

The Study on How Students of Sunan Drajat Islamic Boarding School Improve Their English Vocabularies

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Abstract

To respond the technological advances nowadays, Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school does many efforts to avoid being outdated. One of the ways done is by providing English dormitories to facilitate the students in improving their skill of foreign language. The English atmosphere is also purposely created in order to make the student get used to using English in their daily routine. The conditioned English environment in Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school requires students to have lots of English vocabularies to help them in speaking English. This current study aims to investigate how English dormitories of Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school improve the students' English skill by means of qualitative approach as research methodology. From the research conducted around a month, it was known that the functionaries of English dormitories implement various interesting teaching methods such as singing a song and game to improve students' bank of vocabularies. Besides, each English dormitory also provides vocabulary board which has the contents of any kinds of English vocabularies on Monday and some English expressions or idioms on Thursday. All English vocabularies and expressions in a week are examined by dorm's functionaries every Friday morning. The dorm's functionaries would give any points as punishment for whoever that can not memorize the English vocabularies completely. Finally, the further research in other settings and periods are needed to do in the future to enrich the result of study.

Keywords: English Vocabularies, Dormitory, English Environment

INTRODUCTION

Learning English becomes vital activity to do in this modern era. The modern era requires many people to be able to adapt with the technological advances that mostly use English as the international language. As the effect of that phenomena, many Indonesian students do countless efforts to master English, including students who stay in Islamic boarding school. Staying in Islamic boarding school does not make the students out of date, pessimistic and worried about worldly success. On the contrary, many Islamic boarding school in Indonesia compete to provide various interesting programs which make the students not only focus on learning about religion but also enabling the students to improve their interest in learning other majors such as English.

Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school is one of the boarding school that has purpose to generate the students who are capable in both religious affairs and worldly affairs. It is proven by the English dormitories launched by Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school to help the students who are willing to improve their English ability. In that English dormitories, the students are obligated to speak English in their daily routine. In order to be successful in conditioning the English area in dormitory, it is a must for the students to have lots of vocabulary banks. It has been the common sight that vocabulary is one of the important elements that supports students' speaking improvement (Abdullayevna, 2020).

Many previous studies also has been conducted to examine the tight correlation between vocabulary and students' speaking skill (Suryanto, et al., 2021; Putri & Refnaldi, 2020; Ani & Sinaga, 2021; Putri, et al., 2024; Sukendra, et al., 2023). Those preceding studies conducted only tried to prove whether vocabulary mastery has correlation to students' speaking skill or not without giving any new sight for the readers about what students

should do to improve their vocabulary or even how teacher should set any effective program to improve students' bank of vocabularies. Due to that reason, this current study is hoped to give any new insight for readers about the ways to support the improvement of students' vocabularies which can be adapted as the vocabulary-improving program in other places by drawing the research question how the students in English dormitories of Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school improve their vocabularies.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative approach to describe the ways used by the students of Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school to improve their English vocabularies. This qualitative study is engaged into case study approach. Creswell (2014) defined that case study as way to get very deep understanding about one object of study. The data got through observation, documentation and interview. The observation was done to get data about how the process of students acquires new vocabularies in English dormitory. Some English students and two English teacher were choosen as the informant to complete the data got from observation while documentation was needed to obtain the supporting data such as the paper of vocabulary list and picture of vocabulary board that the students must memorize in the dormitory. To make sure about the validity of data got, triangulation of source and method were engaged.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the observation conducted for several times, it was found that to make students keep improving their English vocabularies, the teachers of English dormitories has set some programs, such as;

Monday Vocabulary

Monday vocabulary program was actually set by the head of language department of Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school. To run that program, the head of language department command the English teacher in each English dormitory to provide at least 10 vocabularies on the whiteboard that is put in the center of dormitory's hall. The vocabulary list on the whiteboard is gradually erased and changed by the new vocabularies every Monday. All students of English dormitory have obligation to write the vocabulary list on the whiteboard on their own book. Gaybulloyevna (2022) stated that the activity of memorizing vocabulary regularly is one of the powerful ways to obtain many English vocabularies. The activity that has goal for making students discipline to memorize vocabularies is in line with what Maming, et al. (2023) stated that the key to succeed in English communication is by owning many vocabularies.

Thursday English Expression

As we know that English expression is very useful for improving students' English performance as well. English expression contains of english phrases that are often used in daily conversation. Based on the observation and interview conducted, Thursday English expression program not only provides English expression but also English idiom. Idiom is a group of words that has different meaning with the literal words (Putri, et al., 2023). Asri (2017) explained that Idiomatic expression is important to be learnt by students to comprehend the meaning of various unique English words. Unlike the Monday vocabulary program, the English expression program was done every Thursday. But it has the same rule as Monday vocabulary, the English teacher in each English dormitory also must provide at least 10 English expressions on the whiteboard that is put in the center of dormitory's hall.

The students must write all expressions they got in their special expression and idiom book. The students look so busy to memorize all expressions in that week in every corner of dormitory.

Friday Memorization

Friday is the day when all students of English dormitories in Sunan Drajat boarding school must memorize all English vocabularies and expressions which they got for a week. The students will come to the teacher one by one to answer the questions about vocabularies and expressions in a week orally. The teacher has prepared one big notebook to write down the checklist for those who can complete their memorization. The student who can not complete the memorization well will get any punishment from the functionaries of dormitory. Besides, they still have obligation to memorize again in the following week which is added to the new vocabularies and expressions which they get every week. The more students delay to complete memorization, the more vocabularies they are burdened to memorize. In this case, Maming, et al., (2023) has resulted in their study that techniques of memorization is one of effective ways that can be chosen to improve students' vocabularies.



Picture 1. Friday Memorization Activity

CONCLUSION

This present study concludes that the students of Sunan Drajat Islamic boarding school improve their bank of vocabularies by being discipline in joining the conditioned pogram which is provided by the teacher of dormitory, namely Monday vocabulary, Thursday English expression, and Friday memorization. Continously, this study still have weaknesses such as lack of varieties in drawing the discussion of study. It is really hoped that the weakness of this current study can be improved by the next researcher in the future. Finally, it is deeply expected that the result of this study is able to give new insight for the readers who are willing to set any program to improve students' vocabulary in other institution.

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