

**THE USE OF ENGLISH COMICS “AVENGERS”
FOR ENRICHING STUDENT’S VOCABULAR MASTERY:
A CASE OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPN 20 SEMARANG**

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Abstract

In teaching learning process, one of the important components of the English language is vocabulary since it is the most important thing in conducting communication. But the students often get problems in expressing their ideas as they are lack of vocabularies. To enrich their vocabularies, a treatment is given to them. The treatment is teaching vocabulary by using English comic Avengers for the experimental group. The problems of this study are: How is the result of using English comics as a medium in teaching English vocabulary?. Is comic effective as a medium in teaching English vocabulary?. From pre-test (44.0625) to post-test (62.5) for control group and pre-test (44.69) to post-test (72.81) for experimental group. It means that the use English comic is effective for enriching vocabulary mastery. The $t_{\text{-test}}$ result showed that $t_{\text{-test}}$ was 3.47 and the $t_{\text{-table}}$ for 5% was 1.67. It means that $t_{\text{-test}}$ was higher than $t_{\text{-table}}$ ($3.47 > 1.67$).

Key Words: Vocabulary, Vocabulary mastery, media, comic

Intoduction

English is an International language, English education in Indonesia has been taught English from Elementary School up to university. In order to make learning process more interesting, good media are needed. In order to make English learning process especially in teaching vocabulary more interesting, good media are needed. To select the appropriate media, the teacher must

consider the characteristic of the students which directly related to the learning process such as verbal ability, visual and audio perception skill. Using English comic as a media for teaching can be very pleasing and more interesting for the student. By using English comics students more be interested and active in learning. They will fell something new

and different from what they usually get in their class.

In this study, the writer wants to examine “English comic *Avenger*” as a media in teaching vocabulary. The focus of the study is contributions English comic to teach Junior High school students in mastering vocabulary (the case of the eighth grade students of SMP N 20 Semarang). The writer wants to find out the students’ achievement in

Review of Related Theories

The Characteristics of Junior High School Students

Junior High School students or teenagers are categorized into adolescents learners. The age of this learners are between 12 to 15. In this period, teenagers like to spend their time for hanging around, friends, peers, and often disruptive behavior in class. However, they have a great capacity in learning if the teacher can engage them.

Media in Teaching

Teaching is a process of communication. It has to be created through the way of teaching and exchanging the message or information by every teacher and student. The message can be knowledge, skills, ideas, experiences, and many

learning vocabulary using English comic. The problems discussed in this study are:

1. How is the result of using English Comics as a medium in teaching English vocabulary?
2. To what extent is comic effective as a medium of teaching English vocabulary?

others. Through the process of communication, the people can receive the message or information. To avoid misunderstanding in the process of communication, media are needed in the process of teaching. Media play an important role in a teaching and learning process. Media are needed to reach the objectives of teaching-learning process.

Roles of Media in a Teaching-Learning Process

The use of media in a teaching-learning process is very important. Media are the main ways thought which large number of people receive information and entertainment that is television, radio, and the newspaper.

General Concept of Comic

Comics have a unique and powerful voice in the classroom by upholding the definition of visual literacy. Using comics for instruction is a quick, concise way to teach, practice, and apply vocabulary skills whether it is for initial instruction or remediation of reading difficulties. With the assistance of visual literacy skills, the acquisition of sight words and phonics skills and the building of vocabulary and reading. Using comics, which are humorous, visual, and limited in text, can alleviate the negative view of reading for some children (McVicker, 2005). The other statement by Thorndike stated that comic is interesting aspect, he found that comics could gain the memory vocabulary of children.

The Use of Comic in Teaching

Comic has been spread out widely as the medium to entertain. The colored illustration, simple theme and plot, and the characterization will attract the person who read it. Amazingly, nearly everyone says yes if they are asked whether they have ever read comic. The wide spread of comic has interested the writer in using comic as a medium for

teaching. A teacher may use the potential of comic in motivating the students. The main role of comic book in teaching is its strength in motivating the students' interest. It is better to combine the use of comic with a particular method of teaching. So, the use of comic as a medium of teaching will be more effective. Teacher should help them to get broader information and knowledge from the comic

General Concept of Vocabulary

In giving introduction, one of important components of language is vocabulary since it is the major means in conducting communication. Vocabulary is a list of words and words themselves mean any unit of language, which are used in writing and appear between a space and hyphen. According to Lynne Cameroon (2001:72), building up a useful vocabulary is central to the learning of a foreign language at primary level. While opinions differ as to how much grammar of the foreign language can be taught, children are clearly capable of learning foreign language words through participating in the discourse of classroom activity.

Research Method

Research Design

This is a quantitative experimental research. In this research the writer describes the result of the student's ability in vocabulary mastery for the eighth grade students of SMP N 20 Semarang. In the experiment, the writer taught the two groups. They are experimental group and control group. The experimental group was taught using English comic "Avenger" while the control group was taught using conventional teaching.

Subject of the research is the VIII C as the experimental group and the VIII B as the control group. The total number of the students for each class was for about 32 students.

The instrument used in this research is a test. The type of the test is essay test. It consists of 20 items.

In this study, the writer used three steps, there are; pre-test, treatment and post-test. Pre-tests were administered before the application of the experimental and control treatments and post tests at the end of the treatment period.

Based on the statement above, the writer gave the pretest to both groups. The writer gave a treatment, giving comic "Avengers" 3 times a week to the experiment group as an alternative way of teaching vocabulary.

In this study, the writer used true experimental design, specifically the pretest-posttest equivalent groups design.

Population is the entire group of entities or persons to which the results of the study are intended to apply. The population of this study was grade eighth student of SMPN 20 Semarang in the academic year 2012/2013.

In this study, the sample was taken from the same population. And as the sample, there were two classes chosen from the eighth year students of SMPN 20 Semarang. They are class VIII C as the experimental group and VIII B as the control group. Both of the two classes consist of 32 students. So the total numbers of the sample were 64 students.

Variable is essentially what we can observe or quantity of the human

characteristics or abilities involved. William Wiersa (2000 : 26) states A variable is a characteristic that takes on different values or conditions for different individuals. Variables are the conditions or characteristics that the experimenter manipulates, controls, or observes.

In this study there were two variables, dependent variable and independent variable.

The method of data analysis was an important part of a research because the writer gets result to make a conclusion from this research. After collecting the data, the writer analyzed the data. There were some steps to analyze the data and to find out the vocabulary mastery of the students

those are the writer analyzed the students' works by scoring them

Findings

The average score of pre-test for experimental group was 44.69 and the average score of pre-test for control group was 44.0625. The average score of post-test for the experimental group was 72.81, and the average score of post-test for control group was 62.5. So, there was a significant difference on student's vocabulary mastery of those taught using English comic as a media and those taught without using English comic for the eight year students of Junior High School 20.

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