

## **PARENTS' SUPPORT IN ENHANCING THEIR CHILDREN'S ABILITY IN LEARNING ENGLISH**

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### ***Abstrak***

*Bahasa adalah salah satu aspek penting dari kehidupan manusia. Dengan bahasa, orang dapat berkomunikasi satu sama lain, karena melalui bahasa mereka dapat mengekspresikan ide-ide atau perasaan mereka untuk memenuhi satu atau lebih kebutuhan mereka. Merujuk pada deskripsi, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi apa yang orang tua lakukan dalam meningkatkan kemampuan anak-anak mereka dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Penelitian dilakukan kepada beberapa orang tua (parents) berlokasi dekat dengan rumah penulis yang beralamat di Jalan Siliwangi RT.17 RW.09 Purwakarta. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengklasifikasi jenis dukungan orang tua dalam meningkatkan kemampuan anak-anak mereka untuk mempelajari bahasa Inggris, dan mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Dalam menggunakan metode deskriptif, penulis juga mendapatkan data penelitian dari kuesioner, dimana ditemukan bahwa orangtua yang memberikan dukungan kepada anak-anak mereka dalam meningkatkan bahasa Inggris mendapat poin 11,40%. Orang tua yang tidak mendukung sebanyak 7.81%, dan orang tua yang kadang-kadang memberikan dukungan mendapatkan 0,74% poin. Ini berarti sebagian besar orang tua peduli kepada anak-anak mereka dalam meningkatkan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris walaupun ada keterbatasan dana dalam memberikan materi untuk mendukung itu.*

***Katakunci:*** *dukungan, meningkatkan, belajar bahasa Inggris.*

### **Introduction**

English is a language which is able to be accepted by everyone around the world. English language has been known as the world language since hundreds years ago. Learning English has become a very essential necessity in modern society, because by learning English people can improve

their knowledge and play a very important role in trading, diplomatic relations, international conference, and also in mass communication.

There are four main skills that should be mastered by students in learning English. They are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Those skills are holistically makes a unity that cannot be separated from one another because they are closely interrelated. One of the most useful for the learners to enlarge their knowledge is speaking ability.

Speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others. Speaking also is a form of communication, and normally, there is a two way system of communication; first, as situatioan where only one person speaks and others only listen. Second, the roles are reversed. The becomes listener, and the listener as the speaker. Wardaugh in Imorawan (2008) states that the most useful for children to understand English is mastering the speaking proficiency while it is an easiest thing to attain the knowledge but hard to master it.

There are a lot parents have children who are studying English not only at school but also at home as a second school. Certainly parents support is needed to enhance their children's English proficiency.

This special paper contains a description of parents' support in enhancing children's ability in learning English; what parents do, and factors influencing it (Imorawan, 2008).

## **1. The Research Questions**

- 1.1. What kind of support done by parents to enhance their children's ability in learning English?
- 1.2. What factors that influence parents in enhancing their children in learning English?

## **2. The Methodology of Research**

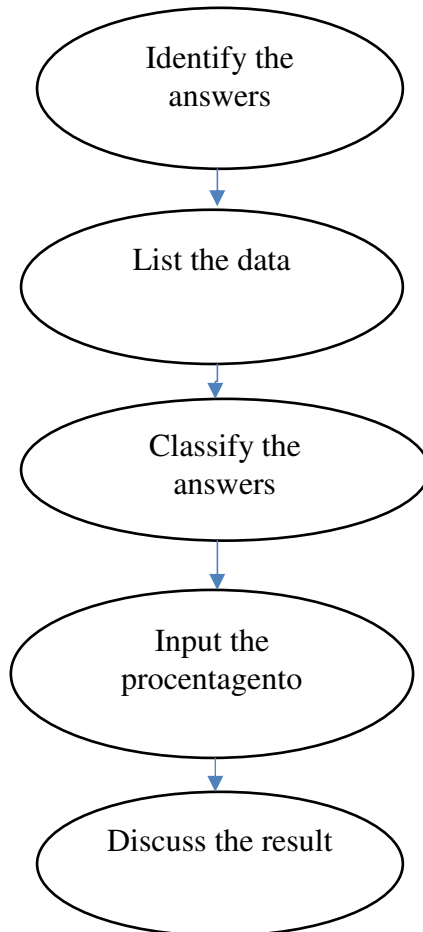
First, the writer chooses the respondents who are nearest place in her neighborhood. Then she spreads questionnaire to fill up. Next the writer checks the parents as respondents whether they had not understood to fill up questionnaire then she will be there helping them to answer.

After finishing the questionnaire, the writer read it one by one identifying the answers. Then she goes to list the form, classify what parents

done in enhancing their children learning English, and what factors influence it.

Next inputing the data procentage into computer then discuss the result with parents.

### **Flowchart of Data Analysis**



The population of the research are 40 parents at RT.17 RW.09 Siliwangi Purwakarta, and the sample are 20 parents chosen the nearest of the writer's house.

### **3. The Clarification of The Term**

The title of the paper is 'Parents' support in enhancing their children's ability in learning English' should be clarified to avoid misunderstanding of the terms in title above. The writer attempts to clarify them as follows:

#### **Parents's support in enhancing children's ability in learning English**

Parents' support means something like attention of parents to children towards something better. These attentions not only give the materials for them but also the spritual things like love, mercy, short warm dialogue, and parents' attitude to support their children's ability to do something. Mahmud Mahdi Al-Istambuli (2006) stated that education and teaching are not perfect if there are no loves, especially for children who live with their feels. The mother as the teacher needs a patient, preseverance, sincerity, and if she need... the sacrifices. So where are those characters realized with no love? Love is really the most influence to get easy in education at home. (Al-Istambuli, 2006) (Adhim, 2004)

To enhance children's motivation in learning English is a step to increase their achievement of it. The parents should make children happy before learn. According to Dunn & Dunn (1993) that the children learn faster if they feel happy. And the good teaching is the education which it gets children's spontaneous interest with their desire.

### **4. Theoretical Foundation**

Actually the children should understand English language when they do school English task, also if they operate the computer, internet, use the electric tools, toys, playing game, watch English film, and finally, English is needed to deliver our knowledge to people around the world as the International language.

According to Mahmud Mahdi (2006:73), because of children are often stay at home with family, so that they more close with parents, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or grandparents like infant baby who started to know his/her mother since a month of birth if the mother gets interaction with baby everyday. (Al-istambuli, 2006)

We, as parents, have to understand that children have a sensitive feelings. They feel that their family always service them and give safety to

make them feel comfort and satisfied. From this, we can find that loves appears between parents and children.

Certainly parents support in enhancing children's ability in learning English is needed. Parents can support and give the spirit to them in learning time. Of course this is kind of positive support even though parents do not like or do not understand about English language. This is done because parents know the importance of English.

According to Joan Beck (2003), parents need to support children's ability in learning English by saying the words, exercising talk, and giving such praises if their pronunciation is correct. (Beck, 2003)

Most of parents identified by the writer like English very much though cannot read it, cannot spell, write, in English. They found obstacles when supporting children to learn English. And this problem is happened whether English very difficult to learn. These parents thought English is hard. As they wrote in the questionnaire, they learn English only at school, once a week in two hours.

Kalid Ahmad Syantut (2007:88) in his book stated that there are two kinds of parents' support such as spiritual and material support. (Syantut, 2007)

### **Spiritual Support**

Every parent in the world has loves to their children. To love and to be loved by children is a special moment for parents. Especially in education case, love plays important role. Love can be felt by children if the family is a harmonious team like having the perfect members of family, going with functions and keeping of parents' attitude, willing to have children and teaching them, the good family environment, giving the spirit – not giving the charge, and the most important is love. Beside those factors that influence them to enhance their children's ability is a mother. Mother is the first woman who does the interaction with children since they have been birth. The closest contact between mother and children shown when children felt comfort in mother's warm hugs.

### **Material Support**

Surayin (2003) stated that English as foreign and international language is better begin to be introduced and learnt since childhood time, so,

imitating, saying, and using the simple English will not burden for them. But it is a pleasure habit and causes a big capital to learn English next level up to the children grown up. (Surayin, 2003)

According to Wojowasito (1985:51) in his book, 'to enhance' is the same as to increase the brave of children to want learning English at home, at school, in the morning, afternoon, evening, everytime and everywhere. (Wojowasito, 1985)

In enhancing their children to learn English at home, the conversation theory is about life and also daily activities around family, environment, school, and places which often visited by children such as the zoo, playing room, and another places that will be interesting activities for children to read, to imitate, and then try to do it in their own activities.

### **The strategy of parents' support in enhancing their children's ability in learning English**

There are 3 kinds of strategy to learn English such as:

*a. Enjoying Teaching Learning*

The old parents often read the fairy to children before sleeping. They usually do it orally without reading. The fairy is myth, fairy tale, even true story.

According to Hernowo (2001:45), fairy is very important to begin learning. The fairy gives 'the wings' to children for doing free flying. It also opens the chance to appear a lot of great potency like imagination. With fairy, the substance of learning can be shown interesting and make someone have a brave to chance. (Hernowo, 2001)

*b. Emotional Intelligence*

Hernowo (2005:23) in his book stated that there is a specialist of accountant who is really trust to numeric and logic thinking. One day, when he was asked for his director to explain what his found in the meeting. He got nervous to face people around. Suddenly, what had he learnt gone. It was happened probably he had high IQ but less in EQ. So, the rational intelligence is impossible to get maximum function if we were nervous or restless. (Hernowo, *Kisah Tentang Kiprah Guru 'Multiple Intellegences' di Sekolah*, 2005)

The nervous is complication with emotional. If we want to think logic in effective, we have to be in enjoy situation. It means, we have to use emotional intelligent to create our brain to have positive thinking.

According to Zohar and Marshall (2005) in Hernowo (2005:27), sometimes after IQ and EQ work effectively, someone did not know what for things were thought with rational and emotional? SQ should give direction to utilization of IQ and EQ is effective or have a clear striving and specific. (Hernowo, Kisah Tentang Kiprah Guru 'Multiple Intellegences' di Sekolah, 2005) (Hernowo, Kisah Tentang Kiprah Guru 'Multiple Intelligence' di Sekolah, 2005)

c. *Knowing The Children's Interest*

Laurence Steinberg (2004:84) in her book stated that probably we have ever tried making children interested to what we have done, but have you ever think to develop the interest to things which attracted their interest?

It can give us other chance to spend time with them and each connected. This is going to give a different feel to them than if we let them do our interesting.

Sometimes, parents were not involved in the act which be liked by them, because they still very young and attracted to things which did not interest to parents like playing Barbie doll or comic figures. If we are in this situation, there is strategy that can do i.e can we stop as adult for a second and enjoy with whatever we can do with children? We can enjoy it if we lost the tense situation.

Parents prefer spend the time with children if the act done is parents choice, because it makes parents have time to teach something. But it is not all of we do with children must become learning experience. Exactly, many parents spent a lot of time trying to teach them, and that is often happen if the only interest that we divided with them is thing that our skill and they are as a new member.

## **5. The Data Collection Technique**

The questionnaire is used to identify the parents' answer that they have done. In this study, the writer spreads that questionnaire to 20 parents

and collects it when the form is answered. The questionnaires are as below:

Questionnaire:

*The Parents' Support*

1. Apakah anda sebagai orang tua menyukai bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
2. Apakah anak-anak anda menyukai bahasa Inggris juga? Ya / Tidak
3. Apakah anak-anak anda membaca bacaan bahasa Inggris baik buku-buku bahasa Inggris ataupun film?
4. Apakah anda menyuruh anak-anak anda:
  - a. Membaca novel atau komik bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
  - b. Menonton film bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
  - c. Mengikuti les bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
  - d. Berbicara bahasa Inggris meskipun belum benar dalam pengucapannya?
5. Apakah anda mengajak anak-anak anda belajar bahasa Inggris dengan bahasa kasih sayang (cinta)? Ya / Tidak / Kadang-kadang
6. Apakah anda marah ketika anak-anak anda tidak mau belajar bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak / Kadang-kadang
7. Apakah ada memberikan anak-anak anda pujian ketika mereka melakukan yang terbaik dalam belajar bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak / Kadang-kadang
8. Apakah anda memberikan anak-anak anda semangat dalam belajar bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak  
Jika Ya, semangat diberikan seperti apa?
9. Apa yang anda lakukan untuk mendukung anak-anak anda belajar bahasa Inggris?

*Enhancing their children's ability*

1. Apakah anda menyuruh anak-anak anda belajar bahasa Inggris sejak kecil? Ya / Tidak
2. Apakah anda menyuruh anak-anak anda mengikuti lomba bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
3. Apakah anda memilihkan kata-kata bahasa Inggris/gambar dan menempelkannya di dinding kamar anak anda? Ya / Tidak



4. Apakah anda suka bernyanyi lagu berbahasa Inggris bersama anak-anak anda? Ya / Tidak
5. Apakah anda mengulang-ulang nyanyian tersebut untuk mendapatkan perhatian anak? Ya / Tidak
6. Apakah anda menyediakan anak-anak anda CD film/lagu atau buku berbahasa Inggris? YA / Tidak
7. Apakah anda melatih kemampuan bahasa Inggris anak anda sendiri? Ya / Tidak
8. Apakah anda berbicara bahasa Inggris dalam latihan mereka? Ya / Tidak
9. Apakah anda mengajak mereka pergi ke tempat yang mereka sukai untuk belajar bahasa Inggris? Ya / Tidak
10. Apa yang anda lakukan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris anak anda? Ya / Tidak

*In learning English*

1. Apakah anda menyuruh anak-anak anda belajar bahasa Inggris secara rutin? Ya / Tidak
2. Apakah anda meminta mereka untuk mau belajar bahasa Inggris dengan:
  - a. Menyuruh mereka belajar misalnya 5 kata dalam bahasa Inggris per hari? Ya / Tidak
  - b. Menyuruh mereka mengerjakan PR (pekerjaan rumah) bahasa Inggris sendiri? (Ya / Tidak)
  - c. Meminta mereka bertanggung jawab atas PR (pekerjaan rumah) yang dikerjakannya? YA / Tidak
  - d. Memberi mereka latihan berbicara bahasa Inggris seperti: *Close the door, please. Bring me that magazine.* Dan lain-lain. Ya / Tidak
3. Apakah anda sering bermain tebak-tebakan dalam bahasa Inggris? YA / Tidak
4. Apakah anda membacakan mereka cerita sebelum tidur? Ya / Tidak
5. Apakah anda mengetahui minat apa yang anak-anak anda sukai dalam belajar bahasa Inggris? Mendengarkan – Menulis – Membaca – Berbicara

6. Apa yang anda lakukan untuk anak anda dalam belajar bahasa Inggris?

### 6. Calculating Data

In analyzing the data, the writer had collected datas from 20 parents' answer of questionnaire. The list of data are as follows:

**Tabel 1**  
**Data of Parents' Answer**

No.	Respondent	Answer			Percentage			Total Questions
		Yes	No	Sometimes	Yes	No	Sometimes	
1	Parent 1	22	3	2	0,81	0,11	0,07	27
2	Parent 2	14	11	2	0,52	0,41	0,07	27
3	Parent 3	17	8	2	0,63	0,30	0,07	27
4	Parent 4	18	7	2	0,67	0,26	0,07	27
5	Parent 5	21	4	2	0,78	0,15	0,07	27
6	Parent 6	15	12	0	0,56	0,44	0,00	27
7	Parent 7	19	7	1	0,7	0,26	0,04	27
8	Parent 8	8	19	0	0,3	0,70	0,00	27
9	Parent 9	23	4	0	0,85	0,15	0,00	27
10	Parent 10	10	17	0	0,37	0,63	0,00	27
11	Parent 11	7	17	3	0,26	0,63	0,11	27
12	Parent 12	15	9	3	0,56	0,33	0,11	27
13	Parent 13	6	20	1	0,22	0,74	0,04	27
14	Parent 14	18	9	0	0,67	0,33	0,00	27
15	Parent 15	16	11	0	0,59	0,41	0,00	27
16	Parent 16	19	8	0	0,7	0,30	0,00	27
17	Parent 17	13	13	1	0,48	0,48	0,04	27
18	Parent 18	9	17	1	0,33	0,63	0,04	27
19	Parent 19	19	8	0	0,7	0,30	0,00	27
20	Parent 20	20	7	0	0,74	0,26	0,00	27
		309	211	20	11,4	7,81	0,74	

## 7. The Result of Research

From essay answers the writer found are as follows:

**Table 2**  
**Parents Answer in Essay Questions**

No.	Spiritual Support	Material Support	Another effort
1	Make children understand that English is the international language which used in the world for communication	Books, CDs, English game toys	Let kids to practice English with friend or teacher.  Practice ask and answer between parent and children
2	Come, guide, and wait for children when they take English course	Electronic dictionary, Computer	Remind and remind again when children got lazy to learn English
3	Praises	Watch TV English program	Invite English teacher to teach kids at home
4	Rewards	Provide other facilities for learning English	English novel, comics
5	Help kids to be on time in English course		Puzzle in computer

No.	Spiritual Support	Material Support	Another effort
6	Make children sure for getting high score in English test like TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS		English exercises, English competition
7	Show the good students videos who learn in overseas		Make a simple English dialogue
8	Make sure children that English would be used in business in the world		Write down English songs lyric
9	Love, patience, sincere support		

The writer found that ‘answer YES’ got 11.40% point, and ‘answer NO’ has 7.81%, and ‘answer Sometimes’ has got 0.74% only. For the essay answers as shown on the table 2, tells us that the one reason why parents support their children in enhancing English learning because parents know how English is very important, and it is proved by answering no.1, no. 6, no. 7, and no. 8 in Spiritual Support coloumn in Table 2.

## **8. Conclusion**

The result of the research about parents’ support in enhancing their children’s ability in learning English shows us:

1. Parents give support to their children by giving material and spiritual supports. They provide the facilities for learning English like good books, educational toys, computer, CDs, and so on.

While spiritual supports such as showing the good students videos who learn in overseas, making children sure for getting high score in English test like TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, making sure children understand that English is the international language which used in the world for communication, and so forth.

2. The one reason or the only one factor why parents support their children in enhancing English learning because parents know how English is very important, and it is proved in parents' answer of reserch question no.1 above.

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