

Musical Intelligence in English for Young Learners' Class

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, teachers have to be active in creating a fun and enjoyable atmosphere in the young learners' class. The characteristics of young learners which are very unique from one to others make the teachers need more competent. Teaching and learning process of young learners should be creative. It means that the English teachers have to think about their students' ability in comprehending the materials. In addition, the teachers' intelligence has to be applied in managing the class well. One of the important intelligence is musical intelligence. Both the teachers and the students are able to use musical intelligence in the class. They can apply many activities related to musical intelligence such as singing and playing music instrument. Most people believe that children like singing. In fact, parents teach song to their children in the early ages. This paper explores the use of musical intelligence in English for young learners' class. The writer focuses on the use of English songs. English songs can be used to motivate and enhance students' knowledge. Through English songs, the students of young learners can improve their vocabulary. Furthermore, singing English songs can help students in learning pronunciation.

Keywords: Musical intelligence, young learners

INTRODUCTION

In our country English is needed in many areas especially education. English is taught in every level of education. The lowest level of education introduces English as a basic knowledge for the students of young learners. They get English not to communicate in daily life since English is as an international language in Indonesia. To be able to communicate fluently in English needs a process. Everyone has to practice English to get a good result.

Teaching English is not easy because English is not the students' mother tongue. However, many people like studying English even young learners. Young learners are tend to be unique. They have different characteristics between one to others. The teachers have to be active in teaching them. They have to use a vary media and technique to be applied in the classroom.

In addition, the teachers' and students' intelligence also play an important role in English class. There are some intelligence called multiple intelligence. They are linguistics, number, spatial, kinesthetic, musical, people, self and nature intelligence. Those intelligence supports one to others. One of the interesting intelligence to be discussed is multiple intelligence. The English teachers especially teachers of young learners should have a high musical intelligence. They need it to create a fun atmosphere.

The use of songs in the English class could be used for young learners since many children like songs. In many condition of the fields, the few English teachers use songs in the class. It happen because the English songs for children are rarely found in their daily life. There are some benefits of using songs in the class, they are improving students' vocabulary, pronunciation, motivation, etc. So, it is a good way when the English teachers applied songs in the class especially for young learners.

TEACHING ENGLISH FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Young learners mean children between five and ten or eleven years old (Scott and Ytreberg, 1990). Teaching English for young learners are vary from one class to others. It will be more active when the teacher is using appropriate methods in the class. Being able to create a fun class for young learners are enjoyable feeling for English teachers. Furthermore, the different characteristics of young learners make the class interesting. The students of young learners are unique. They are very different from others. They are vary one another. The characteristics of young learners influence the way they learn and act in the classroom. Based on the condition, the English teachers have to understand the students' characteristics.

The activity in the class should be based on students' needs. The English teachers for young leaners have to be patient and relax in delivering the materials in the class. In addition, the teaching and learning process of young learners have to be simple. Responding the children's language needs a high motivation from the whole students in the class. The activities in the teaching for young learners are concrete to support their ability in mastering English well.

Teaching English for young learners are not easy to do. The English teachers have to use fun strategy and technique to get the students' attention. It also needs to be an active English class because the English teachers have to be like children. The English teachers are tending to be students' friends to gasp students' concentration. In giving instruction to the students, the English teachers need to use simple language. Simple language means all of the students get the meaning without any doubt. The language in the classroom is needed for the students to communicate.

The atmosphere of the English class for young learners needs to be fun and active. It means that the students have to participate in the class. This condition is hard to do for the teachers. The teachers argue that the methods and strategies applied in the young learners' class are very different with adults or advance class. So, the English teacher should be able to create an enjoyable class for young learners.

Multiple Intelligence

Someone's intelligence plays a big role in his/her life. There are eight types of intelligence suggested by Howard Gardner. They are:

1. Naturalist intelligence (nature smart)
Designates the human ability to discriminate among living things (plants, animals) as well as sensitivity to other features of the natural world (clouds, rock configurations)
2. Musical intelligence (musical smart)

It is the capacity to discern pitch, rhythm, timbre, and tone. This intelligence enables us to recognize, create, reproduce, and reflect on music, as demonstrated by composers, conductors, musicians, vocalist, and sensitive listeners.

3. Logical-mathematical intelligence (number/reasoning smart)

It is the ability to calculate, quantify, consider propositions and hypotheses, and carry out complete mathematical operations.

4. Interpersonal intelligence (people smart)

It is the ability to understand and interact effectively with others.

5. Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence (body smart)

It is the capacity to manipulate objects and use a variety of physical skills.

6. Linguistic intelligence (word smart)

It is the ability to think in words and use language to express and appreciate complex meaning.

7. Intra-personal intelligence (self smart)

It is the capacity to understand oneself and one's thoughts and feelings, and to use such knowledge in planning and directioning one's life.

8. Spatial intelligence (picture smart)

It is the ability to think in three dimensions.

Musical Intelligence

This paper only discusses about musical intelligence. Based on <http://m.wisageek.com>, musical intelligence is the capacity to think in music and rhythm. People who have high musical intelligence can easily remember songs and melodies and can identify differences between musical pitches and generally enjoy being immersed in music. Usually, the type of this person is able to play music instruments. In daily life, we can use the benefits from musical intelligence, such as when we sing a song, play a music instrument and listening to the music. There are many jobs related to musical intelligence: singer, pianist, disc jockey (DJ).

Musical Intelligence in English for Young Learners' Class

There are many ways to teach English for young learners. The English teachers have to select appropriate methods and approach based on students' needs. They have to think hard to manage the class well and produce an enjoyable atmosphere. On the other hand, if they use monotonous activity in the class, the students will feel bored. Getting nice attention from the students is not easy thing to do. The English teachers have to use the best strategy to make the students happy in the class. Besides that, simple instruction also plays an important role in the teaching and learning process. The English teachers have to be motivator and leader in the class. They have to motivate the students to study hard in order to master English well. Furthermore, the teachers have to be the students' friends in the class to make the situation more relax. In managing the class, the teacher needs a good participation to create an enjoyable class.

In teaching, the teachers can use real media, story telling, song, etc. Song is one way to get the students' attention. Every child likes songs. Song becomes part of daily life. We can find people singing a song in everywhere and anywhere. Young people to

old people use songs as the music to make their feeling more relax. In the lowest level of education, teachers teach songs to the students. Songs are very familiar to people especially young learners. The students of young learners feel easier in learning using songs. So, many English teachers in Indonesia use songs to teach English.

There are many types of songs which can be used in the classroom, from nursery rhymes to contemporary pop music. In the real situation of English teaching and learning process, the English teachers are possible to create songs (Indonesian translated in English). In young learners' class, the English teachers have to select the simple songs so the students can easily memorize the lyrics. The intelligence of the students influence the way they memorize and understand the songs. The students who have high musical intelligence can easily memorize the songs. In addition, the teachers who have high musical intelligence will often use songs to teach their students. They will use the songs to get students' attention and to motivate students in learning English.

Being able to use songs in the English classroom means that the English teacher and students can develop many activities. In teaching and learning process, the English teacher can use tape or CD player if she/he feels uncomfortable singing in front of the class. Based on <http://www.englishclub.com>, there are some suggested activities to use with kids:

- a. Transition songs: teach simple songs that indicate transition from one activity to another, such as "hello/goodbye" song.
- b. Energy boosters: teach simple action songs that require kids to stand up and move around.
- c. Animal songs: children love learning about animals. Teach animals and animal sounds using repetitive songs like "Old McDonald had a Farm".
- d. Multi-culturalism: teach about multi-cultural instruments and learn how to create them in class.
- e. Remembering names: help students remember names of their classmates (this helps teachers too) with songs like "Willoughby Wallaby Woo."
- f. Alphabet songs: use lots of different alphabet songs (not just the traditional ABC) to help kids remember them in English.
- g. Colours: teach the colours with various colour songs and rhythms, such as Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World".
- h. Rewards: reward hard working kids with "Music Time".
- i. Student teachers: encourage the kids to teach each other songs from their own language. Turn this into an English lesson by having students translate the meaning.

The length of a phrase in a typical children's song is short and often uses simple conversational language. Murphey (1992) states that the pauses after each phrase are typically longer in comparison to the phrase itself, which can allow learners to process the language and shadow in real time. When the teacher uses songs in English class, both the English teacher and students can read and write the lyrics, draw picture, sing together, clap hands, etc. It means that using songs in the teaching and learning process in the English class not only use musical intelligence but also linguistic intelligence. Therefore, among the types of intelligence are close to the others.

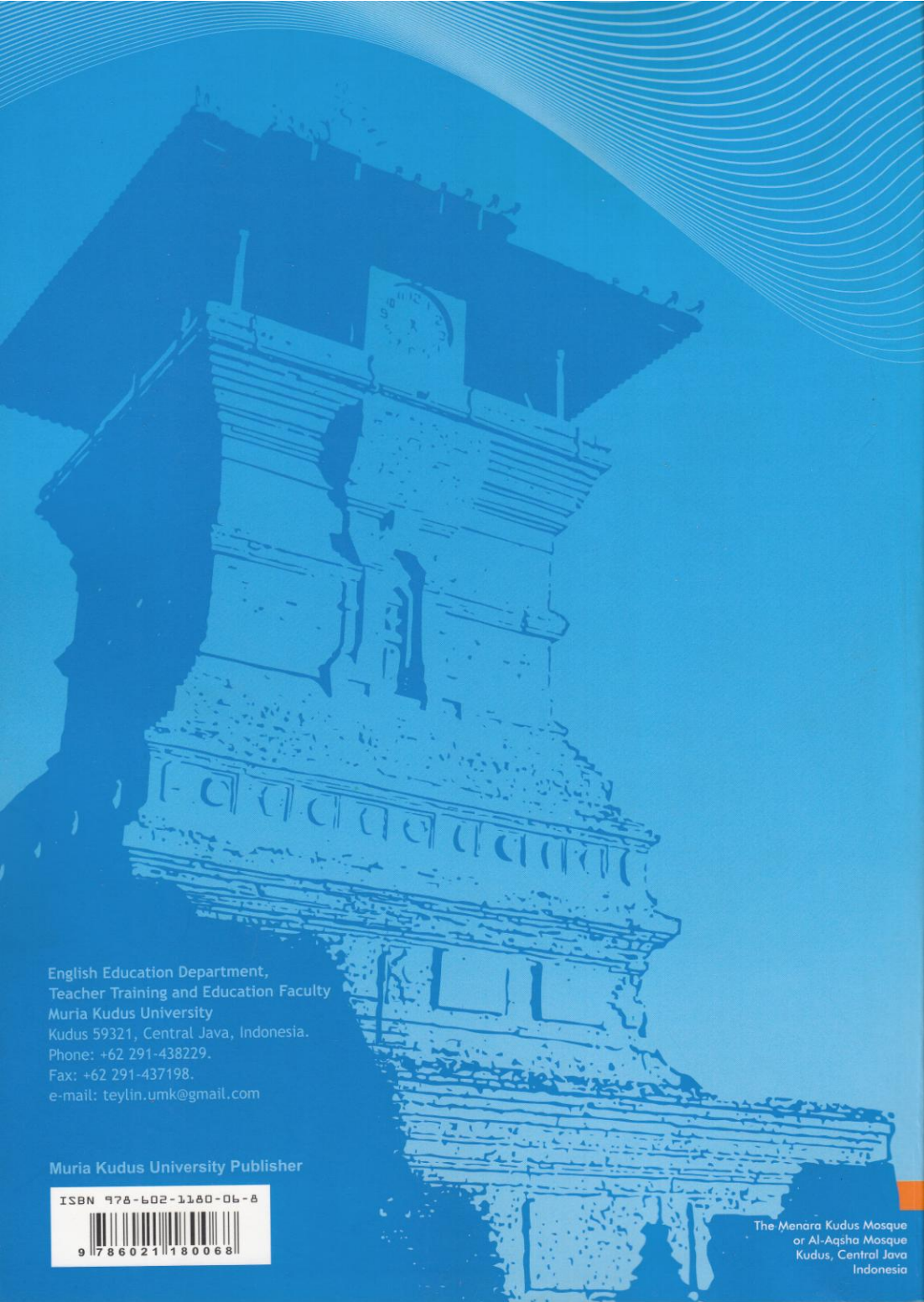
Musical intelligence is very needed in teaching English for young learners. It can make the atmosphere more fun and interesting if both teacher and students have high musical intelligence. Song is one tool which effect learners' feeling. There are many benefits of using song in the English class. They are improving listening, reading, grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. Patel and Jain (2008) stated that reading habits not only help the student to get knowledge and wisdom from the cultural of heritage, but are also very helpful in passing for leisure period. By using songs, the teacher can deliver the materials easily. While listening English song, the students can improve listening comprehension skill. The students may read the lyric that can improve their reading skill. When the students sing a song, they learn the way they pronounce English words. Furthermore, they also understand the vocabulary in the lyric of the song. In addition, English song can motivate students in learning English.

CONCLUSION

Most children enjoy singing songs. They like singing everyday. Songs play an important role in the development of young learners. Both English teacher and students need to use their musical intelligence to make the class interesting and fun. In this case, the teachers can use songs in English for young learners' class. Songs are considered to be the effective way to teach children. They can improve students' skills, components and motivation.

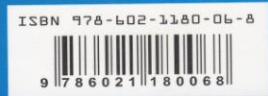
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