

THE EXAMINING OF EFFECTIVENESS ENGLISH TEXTBOOK IN INDONESIAN NEW CURRICULUM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Abstract: *Textbooks play as a important role in the teaching-learning class process. Of course, the book chosen must also be able to meet the learning needs of students and be able to hone students' knowledge in the lesson. Therefore, we wrote this research report in order to help teachers in choosing the right textbooks for their students. This study needs to find out the strengths and the weakness from the textbook "My Next Words" for 4th grade in elementary schools. We examined the strengths and weaknesses of this book as an improvement for the next edition of the book and as a development of the material presented in the textbook. This research could provide valuable input for the author to improve learning content and methods and to evaluate this textbook are suitable with the newest curriculum. Our findings show areas where English teaching can be better in grade 4th student's.*

Keywords: *Language Textbook, 4th Learners, Student's Development, Curriculum*

Abstrak: Buku pelajaran memegang peranan penting dalam proses belajar-mengajar di kelas. Tentunya buku yang dipilih juga harus dapat memenuhi kebutuhan belajar siswa dan dapat mengasah pengetahuan siswa dalam pelajaran. Oleh karena itu, kami menulis laporan penelitian ini agar dapat membantu para guru dalam memilih buku pelajaran yang tepat bagi para siswanya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kelebihan dan kekurangan dari buku teks "My Next Words" untuk kelas 4 SD. Kelebihan dan kekurangan buku ini akan menjadi bahan perbaikan untuk edisi berikutnya dan sebagai pengembangan materi yang disajikan dalam buku teks tersebut. Penelitian ini dapat memberikan masukan yang berharga bagi penulis untuk meningkatkan konten dan metode pembelajaran dan untuk mengevaluasi buku teks ini

Kata Kunci: *Buku Teks Bahasa, Siswa Kelas 4 SD, Pengembangan Siswa, Kurikulum*

INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian education system has undergone significant changes over the past few decades. One of the crucial aspects of this transformation is the curriculum for students. The curriculum serves as a blueprint for learning and aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to become productive members of society. Curriculum Merdeka is an educational initiative launched by the Ministry of Education in Indonesia in 2020. It aims to provide a more holistic and inclusive approach to education that emphasizes the development of character, creativity, and critical thinking skills, alongside academic knowledge. The Curriculum Merdeka is designed to be more flexible and adaptable to the needs of individual students, with a greater emphasis on student-centered learning and the use of technology.

The role of textbooks in the language classroom is a difficult one to be defined perfectly and exactly. (Mohammad Mohammadi, Heidar Abdi : 2014). So, we make an analysis about the advantages and disadvantages in Textbook for evaluating value of this book, is it suitable and can be effective for learners? Contextualisation of textbooks to a great extent determines the potential for student interactions and communications both with their peers and teachers, which in turn has an effect on students' experience and effectiveness of language learning. if language textbooks are not sufficiently contextualised both socially and culturally, students will not see them as relevant to their lives and this will affect their engagement with the language. (Huang, Pingping : 2019).

This article examines the role of textbooks in the learning process, especially for grade 4 elementary school students, as a form of developing their abilities in learning foreign languages. This study will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the textbook, "My Next Words" such as what learning that contained in the course book, how teachers implement in the learning process, and whether the book is accordance with the latest curriculum requirements. The focus of national standards was geared toward making students active citizens and lifelong learners, capable of acquiring knowledge, skills, and attitudes to entail the growth of their personal, social, and emotion skills. National standart aim to enable the students to apply and incorporate learning outcomes (to apply, analyze, and synthesize to think critically and to evaluate whatever they learn and acquire) inside as well as outside their classrooms (Sana baiq, Fareeha Javed, Aishah Siddiquah, Afifa Khanam : 2021)

Curriculum Textbook can be used as references, evaluation materials, and teaching aids in carrying out the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to repeat learning and something new. (Sarifah, Vina : 2023). Textbook may function as intermediary roles and potential agents for change during educational innovatian due to a number of reasons: First textbook act as vehicle for teachers and learners training; second textbook provided a picture of what the change will look like; third they provide the psychological support to teachers. (Yasemin : 2009)

This methods article conducting Qualitative Content analysis study to evaluate the Textbook for 4th Grade student's in elementary school. Our Research Question is : "How the advantages and disadvantages of textbooks can affect the learning effectiveness of 4th grade elementary school students?".

RESEARCH METHOD

This Research was written using a qualitative approached using the content analysis method to analyzing the data from textbook to identify patterns and interpreted meaning of communication content through the textbook. We needed deeply understanding about the purposes of the textbook, we also made an inferences for understanding the material because the author of the textbook did not explain in explicit way, so we found it's hard for teacher understand what they should do for making enjoyable teaching and learning process in classrooms. We would defined the units and categories this data analysis, and separated several sections such as vocabulary, speaking, and reading sections. So, we would easily found whether the advantages and disadvantages on each section.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Considerations on the basis of research can be structured as follows: A textbook or a course book is never developed in a vacuum. Before compiling any textbook, it is the foremost duty of the compilers, authors, and editors to develop such a material which may fulfill the aims of the curriculum document and meet the needs of the learners. The curriculum for English 2006 aspires the students to become active citizens, and autonomous and lifelong learners; acquire knowledge and skills; and to think critically. (Journal : A Content Analysis of English Textbook of Punjab Textbook Board of Grade 8 in Pakistan, page 3.)

The My Next Words book was created with the aim of improving English language learning at the elementary level, starting with creating a curriculum that is appropriate to children's development, contextual and fun. The four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing, are activities that are inseparable in the preparation of the curriculum.

With presentation, practice and production learning stages, students learn in a directed and measurable manner. Under the guidance of Mrs. Itje Chodijah, the curriculum, which we have started implementing for a year, is showing good results. Students become active in participating in learning activities that are carefully designed and pay attention to children's development. To make learning more effective, the idea came up for making the book My Next Words. (Book : Students book My next words for elementary school.)

As we knew all textbooks had advantages and disadvantages. So this textbooks from *my next words*.

We could see the picture my next words. That were the vocabularies. The advantages that we found the



Figure 1 : Vocabularies



Figure 2 : Writing

book were so colourful, and it's so interesting for students grade 4 Elementary School. The disadvantages was that we found the vocabularies in the book my next words is did not have meaning. How could the students known the meaning without an explanation?

We could see the writing from that picture "look and write" The advantages were that book picture were so colorful, and was hard for students to answer the question. And the disadvantages was there is no example how the students answer that question.



Figure 4 : Reading

We could see the picture about speaking from "let's talk page" The advantages were that we could get more friends when we used this speaking and trying to talk with someone. And the disadvantages is there anyone shy to try speaking with a partner.

We could see the picture this is talking about reading from "look and answer page" The advantages made students to think critically and try to critical reading from that book. And the disadvantages from this one they had problems or could not understand because there were some vocabularies witch one they had not learned.



Figure 3 : Speaking

The last picture sang this is part which one the students liked. From this picture the advantages were they could learn enjoyable and they were excited to sing this one. But the disadvantages was the book did not have the QR for teacher to download the audio.

ANALYSIS

This analysis aims to find out the answer to the research question, which is about how the advantages and disadvantages of textbooks can affect the learning effectiveness of 4th grade elementary school students.

We find some advantages in "My Next Words" the book's full-color design makes it visually appealing and enjoyable for students to learn from, as it catches their attention and creates an inviting learning environment. Additionally, the appeal of each content is always short and only provides points, making it very simple for students to grasp concepts quickly. Moreover, the book covers Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking, providing a comprehensive approach to language learning. Finally, the book develops students' knowledge on topics related to daily life, such as transportation methods, time, and daily routines, making the learning experience more relatable and useful.

And some Disadvantages in "My Next Words" book suffers from several shortcomings. Firstly, its commands are often unclear or too brief, leading to confusion among students and necessitating clarification from teachers. Additionally, it lacks access to conversations, which could significantly enhance students' listening skills, particularly during self-study sessions at home. Moreover, each material content lacks a proper introduction, focusing primarily on vocabulary without providing context, resulting in students memorizing words without understanding their usage. Furthermore, the book fails to include examples of word usage in sentences, which are crucial for the development of English speaking, reading, and writing skills. Lastly, the lack of explanation impedes students' ability to comprehend reading texts, identify main ideas, and recognize important details within the provided information or stories.

The book "My Next Words Grade 4 – Student's Book for Elementary School" may be appropriate for use in the merdeka curriculum for the reasons they focus on significant material, this book presents significant and deep material that is relevant to daily life and industrial needs. Merdeka curricula also recommend relevant and interactive learning activities that can support students' character and ability development. Fleksibel, this book enables teachers to better understand their students' potential in order to create relevant lesson plans. Additionally, merdeka curricula enable teachers to adapt their lessons to the needs of their students' learning styles and academic progress, and they also have the ability to develop and adapt curricula and teaching methods to the specific characteristics of their school. The ability to perform, this book develops student competencies that are relevant to industry needs and daily life. The merdeka curriculum also encourages students to develop their creativity and potential. Ability to understand, with materials that adjust to the students' level, this book helps students understand English. The merdeka curriculum also enables teachers to monitor student learning, which can make instruction more engaging and boost students' creativity and competence.

With some relevant advantages, "My Next Words Grade 4 - Student's Book for Elementary School" can be used as a learning material in accordance with the merdeka curriculum, which can develop students' competency skills and help them understand English with materials according to the students' level.

DISCUSSION

Textbooks are one of the important learning media that are always used by teachers in every class, therefore the content and innovation of textbooks must always be improved with each development to adapt to student needs. With the help of teachers, researchers, writers and editors it is very important to create books that can meet students' learning needs.

In this study, we compare our research with examples of research on textbook evaluation where our research uses the same research method, namely content analysis and combines it with qualitative analysis, using content analysis as a research method because our focus is on what is in the text in the textbook "My Next Word" for grade 4 elementary schools. This research uses a different object from the research we want to compare, the article from the textbook evaluation that we want to compare is the grade 8 textbook published by the Punjab Textbook Council in Pakistan, and our article examines the self-paced curriculum of the 4th grade "my next word" textbook. Additionally, the main findings of the articles we compare examine them focus on Reading and Thinking Skills, Writing Skills, and Oral Competence, while the main findings that are the focus of the research we are Vocabulary, Speaking and Reading Sections, our research focuses on these discussions because there are deficiencies in the aspects that have been mentioned, therefore our focus is to improve and improve them. Likewise In language learning, reading is considered one of the most important lessons for the learner. Researches in extensive reading have shown many beneficial effects on students (Peter Tze-Ming Chou,2010). As a teacher, a textbook gives students relevant information about grammar and vocabulary, as well as English speaking countries and their cultures. (Biljana B.Radic-Bojanic and Jagoda P. Topalov, 2016)

In the analytical approach, we also use content analysis as our approach, because it makes it easier to analyze the text in the book, Content analysis can be used with a wide variety of data sources, including textual data, visual stimuli (e.g., photographs/videos), and audio data. In addition, the technique is highly flexible in that it can be either empirically or theoretically driven (Steven E. Stemler, 2015), while the research being compared uses document analysis and thematic analysis, where document analysis as qualitative research refers to the analysis of texts from various sources while thematic analysis is the identification and reporting of thematic patterns in qualitative data. In the final comparison, namely the conceptual framework, the studies we compared concluded that the class 8 textbooks published by the Punjab Textbook Board in Pakistan can only provide limited reading comprehension, whereas there are many other focuses so that learning is balanced and appropriate to students' learning needs and meet curriculum standards such as critical thinking, writing, and speaking. And the research we conducted on the book "My Next Word" for grade 4 elementary schools was the advantages and disadvantages of the book where our research showed which concepts should be maintained and which should be improved which of course is in accordance with the curriculum and student learning needs. Overall, by comparing our research with the existing literature on textbook evaluation, we aim to contribute to the ongoing efforts in improving the quality and relevance of educational materials for students, especially for elementary school children because the age of 6 – 12 years is a very perfect time to receive in-depth learning. Because children tend to be active and curious about things, textbooks are a place for children to find out and learn new things.

CONCLUSION

This analysis explored the strengths and weaknesses of "My Next Words Grade 4 - Student's Book for Elementary School" and its alignment with the merdeka curriculum. It emphasized the need for continuous improvement in educational materials, highlighting the collaborative effort required among educators, researchers, writers, and editors.

By using content analysis, the study pointed areas in the book needing enhancement, particularly in vocabulary and speaking sections. Comparing with other research, it stressed the importance of addressing these shortcomings to enhance students' learning experiences. Ultimately, the aim is to create textbooks that engage and inspire elementary students, catering to their curiosity and learning needs. This ensures that they have the best tools to learn effectively during this crucial stage of their education.

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