

## Chapter 5

### Conclusions and Suggestions

#### Conclusion

This study has set out to investigate the use of local cultural content materials to supplement the existing vocabulary learning, in the efforts to improve the Elementary students' English vocabulary mastery. With these objectives in mind, a Classroom Action Research (CAR) was conducted in which the vocabulary learning activities inspired by the local cultural content material were carried out targeting at specific vocabularies that were thought to be somewhat deficient in the students throughout the length of this study (about four months). The CAR was held in three cycles, of which planning, acting, and reflection took place. The lessons were observed by another teacher. Triangulation was done using tests, interview with students and observer.

Based on the results of this research, this study has claimed that the use of local cultural content materials in English vocabulary teaching for foreign language learners has contributed to the improvement of their English vocabulary mastery. The vocabulary test result of each cycle, tending to improve, showed that this study was considered successful in improving their English vocabulary mastery within three cycles. Before doing the cycles, none of the students passed the passing grade, 75. After the first cycle, 16 students passed the passing grade. In the next cycle, 28 students passed the passing grade and for the last cycle, 30 students passed the passing grade. The comparison of the mean pretest score, 37 and mean posttest score, 85 indicated that the improvement was quite high, 130% with a gain score 48.

The brainstorming activity was considered the most influential in the students' English vocabulary learning. For example, Dinda with low achievement has benefited from the brainstorming. She learned the English vocabulary through sharing a lot. With the help of the videos, pictures, and teacher's reaction, she had an eagerness to share her ideas, produce and learn the words with ease. The exposure of the students' lives and surroundings in each topic encouraged the students to share their ideas. The exposure of such familiar topics has become a critical point in building the students' interest. The association of the vocabularies with their schemata or local terms has been the key to the success of providing an easy English vocabulary learning process. In sum, the students were successful in their English vocabulary mastery simply because they understood what was being learned. The students' understanding was based on their background knowledge of the materials. When they had the ideas of the topics, they would found themselves easy to brainstorm and learn the vocabularies. On the contrary, the students could not learn the vocabulary successfully if the topics were not familiar to them.

All activities in the materials appeared to make positive contribution to the students' English vocabulary learning. Thus, in obtaining the best improvement or gain score the students were

required to do all activities. Aura, Yuli, Patria, Enjelly, and Faith did not only study the vocabularies in the classroom but also outside the classroom. The other students Dimas, Ananda, Fikky, and Hanif considered that the treatment was effective to improve their English vocabulary scores to a perfect result, 100 because they were also participative in all activities. In other words, the English vocabulary learning materials were considered beneficial to students if the materials contained classroom and outside learning activities.

Lastly, the teacher's role has also been considered as another impact on the success of this study. The learning materials would not be meaningful if they would not be taught in appropriate way. Teacher was required to be creative in delivering the lessons. The use of catchy videos and pictures were effective to grab the students' attention. In addition, the energetic teacher's reaction, in which addressing some triggering responses, was claimed to be necessary to encourage the students to explore more their ideas during the brainstorming section. In sum, the teacher needed enough background knowledge of the topics and ability to create interesting classroom activities in order to deliver a successful English vocabulary teaching.

## **Suggestions**

### **Suggestions for Further Research**

This study has made attempts at the use of local cultural content materials in English vocabulary teaching for young learners of English as a foreign language in Surabayan cultural lives. While research on local cultural content materials studies in some other cultures have been conducted and claimed the same results. Thus, researchers in the field of English vocabulary teaching might be interested to pursue the same subject with studies of more experimental nature involving another scope of cultural lives in order to give support to this study.

With regards to the choice of methodology, Classroom Action Research (CAR) was chosen due to the genuine need to effect immediate changes in the classroom and its suitability as a research method to potentially cause such changes. Thus, the researcher would like to encourage other researcher to conduct experimental studies by involving two different classrooms by giving different treatments to each in order to give a quantitative support to this study by comparing the two groups. This further research might be useful to figure out whether the materials are the most influential in improving the students' vocabulary or the teaching process.

**Suggestions for teachers, headmaster, and English book writers**

Considering the benefit of the use of local cultural content materials in English vocabulary teaching as shown in this study, the researcher would like to encourage the other teachers to teach the same materials for their students with the same background of cultural lives in order to solve the English vocabulary mastery problems. And as has been explained before, the teacher's ability to cater an interesting classroom teaching has contributed to provide a successful vocabulary learning process; therefore, it is hoped that the teachers might do the same things in delivering beneficial lessons.

Currently, most of Indonesian schools adopted English learning materials from other countries which were not necessarily compatible with the students; the content was mostly unrealistic for them. Thus, it is hoped that for headmasters would be selective in providing the expected English vocabulary books for their students. The learning materials which contained the cultural realistic information should be considered as an appropriate way to provide a meaningful teaching and learning process. Lastly, the researcher also encouraged the English book writers to consider the cultural content in creating the learning materials. Local cultural content should be included to the English learning materials used for second language learners.

## References

- Adam, S. (1982). *Scripts and the Recognition of Unfamiliar Vocabulary: Enhancing Second language Reading Skills*. *Modern Language Journal*, 66, 155-159.
- Adaskou, K., Britten, D., and Fahsi, B. (1990). *Design Decision On The Culture Content Of A Secondary English Course For Morocco*, *ELT Journal*, 44 (1), 3-10.
- Alderson, J. C. (2000). *Assessing Reading*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Al-Issa, A. (2006, July) Schema Theory and L2 reading comprehension: implication for teaching. *Journal of College Teaching & Learning*, 3, 7, 41-48.
- Alptekin, C. (1990). A Look into the Use of Native Speaker Teachers in EFL Programs. *TEFL Turkey Reporter* 1/1: 5-9.
- Alptekin, C. (1993). Target Language Culture in EFL Materials. *ELT Journal* 47(2), 136-143.
- Al-Quarishi, Watson, Hafseth and Hickman, (1999). *English for Saudi Arabia*. Riyadh: Ministry of Education.
- Anderson, R.C. (1977). *Schema-Directed Processes in Language Comprehension*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Anglin, J. M. (1985). *The Child's Expressible Knowledge of Word Concepts* in K. E. Nelson (ed.): *Children's Language* 5 Hillsdale, N. J.: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Baker, W. (2003). *An investigation into the relationship between cultural awareness and second language acquisition amongst Thai undergraduate students*. MA Dissertation, Leicester University.
- Bartlett, F. C. (1932). *Remembering*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- Brooks, N. (1983). Teaching Culture in the Foreign Language Classroom, *Foreign Language Annals*, Volume 16. New York: ACTFL, Inc.
- Brown, H. D. (1994). *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Regents.
- Brown, C. (2003). *Vocabulary Acquisition Through Reading, Writing, and Tasks: A Comparison*. Temple University Graduate Board.
- Buttjes. (1990). Teaching Foreign Language and Culture: Social Impact and Political Significance. *Language Learning Journal*, (2): 55-57.
- Canagarajah, A. (1999). *Resisting Linguistic Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Carrell, P. L. (1987). *Content and Formal Schemata in ESL Reading*. *TESOL Quarterly* 21/3: 461-81.
- Carrell, P. L., & Eisterhold, J. C. (1983). Schema theory and ESL reading. *TESOL Quarterly*, 17, 218-232.

- Dede, M. & Emre, M. (1988). *Spotlight on English*. Ankara: Hitit Product.
- Dubin, F., & Olshtain, E. (1986). *Course Design*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Elley, W. B. (1991). *Acquiring Literacy in a Second Language: The Effect of Book-Based Programs*. *Language Learning*, 41(3), 375-411.
- Ellis, N. C. (2001). *Memory for Language*. In P. Robinson (Ed.), *Cognition and second language instruction* (pp. 33–68). Cambridge, England: Cambridge University press.
- Etern, I.H., and Razi, S. (2009, April). The Effects of Cultural Familiarity on Reading Comprehension. *Reading in a Foreign Language*, 1539-05787, 211, 60-70.
- Friedlander, A. (1990). *Composing in English: Effects of a First Language on Writing in English as a Second Language* (in Kroll, B. (ed.) *Second Language Writing: Research Insights for the Classroom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Hedge, T. (2000). *Teaching and Learning in the Language Classroom*. Oxford University Press.
- Heigham, J. and Croker, R. A. (2009). *Qualitative Research in Applied Linguistics: A Practical Introduction*. (ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hinds, J. (1984). *Retention of Information Using a Japanese Style of Presentation*. *Studies in Language* 8/1: 45-69.
- Hinkel, E. (Ed.) (1999). *Culture in Second Language Teaching and Learning*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hudson, R. A. (1980). *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Juan, WU. (2010). *A Content Analysis of the Cultural Content in the EFL Textbooks*. *Canadian Social Science* Vol. 6, No. 5, 2010, pp. 137-144.
- Jun, W., Xioa-hui, L. & Wei-hua, W. (2007). Analysis of Schema Theory and its Influence on Reading. *US-China Foreign Language*, 1539-8080, 5, 11 Serial No.50 *School of Foreign Languages*, Wuhan University of Technology, China.
- Johnson, P. (1982). *Effects on Reading Comprehension of Building Background Knowledge*. *TESOL Quarterly* 16/4: 503-16.
- Kachru, B. B. (1962). *An Analysis of Some Features of Indian English: A Study in Linguistic Method*. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Edinburgh.
- Kachru, B.B., and Nelson, C. (1996). World Englishes. In S.L. McKay, and N.H. Hornberger (Eds.), *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching* (pp.). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Kramsch, C. & Sullivan P. (1996). 'Appropriate pedagogy'. *ELT Journal* 50/3: 199-212.
- Krashen, S. D. (1982). *Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: Pergamon Press.
- Krashen, S. D. and Terrel, T.D (1983). *The Natural Approach: Language Acquisition in the Classroom*. Hayward, CA: Alemany Press. 183pp.

- Kroeber, A. and Kluckhohn, C. (1954). *Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions*. New York: Random House.
- Lado, R. (1957). *Linguistics across Cultures*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Landry, K. (2002). *Schemata in Second Language Reading*. The Reading Matrix, Vol.2, No.3. Retrieved from: [www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/article/theories-reading](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/article/theories-reading)
- Laufer, B. (2003). *Vocabulary Acquisition in a Second Language: Do Learners Really Acquire Most Vocabulary by Reading?* Canadian Modern Language Review, 59(4), 565-585.
- Lee, J. F. (1986). *Background Knowledge and L2 Reading*. The Modern Language Journal, 70, IV.
- Lengkanawati, N S. (2004). *How Learners from Different Cultural Backgrounds Learn a Foreign Language*. Asian EFL Journal, March 2004.
- Li, M. (2004). *Culture and Classroom Communication: A Case Study of Asian Students in New Zealand Language Schools*. Asian EFL Journal, March 2004.
- Masduzzaman et al. (2006). *Teaching and Learning Culture in EFL Classroom*. Ching Yun University of Science and Technology.
- McCarthy, M. (1990). *Vocabulary*. Oxford: OUP.
- McCarthy, M. (1991). *Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McKay, S. L. (2000). *Teaching English as an International Language: Implications for Cultural Materials in the Classroom*. TESOL Journal, 9(4), 7-11.
- McNiff, J. (1992). *Action Research: Principles and Practice* (1<sup>st</sup> Ed). Basingstoke, Macmillan and London, Routledge.
- Nagy, W. E., and Herman, P. A. (1987). *Depth and Breadth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction*. In M. G. McKeown and M. E. Curtis (Eds.), *The Nature of Vocabulary Acquisition*. (pp. 24-56). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Nassaji, H. (2002). *Schema theory and knowledge-based processes in second language reading comprehension: A need for alternative perspectives*. Language Learning, 52, 439-481.
- Nation, I.S.P. (1990). *Teaching and Learning Vocabulary*. New York: Newbury House.
- Nation, I. S. P. (2001). *Learning Vocabulary in other Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nunan, D. (1985). *Content Familiarity and the Perception of Textual Relationships in Second Language Reading*. RELC Journal 16/1: 43-51.
- Nunez, R.O. (1988). *El Libro De Inglés, Educación Básica Noveno Grado*. Publisher: Maracay: Puntio Medio.
- Oxford, R. and Crookall, D (1990). *Vocabulary Learning: A Critical Analysis of Techniques* TESL Canada Journal, 7 (2) (1990), pp. 566-593.

- Phillipson, R. (1990). *English Language Teaching and Imperialism*. Tronninge, Denmark: Transcultura.
- Pulido, D. (2003). *Modeling the Role of Second Language Proficiency and Topic Familiarity in Second Language Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition through Reading*. *Language Learning*, 53, 233–284.
- Peterson, E. & Coltrane, B. (2003, December). Culture in Second Language Teaching. *CAL Digest*, 3(9), 1-6. Retrieved from <http://www.cal.org/resource-center/briefs-digests/digests>
- Psybox Ltd. (2002). *The Schema Theory* [Electronic version] Retrieved from <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/articles/theories-reading>
- Regmi, M. (2011). *The Role of Local Culture and Context in English Language Teaching*. Article taken from <http://neltachoutari.wordpress.com> on 23 July 2013.
- Rubin, J. (1987). *Learner strategies: Theoretical assumptions, research history and typology*. In A. Wenden & J. Rubin (Eds.), *Learner strategies in language learning* (pp. 21-32). New York: Prentice Hall.
- Saragi, T., Nation, P., and Meister, G. (1978). *Vocabulary Learning and Reading*. *System* 6, 70-78.
- Saville-Troike, M. (1975) Teaching English as second culture in R. Crymes and W. Norris (eds) On TESOL 74, Washington: TESOL.
- Schouten-van Parreren, C. (1989). Vocabulary learning through reading: which conditions should be met when presenting words in texts? In P. Nation & R. Carter (Eds.), *Vocabulary Acquisition*. Amsterdam: Free University Press (AILA Review/Revue de l'AILA 6).
- Steffensen, M. S., Joag-Dev, C., and Anderson, R. (1979). *A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Reading Comprehension*. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 15, 10–29.
- Stevick, E. (1976) *Memory, Meaning, and Method*. Rowley, Massachusetts: Newbury House.
- Sukarni, E.I. (2003). *Intercultural Considerations in Developing Materials for Young Learners*. *Journal Bahasa dan Seni*, Tahun 31, No. 1.
- Thornbury, S. (2003). *How to Teach Vocabulary*. Pearson Education Limited.
- Tomalin, B. and Stempelski, S. (1993) *Cultural Awareness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Xiaowen, L. (2008). *A Study of English Vocabulary Teaching for Middle School Students*. *ESL Journal*.
- Wajnryb, R. (1992). *Classroom Observation Tasks: A Resource Book for Language Teachers and Trainers*. Cambridge University Press.
- Widdowson, H. G. (1983). *Learning Purpose and Language Use*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Widdowson, H. G. (1990). *Aspects of Language Teaching*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Widdowson, H. G. (2005). *Teaching English as a Global Language*, British.

Winfield, F. E. and Barnes-Felfeli, P. (1982). *The Effects of Familiar and Unfamiliar Cultural Content on Foreign Language Composition*. *The Modern Language Journal* 66/4: 373-8.