

**REFLECTIVE-PICTURE STORYBOOK: IMPROVING SOCIAL
SKILL AND READING LITERACY FOR ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS IN INDONESIA**

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REFLECTIVE-PICTURE STORYBOOK IN READING LITERACY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN INDONESIA

The aims of this research are to: 1) produce reflective-picture storybook to improve student's reading literacy for elementary student, and 2) determine the effectiveness of the reflective-picture storybook towards student's reading literacy.

This study was a research and development (R& D) based on 10 major steps developed by Borg & Gall. The subjects were fifth grade students of elementary schools in Bantul District, Yogyakarta. The data collection techniques were interview, observation, scale, questionnaire, and testing. The data were collected by using the interview guidelines, observation guidelines, expert validation of the product, questionnaire of teachers and student's responses, questionnaire of student's interest in reading, and reading comprehension test. The validity of the reflective-picture storybook was analyzed by converting to four quantitative criteria. The effectiveness of the reflective-picture storybook to improve student's reading literacy was analyzed by MANOVA test at the significance level of 0.05.

These are the results of the study. The reflective-picture storybook has passed the criteria of feasibility according to the validation by experts, teacher's responses, and students' responses in a very good category. The result of field tryout shows that the reflective-picture storybook is effective to improve student's reading literacy in elementary school. Students' reading literacy including students' interest in reading and reading comprehension skill improves significantly according to the MANOVA test at sig. 0.000 ($p < 0.05$).

Keywords: reflective-picture storybook, reading literacy

Background

The importance of cultivating reading literacy from an early age is getting more attention in education especially in Indonesia. Some of the backgrounds to the importance of literacy mentioned in the School Literacy Pocket Handbook are 1) facts based on international survey results that Indonesia ranks low in reading skills, 2) 21st

century demands which is a new era that requires learners to have reading skills, analytical, critical, and reflective understanding of information, 3) learning of the 21st century competence is not fully taught in schools, 4) reading activities in schools need to be strengthened by reading habits in families and communities (Kemendikbud, 2018, p.5). Reading literacy that includes reading interest and skills can help students understand, criticize, and address the growing variety of information and science. Indonesia has implemented the School Literacy Movement through a 15-minute program of non-textbook reading before the school learning program starts. One of the efforts that can be taken to improve literacy is by developing and utilizing various sources of literacy. The literacy source developed through this research is a picture storybook developed based on reflective thinking process in the form of reflective-picture storybook.

Objective and Research Questions

This research aims to: 1) produce a reflective-picture storybook as one of the proper literacy sources to improve literacy of primary school children, and 2) to know the effectiveness of the reflective-picture storybook in developing literacy of primary school children. Research questions in this study are as follows.

(1) How is the feasibility of a reflective-picture storybook to improve literacy of elementary students reading according to material experts?

(2) How is the feasibility of a reflective-picture storybook to improve literacy of reading elementary students according to media experts?

(3) How is the effectiveness of reflective-picture storybook media in increasing literacy in primary school students?

Significance of the Study

The importance of cultivating the reading interest and skills from an early age is in line with the School Literacy Program (SLP) program implemented at various levels of education in Indonesia. Through the GLS program, students are expected to have good reading interest and skills. One of the factors of good education can be seen from the use of textbooks (Morris, 2016, p.9-10). Therefore, one form of effort that can be taken to support this program is to provide a variety of interesting literacy sources for elementary school age children and in accordance with the stage of child development. This is in line with the results of the analysis conducted by Suyarman that to improve the results of PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), there are nine points of recommendation, one of which is by providing various readings to enable students and the community the opportunity to enrich the scheme and build reading habits (Suryaman, 2015, pp. 184- 185). Development of literacy can be done in various ways. One of the sources of literacy developed in this research is *reflective-picture storybook*.

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

Reading Literacy

Currently, not a few elementary students in Indonesia have low reading skills. Students have difficulty reading and understanding reading materials. The result of the 2011 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study conducted on fourth grade

students of SD shows that the reading achievement of Indonesian children is still low. Indonesia is ranked 42nd with a score of 428, from 49 participating countries (Mullis, Martin, Foy, & Drucker, 2012, p.38). In addition, the interest and motivation of primary school students to read still tend to be low. The low interest and motivation of students in reading is influenced by the students' early reading ability, the limited availability of reading material, and the students' perception that reading is just part of the Indonesian language lesson.

Every child has to be really competent in reading to succeed in school and release responsibility as a citizen. (Itsekor & Nwokeoma, 2017, p. 98). Reading is a vital tool for acquiring knowledge, skill and expression of thought especially in the world of modern science and technology that requires one to be able to take and receive information about events in the environment and the world at large. A high reading frequency enables the child to gain a wide range of information that is ultimately useful in language development and communication skills of the child. Good reading habits should gain great attention in educational development. The home environment and early schooling are the most important places to encourage reading culture behavior, caring and awareness about the importance of reading (Itsekor & Nwokeoma, 2017, p 101).

Literacy in the context of SLP implemented in Indonesia can be defined as the ability to access, understand, and use something intelligently through various activities, including reading, viewing, listening, writing, and/or speaking (Faizah et al., 2016, p.2). Logical literacy is really needed in the 21st century right now (Pahl & Rowsell, 2013, p.4). Reading literacy consists of two main components, namely reading interest and reading skills. Interest in reading is the tendency of the soul or strong desire that consciously or unconsciously can be satisfied through reading (Rachman, 1985, p.11).

Reading skills can be seen from two points of view. The first point of view, reading skill is the ability to understand the information conveyed through the writing symbol (Nurgiyantoro, 2010, p.228). The second point of view, the skill of reading is the ability to understand the meaning of printed or written reading material, in which the reader is also required to be able to construct the available context to form meaning (Browne, 2009; Tompkins & Hoskisson, 1995).

In the context of primary school learning, reading literacy comprising reading interest and students' reading skills can be enhanced by utilizing various types of literacy sources for children. Robinson & Good (1987, p.245) describes, "Although students need decoding skills and some practice developing those skills, they should often be allowed to read a variety books, including books of personal interest." Various genres of books that students can read will give students the opportunity to choose reading materials that suit their interests and enjoyment so as to increase students' interest and motivation to read.

Various types of literacy sources in the form of children's reading books can be used to improve the reading skills of elementary students. One of the techniques that teachers can take to improve their reading skills based on Palani's opinion is to provide various types of children's reading books to accommodate the diverse interests and readings of students in certain types of books. In addition, the availability of various types of reading will support students' understanding of learning materials (Palani, 2012, p. 94). The reflective-picture storybook developed in this study is expected to be a literary source in helping to increase reading interest and reading skills of elementary students.

Good literacy in a country can affect a wide range of fields ranging from economics, science, and technology. This is, as Kamens' research finds, found that

literacy scores had the strongest effect on a country's economic growth although it was insignificant compared to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) (Kamens, 2015, p 441). Based on that, to improve the economic growth of a country requires the development of good literacy. Literacy scores must be increased, and one of the ways is through the use of reflective-picture storybook.

Reflective-Picture Storybook

Picture storybook is one of the media that can be utilized as a learning media in accordance with the characteristics of elementary students who are still at the concrete operational stage. Piaget (Santrock, 2011; Ormrod, 2012) suggests that elementary students are still at a concrete operational stage, so that students can understand abstract concepts through concrete and specific examples from their daily lives.

The picture storybook consists of components of narrative text and illustrative images that are interconnected to convey a story's message to the reader. The illustrations and writings used to convey the message are not stand-alone, but they are a unified and mutually supportive one to express the message to the reader (Huck, Hepler, & Hickman, 1987, p. 197). The existence of the image makes it easier for students to understand the contents of the story. Through picture books, students' perceptions will be more easily influenced even if they do not see their original form (Heath Houston-Price, & Kennedy, 2014, p.27). The pictures in the storybook also serve to interest students in reading, as Nicholas argued that elementary students are more interested in books containing images than books that display the text as a whole (Nicholas, 2007, p.20).

Reflective-picture storybook is a form of picture book development that implements reflective thinking process. Through the application of reflective thinking processes in the form of pictorial stories and reflection activities referring to Pickett's

explanation (Ahmed & Al-Khalili, 2013, p. 59) of techniques that can be developed from reflective thinking processes, it is hoped that the reflective-picture storybook can become one source of literacy that can encourage the growth of reading literacy (interest and reading skills) of elementary school students.

The making of this reflective-picture storybook refers to the opinion of Komatsu H & Rappleye. J. who argue that the variation in PISA scores is briefly reviewed that western's most advanced learning is student-centered (Komatsu H & Rappleye J, 2016, p.270). Based on these opinions, it can be seen that student-centered learning requires self-assessment. Students assess themselves by way of self-reflection.

Methodology

This research is a developmental research (R & D) based on 10 stages of development by Borg & Gall (1983, pp. 775-776). Reflective-picture storybook is developed based on ten stages of development. The subject of the research is the students of grade V elementary school in Bantul District, Yogyakarta. Data collection techniques include interviews, observations, questionnaires, and scales. Data collection instruments include interview guides, observation guides, product validation sheets for material experts and media experts, teacher response questionnaires, student response questionnaires, reading interest questionnaires and reading comprehension tests.

Data from the results of need analysis are analyzed by descriptive analysis technique. The feasibility of the reflective-picture storybook on the scale of the assessment of material experts and media experts, as well as the results of the scale of teacher's responses and student's responses were analyzed by conversing scores into four quantitative categories (Mansyur, Aaron Rashid, & Suratno, 2015, p.409). The product effectiveness data were analyzed by MANOVA test at 0.05 significance level.

Findings

Product Development Description

Reflective-picture storybook consists of several main components, namely: 1) a material story or story that contains learning materials and its reflection in everyday life; 2) a reflective story based on values of the characters in the student's daily life; 3) reflective activity in the form of reflective questions, reflective stories, reflective journals for daily conditioning, and students 'self-stories in the form of students' judgments related to their social relationships.

The reflective-picture storybook is designed and developed with Microsoft Word, Corel DRAW X7, Adobe In Design and Adobe Photoshop programs, and printed on Ivory paper for covers and HVS paper for A4 (21 cm x 29.7 cm) size. The type of image in this media is a cartoon image. The learning materials that are packaged in the story are tailored to the theme and subtheme on the subject matter of class V SD Curriculum 2013. Character values reflected are adapted to the material and social attitude competence.

Results of Product Trial

Product's Feasibility

Based on the assessment of material experts, the results of the scores for each aspect of the material include: a) substance 11 (excellent), b) learning criteria 57 (excellent), c) story elements 58 (excellent), and d) the material as a whole 126 (very good). Based on the assessment of media experts, the scores for each aspect of the media include: a) clarity of instructions for use 4 (excellent), b) media readiness 10 (good), c) 12 (excellent) material systemic, d) 31 (excellent), e) 12 (excellent) color composition, f) good quality narrative 16 (g), g) format and layout 35 (excellent), and h) overall media

aspect 120 (excellent). The result of validation of material experts and media experts shows that the reflective-picture storybook is considered feasible as a literacy source to improve reading literacy (interest and reading skills) of elementary students.

Product's Effectiveness

The results of trials in the operational field testing stage show that the reflective-picture storybook is declared effective to increase literacy of elementary students reading consisting of interest and reading skill. The table below shows the questionnaire data of reading interest and reading skill test results of students' understanding in the experimental class and control class.

Table 1. Reading Interest of Experimental Class and Control Class

Experimental class	Average Reading Interest		<i>N gain</i>	Criteria
	Before	After		
Experimental Class 1	50.48	68.16	0.61	Average
Experimental Class 2	50.36	67.80	0.60	Average
Control Class	50.56	54.68	0.15	Low

Table 2. Reading Comprehension Skill of Experiment Class and Control Class

Experimental class	Average Reading Comprehension		<i>N gain</i>	Criteria
	Before	After		
Experimental Class 1	43.80	51.52	0.49	Average
Experimental Class 2	43.60	51.33	0.48	Average
Control Class	44.88	48.00	0.21	Low

The effectiveness of the reflective-picture storybook in improving reading literacy (reading interest and comprehension skills) of elementary students was analyzed by MANOVA test. The table below shows the MANOVA test results on interest and reading skills of elementary students in the experimental class and control class.

Table 3. MANOVA Test Result

Effect		F	Sig.
Intercept	Pillai's Trace	2.950E3a	0.000
	Wilks' Lambda	2.950E3a	0.000
	Hotelling's Trace	2.950E3a	0.000
	Roy's Largest Root	2.950E3a	0.000
A	Pillai's Trace	31.662	0.000
	Wilks' Lambda	1.047E2a	0.000
	Hotelling's Trace	255.486	0.000
	Roy's Largest Root	5.256E2b	0.000

Based on the results of these calculations, the significance value is smaller than 0.05 which is 0.000. So it can be concluded that there is a significant difference of reading interest and reading comprehension skills jointly between the experimental class and the control class. Therefore, the reflective-picture storybook is declared effective to increase reading literacy (interest and reading skills) of elementary students.

Conclusion

The reflective-picture storybook developed has met the feasibility criteria based on the validation results of material experts and media experts with very good category. The results of the experiment show that the reflective-picture storybook is effective in generating student literacy which includes reading interest and reading skill of elementary school students with significance value of 0.00 ($p < 0.05$).

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