very effective to be used as teaching media.

Futonge (2005) states in his article for a journal, that a song is a complete package includes culture, vocabularies, grammar and language skills which written in lyrics. Here, the writers observed that the students were very interested in studying English while their English teacher asked them to sing together. The teacher used the songs at the beginning of the class to attract the students' attention, or at the closing to conclude the lesson.

b. Songs are very useful to implant character values.

Teachers in elementary schools used some translated popular Indonesian songs as media in English teaching and learning process in the classroom as well as media in building the students' good characters.

In order to add the teachers' abilities in teaching English and also the students' mastery, the writers write 9 English kids' songs as well as an English book which contains activities. The songs and the book are very useful as teaching media.

5.0. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the analysis of the interview, observation and questionnaire to the teachers, it shows that English teachers of elementary schools are familiar with song as the teaching media. However, the songs were not custom.

The nine character building songs were composed to enhance the teachers in using songs as teaching media in teaching English as well as to implant good character values to the students. The students would easily understand the meaning since the lyrics use common words. The lyrics of the songs contain character values which the students can apply in the daily life as they listen to the songs.

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