

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about research context, research problems, and research objectives of the study, significances of study and definition of key terms.

A. Research Context

English for Young Learners (EYL) refers to children's learning of English in pre-primary or primary school education, for which English is not their first language. It includes children whose first language is their national language of their country, when learning English is as additional language. The term *primary* refers to children from circa five years of age to circa eleven. The number of years of primary schooling varies considerably from country to country, but so do many other conditions of English teaching to young learners. The expression *young learner* is applied to children from the age of three to twelve¹.

However, early education is not only the place where EYL (English for young learners) occurs. It is the active process of educating children at school and also has reciprocal relationship with EYL². The primary aim of teaching English in the early years of schooling is to motivate young learners to be ready and have self-confident in learning English at higher levels of education.

¹ Bland, Janice. 2015. Teaching English to Young Learners: Critical Issues in Language Teaching with 3–12 Year Olds. London: Bloomsbury

² Garton, S and Copland, F., 2019. Routledge Handbook of Teaching English to Young Learners. London and New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group

Some children are born to parents who are polyglots, so they have to acquire two or three different languages. Some others learn second or third language because they have to immigrate to a new country. Others learn English as foreign language because English is not their native language in their country. That's why teaching English to young learners then can be beneficial for them.

As it is stated in the holy Qur'an, QS Ar-Rum ayah 22 which stated;

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالاخْتِلافُ السِّنِّتِكُمْ وَالْوَالِدِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَلَمِينَ

Meaning; And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, the difference in your language and the color of your skin. Indeed, in that there are indeed signs for those who know.

It is clearly stated that one of the signs of God's greatness is the creation of different languages. Those signs only showed for people who "know". The word "know" here can be referred as educated well or having good comprehension. This means that as faithful people, learning different language is one of a must to become educated people. So, learning English, as one from various kinds of languages in the world, is important.

On the other hand, English has several parts that are valuable for learning. They are English skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as English components; Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. To teach English for young learners is not merely as easy as teaching them their

mother tongue language. It is due to the position of English for our education is as foreign language.

The teacher has to consider the English skills and English components in teaching especially in early childhood education. The primary aim of teaching English in the early years of schooling is to motivate young learners to be ready and have self-confident in learning English at higher levels of education, teaching English skills and its components become important part in education. Early childhood education is a development effort aimed at children from birth to six years of age is done through the provision of education to help the growth and development physically and spiritually, so that children have the readiness to enter further education.

One of the important aspects to be pathway in facing further education is learning sentence pattern as it is below the scope of English Grammar. One particular aspect of knowledge about language is knowledge about the grammar of sentence construction³. There are four kinds of sentence pattern; simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence. By learning sentence pattern, the children will get ample of input about the language so that they can use the language properly.

Furthermore, teaching children can be so challenging because the teacher should avoid monotonous method in teaching to avoid their boredom. There are several activities enjoyed by children, such as singing, playing, and doing things are fun. Make the part from that, there are some practical strategies that

³ Richard ,Andrews. 2005. *English Teaching: Practice and Critique; Knowledge about the teaching of [sentence] grammar: The state of play*. New York: Department of Educational Studies, University of York. Page 69

can be followed easily, such as the children were very pleased with the activities of life that they do while playing. Therefore, the teacher at early education is necessary to know how to present activities that can be enjoyed by the kids. One of them is through the use of song.

Songs and music in the classroom are fun, and they are also powerful educational tools that teachers can use to help students learn English. Music activity for infants and toddlers engages the child's aural and physical being. Such age-old activities include tickling, wiggling, bouncing, and finger playing.

Children song is a group of beautiful words in which there are a message to be conveyed to individuals who have not reached puberty and presented with a beautiful music so that they can get the message.⁴ Since a song consists of words, it is helpful to give learning experience for children in learning utterances and sentence pattern unconsciously.

Using children songs in class can help students to learn and practice good prediction strategies, encounter vocabulary and language forms in an authentic context, practice speaking, reading, and writing skills in integrated way especially to learn about sentence pattern with simple sentence form. Children song has been widely used in the classroom activities especially for primary school education.

In Indonesia there are various kinds of primary schools; one of them is Raudatul Athfal (RA). Raudatul Athfal is in line with Kindergarten in

⁴ Shofiyah " The Use Of Children Songs To Improve Students Listening Skills "(Semarang, Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo Semarang, July 2015) page 9

general. The difference is Raudatul Athfal has Islamic lesson more than ordinary kindergarten. In Pekandangan Barat, Sumenep, there is one Raudatul Athfal namely Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda.

According to the pre-research which is done by the researcher, the researcher found several phenomena. Firstly, the curriculum in that school covers the teaching of English as one of the subject at school besides the other subjects. This condition is rarely happen because Raudatul Athfal in general doesn't include English as the primary subject. In other schools, it is only the complementary activity that is introduced to the students. Besides, the educators there also implement the use of children song to teach English especially sentence pattern so that the ability of the students in using English sentence to express their idea is surprisingly improved.

Based on the rational above, the researcher wants to know how the use of children song in teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) for young learner. For that reason, the researcher proposes a research entitled "The Teaching Of Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) Using Children Song At Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda In Pakandangan Barat Sumenep".

B. Research Focus

Research problem are educational issues, controversies, of concerns that guide the need for conducting a study.⁵ Based on the research background which has been described, the researcher formulates the problem of study into questions as follow:

⁵ John W, Creswell, *Educational Research* (Boston: Person. 2012), page 59

1. How does the teacher teach Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep?
2. What are the advantages of teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep?
3. What are the disadvantages of teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep?

C. Research Objectives

Latief explains that research objectives are stated as the goal of research to be achieved by the research.⁶ In addition, research objective as purposes which means the major intent or objective of the study used to address the problem.⁷ From the previous rational, the researcher finally defines research objectives as purposes or goal meant to be reached during the process of conducting the research. Based on the problem of study, the researcher provides the research objectives in the form of statements as follow:

1. To know how the teacher teach Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep.

⁶ Mohammad Adnan Latief, *Research Methods on Language Learning-an Introduction*, (Malang: Universitas Negeri Malang Press, 2015), p., 27.

⁷ Creswell, *Educational Research Planning, Conducting, And Evaluating Quantitative And Qualitative Research Educational Research*, 4th Ed, (Boston: Person Education, 2012), page 60

2. To know the strengths of teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep.
3. To know the weaknesses of teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep.

D. Significance of Study

Significance of study is continuation of objective of the study, this part explains about the significance of the study in scientific significance.⁸ The researcher defines the significance of the study as important of the research that the researcher will do for scientific aspect and social aspect. This research there are two aspects in giving this significance of the study, the first is theoretically significance and the second is practically significance.

1. Theoretical significance

The result of study is to know about the teaching of Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) using Children song at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pakandangan Barat Sumenep.

2. Practically significance

a. For researcher

Hopefully this research will be beneficial for other researcher to comprehend and obtain clear description of the certain phenomenon, in this case the use of children song in teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple

⁸ Suharsimi Arikunto, *Proseur Penelitian: Suatu Pendekatan Praktik* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2006), page 60

Sentence) for young learners or early childhood education. On the other side, the result of this research can be used as consideration for other researcher to conduct further research such as experimental research or classroom action research.

b. For readers

The researcher will give new knowledge and information as well as deep comprehension to the readers about the use of children song in teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) for young learners or early childhood education.

c. For students

Hopefully this research result will helps the students to understand the benefits of using children song in the learning process whether it is conscious or unconsciously. Moreover it will be a motivation to learn. And also they realize that by listening to English kids song will increase their listening skills, reading, and speaking as well as the ability to form sentences.

E. Scope and Limitation

Scope is the area that researcher will be observant. It can be specific purpose. Limitation is the potential weaknesses of problems with study identified by the researcher.⁹ In this part explains about limitation of variables which is research population and location of research focus conducted by the researcher. The scope of this study focuses on “The Teaching Of Sentence

⁹ Jhon W. Creswell, *Educational Research Planning, Conducting And Evaluating Quantitative And Qualitative Research*, Fourth Edition, (Boston: Person Education, 2012), page 199

Pattern (Simple Sentence) Using Children Song At Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda In Pakandangan Barat Sumenep” . the population of the research consists of the students at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda; which is located in Pekandangan Barat Sumenep, but the researcher will take sample students of B class in Raudatul athfal Nurul Huda.

In addition, research problem refers to question raised in a research project which clearly reflects what kind of answer is research problem, also expected to be discovered through the process of research. The research problem is the first step in the scientific method as the recognition of a felt difficulty and obstacle or problem that puzzles the researcher.¹⁰

F. Definition of Key term

Definition of key term needed to avoid the differences of understanding or unclearly meaning. The terms that are needed to explain are that concerned with the main concept in the thesis.¹¹ In this research, there are some terms that are described briefly as follow:

1. Teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) for children

In this research, teaching Sentence Pattern (Simple Sentence) for children refers to the teaching and learning activity done by the teacher to the very young children in the range of age between four up to six years old. The very young children here are referred to the students of Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pekandangan Barat Sumenep.

¹⁰ Donald Ary, *Introduction of Research in Education*, Eighth Edition (Wadsworth: Cengage Learning, 2010), page 43.

¹¹ Tim Pedoman, *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*. (Pamekasan: Stain Pamkasan Press), page 12

2. Children song

Children song is a series beautiful and easy words that compatible for the children and easy to memorize it. For this research, children song refers to the song that is used in the teaching and learning activity at Raudatul Athfal Nurul Huda in Pekandangan Barat Sumenep

3. Raudatul Athfal

Referring to the previous description, in this research Raudatul Athfal denotes to the formal Islamic early childhood education institution that administers teaching and learning process for very young children which is located in Pekandangan Barat Sumenep.

G. Previous Study

Some research related to the use of children song in teaching English for young learners have been conducted through ages. One of them is thesis written by Aulia Fransischa, entitled “Using Songs to Teach English to Young Learners”. The result of this study revealed that there are some advantages in teaching English through songs like various activities in the classroom, fun, and alive, also the young learners be active and confidence. Then, songs can improve the young learner’s skill in memorizing new words and pronouncing clearly. Using songs as the activity in teaching English helps the teacher to build an active and interesting class.¹²

On the other hand, a research done by Neil T. Millington, with the title “Using Songs Effectively to Teach English to Young Learners” came to the

¹² Aulia Fransischa. *Using Songs to Teach English to Young Learners*. (Padang, Universitas Negeri Padang, September 2016)

conclusion that stated Songs can be used as a valuable teaching and learning tool. Using songs can help learners improve their listening skills and pronunciation; they can also be useful for teaching vocabulary and sentence structures. Probably the greatest benefit to using songs in the classroom is that they are enjoyable. Unfortunately, despite these advantages, simply singing songs will not teach learners how to communicate in another language. Using songs as tasks might be one way of helping transfer words from songs into use, and maximize the potential of songs as teaching and learning tools. Adapting existing children's songs is one method that teachers can use to increase their repertoire of songs, thus giving them more opportunity to use songs in their teaching contexts.¹³ Songs can play an important role in the development of language in young children learning a second language. Yet songs may be used relatively ineffectively and the potential for language learning is not maximized.

Besides, another research with same design but different topic, entitled "Using Song in Teaching English Speaking Skills for Young Learners", (A Qualitative Research at One of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah in Kota Cirebon) by Sri Nurvia, had several research findings. The findings show that the observation of process of teaching and learning English speaking skills by using song, there are 3 steps of teaching and learning; exist outcomes of learning in teaching speaking skills by using song. The advantages of using song are: Song could become a media introduction of new languages, songs improve

¹³ Neil T. Millington. *Using Songs Effectively to Teach English to Young Learners*. (Japan, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Language Education in Asia, Volume 2, Issue 1, 2011) page 140

students' pronunciation, song could be give good contribution in increasing students' motivation in speaking, and song can strengthen memory of students.¹⁴

Another research entitled "Teaching grammar to young learners: Technique and implementation" which is done by Aris Jatmiko, revealed that to enrich the effectiveness, the researcher hesitated to use Text, Total Physical Response, Picture, Real Object, Game and Song as the resources and the techniques in Presentation Stage. These stages, techniques, and resources could assist his teaching of grammar while providing a relaxed atmosphere and motivating students.¹⁵

The similarities of the studies above are all of them focused on the use of song in teaching English for young learners. Most of the result showed that song gave positive impact in teaching and learning especially for young learners. On the other hand, those studies differ in the topic of research. They vary on the teaching techniques, such as teaching speaking skill and grammar.

¹⁴ Sri Nurvia, *Using Song in Teaching English Speaking Skills for Young Learners*. (Cirebon, Syekh Nurjati State Islamic Institute, 2016) page 36.

¹⁵ Jatmiko, Aris.2011. *Teaching grammar to young learners: Technique and implementation*. Surakarta : Sebelas Maret University