

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEACHER'S MOTIVATIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE FREEDOM WRITERS MOVIE

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Abstract

This research was aimed to know how the teacher motivates her learners and to observe the activities which were applied by the teacher in Freedom Writers movie. The method was descriptive qualitative analysis. The data was taken from the movie and its scripts. The data collection technique was documentation meanwhile the technique of data analysis is content analysis. The research findings were as follows; 1). The teacher employed 10 different motivational strategies. 2). The researcher found the various ways how the teacher applied the strategies in the classroom, those were; by giving respect, love, care and always motivate her learners, playing game, using song's lyrics, writing assignment, switching the learners' seat, field trip, discuss with some informants and give the support to the learners who got failed in their evaluation. However, all the kinds of those teacher's strategies to motivate the learners which found in the movie can be used as references for the teacher in aspiring to be good educators in the future. Further study is recommended for a deeper investigation into teachers' motivational strategies and their used in the classroom activities.

Key Words: *Teacher, Motivational Strategies and Freedom Writers movie*

Introduction

Teachers have the ability in learning process which is closely related to their ability to build the learners' motivation to learn and participate in the classroom activities. As we know that an increase in learners' motivation can lead the increasing in their productivity. Furthermore, motivation is expressed in the term of objectives and direction, level effort, depth of involvement and degree of perseverance in learning (Ushioda, 2014). In the context of education, attitude and motivation strategies are

psychological factors that cannot be divorced from teaching and learning activities. Each teacher has a unique strategy for motivating their learners during the teaching and learning process. Meanwhile, Brophy (in Uno, 2010) explains a list of motivation strategies used by teachers to encourage learners to participate and productive in the learning process, including interrelations to the learning environment (which includes a sportive environment, a difficult learning environment, and a good learning environment), and the desire to succeed (consist of successful program, the purpose of teaching, reward, positive competition and result of study). It implies that the teacher significantly contributes to the learners' success in reaching their goals.

This condition also showed by an educative movie with title *Freedom Writers*. This movie has a potential of educative value which can be adopted by the teachers or future teachers. The movie shows the condition in teaching learning process, the teacher's and her learners' problems and how she motivates her learners to solve it. Besides that, the movie also has the story about racial discrimination and bullying which was occurred in the school environment. The learners cannot pay attention in the classroom because they are consisting from different backgrounds, the sentimental problems of the race between the learners. The researcher used this movie as an object because this movie is interesting to be analyzed. Beside this movie has a good rating and based on true story, the condition quite related with the teachers in Indonesia where they need to use various ways in order to increase learners' awareness, motivate and make them to pay attention while teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the differences of learners' backgrounds and environments, strong and weak groups at school and multicultural conditions which allow the possibility of discrimination. Research conducted by Listanti et al. (2017) entitled "Analyzing Learners' Discrimination in Primary School". Their research found that the negative stigma that leads to prejudice arises as a result of someone's perspective toward racial, religious, social, or cultural diversity. This diversity can also be present in primary school, where some learners are not yet capable of appreciating and respecting it. From this research we knew that the discrimination were common happened in our country. So that, it is why the researcher thought, this movie is good to be analyzed. Because, the creativity of teacher is needed, the researcher believed from this movie, the teacher will know the strategies and can use those strategies to motivate the learners.

Some previous studies were conducted such as a thesis by Maria Ulfa (2018) for the second previous study, titled “*Examining Teachers’ Role in Motivating Learners’ Learning*”. The purpose of this study was to determine how teachers encourage learners to participate in the learning process, as well as some specific strategies that teachers employ to urge learners to participate in the learning process. The qualitative technique was used in this research. Two English teachers from MAN Darul Ulum Boarding School took part in her research. The data analysis revealed that teachers used a variety of methods to motivate learners, which can be divided into four categories: creating the basic motivational conditions, generating initial motivation, maintaining and protecting motivation, and encouraging positive retrospective self-evaluation. In addition, the teacher used some unique strategies, such as games and role play.

Besides that article entitled “*An Analysis of Teaching Strategies in Essay Writing in the Movie “Freedom Writers” by Richard La Gravenese*” by Nesya Intan (2017). The findings were evaluated in relation to Chasin's theory using library research with a descriptive qualitative technique. The findings revealed that the teacher used three different types of teaching strategies: active learning, case method, and integrating technology. The teacher's strategies demonstrated progress in learning and created a positive environment. The learners' responses indicated that the tactics utilized by the teacher had a positive impact and motivated them.

On the other hand, Kassing (2011) published a thesis titled “*Perceptions of Motivational Teaching Strategies in an EFL Classroom: The Case of a Class in a Private University in Indonesia*”. The objective of this research was to learn about tertiary learners' and lecturers' perspectives of teaching practices that both groups believe have an impact on learners' willingness to learn EFL in Indonesia's eastern area. A qualitative research method was applied in this study. The information was gathered through semi-structured individual interviews with EFL lecturers and focus groups with learners and lecturers. According to the findings, both lecturers and learner-teachers agreed that building and maintaining relationships was a highly effective strategy for engaging learners in an EFL classroom. The study also discovered that several EFL lecturers were unaware of how certain of their teaching strategies affected their learners' motivation. The time obligations of lecturers outside of this university proved to be a substantial obstacle to optimizing the usage of several motivational teaching strategies

in English classes. These findings have implications for learners' motivation. The implications of these findings for learners' practice are significant. Teachers can improve learners' motivation by generating, sustaining, and expanding on initial motivation by being more aware of how varied teaching and learning strategies in the EFL classroom.

From those researchers above, they proved that there were various strategies to improve the learners' motivation in teaching and learning process which can be applied in classroom. Therefore, the researcher expected to conduct a research in order to understand more about the teacher's motivational strategies and how they were implemented in classroom activities by the main character in that movie. In this occasion, the researcher gave this research entitled *The Implementation of Teacher's Motivational Strategies in The Freedom Writes Movie*.

Theoretical Studies

Motivational Strategies

Meaning of Motivation

In the context of education, motivation is essential. According to Keller (2010), motivation relates to what people want, what they choose to do, what they commit to doing, what goals they choose to pursue, and how they go about achieving those goals; in other words, it explains the direction and amplitude of activity.

In the context of learning, motivation serves as a motivator for learners to engage in learning activities and to keep such activities going (Rohmah, 2015). Furthermore, Brown (1994) demonstrates that motivation is defined by terms such as inner drive, impulse, emotion, or desire, all of which encourage learners to complete a specific action. Besides that Oxford and Shearin (1994) agreed with Brown in significant part because they believe in the power of self-desire to attain a goal. Many researchers have varied definitions of motivation. So it is important to understand how motivation affects an achievement. Given the previous facts, it can be stated that motivation is needed for learners to maintain their activity, particularly in the teaching and learning of English area.

The Teacher Motivational Strategy

Every teacher should be able to motivate their learners in a variety of ways. In addition, every learner is unique in terms of how they might be motivated. Based on

Eric and Lynley (2014), various teacher-led instructional practices may have varied effects on different learners; for example, some learners may be positively motivated by a particular form of instructional practice, while others may not be. Motivational strategies are acts taken by teachers to increase a learner's motivation to study by stimulating or providing a motivating experience for learners (Wlodkowski in Nugroho and Madya, 2015).

Finally, based on the ideas above, we can conclude that in the teaching and learning activities the motivational strategies is the ways or action which was created by the teachers whose purpose is to increase the motivation of the learners till they can change their behavior and give the positive effect for them and their environment.

The Purpose of Using Motivational Strategies

Because motivation offers the required incentive for learning, the teacher should always attempt to motivate learners. Motivational strategies, according to Hornstra et al (2015), relate to all teaching strategies that aim to motivate learners to learn. Furthermore, Dornyei and Usioda (2010) stated that motivational approach serves the following purposes:

1. Learners' motivation is consciously generated using motivational strategies.
2. Its goal is to boost learners' motivation.
3. It is used to keep learners motivated over time.
4. It serves to protect learners' motivation from the effects of competing and also distracting data.

The Motivational Strategies on Teaching based on Dornyei's theory (2001)

1. Creating Basic Motivational Condition

Because motivational strategies cannot be used successfully in the absence of motivation, so first the teacher should develop a fundamental motivational environment. Here are three conditions that must be met in order to properly motivate learners:

- a. The appropriateness of teacher's behaviors and good relationship
- b. Pleasant and supportive classroom environment
- c. A cohesive learner group

2. Generating Initial Motivation

After creating basic motivational condition, learners' motivation does not

develop by itself; the teacher must actively encourage learners to have a good attitude about learning. To generate the learners' motivation the teacher can;

- a. Increasing the learners' expectation of success
 - b. Making teaching materials relevant for the learners
3. Maintaining and Protecting Motivation

The teacher should to maintain learners' motivation after getting the initial motivation. Because learners have a natural inclination to lose sight of their goal, become fatigued or bored while learning, and be distracted from their initial drive. As a result, learners' motivation must be safeguarded and maintained. There are a number of motivating upkeeps. Executive motivational methods are another term for them. The following are some examples of executive motivating areas:

- a. Making learning stimulating and enjoyable
 - b. Presenting task in some motivating ways
 - c. Increasing learners' self-confidence
4. Encouraging Positive Retrospective Self-Evaluation

This section is for determining the learners' self-evaluation. How might the teacher assist the learners in thinking about their own accomplishments. The teacher assists the learners in evaluating their previous performance in a favorable light and explaining their previous failures in a constructive manner. The teacher also demonstrates their growth and accomplishment in studying English. The teacher can conduct this portion in a variety of ways, as follows:

- a. Providing motivational feedback
- b. Increasing learner satisfaction
- c. Offering reward and grade in a motivation manner

Research Methodology

The descriptive qualitative design was applied to this research because it was intended to describe Ms. Erin Gruwell's motivational strategies and its implementation in the classroom activities. This type of research design does not use detailed arithmetic calculations or statistics, but it does include sentences or object descriptions. According to Moleong (2002), qualitative research is defined as "a research in which data in the

form of written or oral word is descriptively assessed without any calculating or numerating”. The main data of this research were taken from the movie and its scripts. This script was used to guide the researcher in listening the dialogue in the movie.

For the collecting data the researcher used some steps; first the researcher was watching the movie twice or more, Identifying to find the data that was relevant to the study, classifying the data, choosing the data that is relevant, and reporting on the data that has been chose.

Results and Discussion

The Result of Research Question

This section presents the result of the analysis of the motivational strategies which were used by the teacher in The Freedom Writers movie and its implementation on the classroom activities. Based on the purpose of this research, (1) to find the strategies those were implemented by the teacher to motivate the learners in teaching process and (2) to know how those strategies applied by the teacher. So, the results were divided into two points represented the strategies that implemented by the teacher and the application in the classroom activities.

The first result is the strategies which are used by the teacher in order to find the teacher’s strategies to motivate the learners on teaching and learning process. The researcher used Dornyei’s theory to analyze the result of the observation. In Dornyei’s theory there were four motivational strategies framework and in these theories the researcher found ten motivational strategies to the teacher in teaching practice. The writer describes the results of the observations in using motivational strategies. They are as follows;

Creating the Basic Motivational Conditions

The basic motivational strategies which were given by the teacher to learners in learning such as;

- a. The appropriate of teacher’s behaviors

In the movie the teacher is respect and a friendly teacher for her learners. She tried to love and give the affection to her learners. She also attracts the learners' interest by presenting them with interesting learning materials and associating the information with current events in the learner's environment.

b. Pleasant and supportive classroom environment

The teacher conducted a democratic class where every learner has same opportunity to express their ideas or opinion in the class. The teacher also provided an opportunity for the learners to interaction with other learners by changing their seating position.

c. Making Learning Groups

The teacher uses a motivational strategy by creating a working group. For instance, after the teacher gives the learners a topic she divided the learners in to two groups or used large group discussion.

Generating Initial Motivation

To improve the learners' initial motivation actively in learning process the teacher inculcates a great attitude to her learners by using some important strategy in the classroom, such as;

a. Increasing the learners' expectations of success

In order to raise learners' expectations of success, the teacher ensures that they understand what success in their task involves.

b. Making the teaching materials relevant for the learners

The teacher provided the learners' interests, needs, and goals of the teaching materials that might encourage learners to be curious and excited about the learning process, like the teacher used several methods and learning sources like discuss the topic to the real of Holocaust victims and watching the freedom ride movie as a learning source.

Maintaining and Protecting Motivation

Based on the researcher observation, the teacher used several strategies to maintaining the learners' motivation, they are;

a. Making learning stimulating and enjoyable

The teacher used game, song lyric, and giving some novel to her learner to stimulate them and made the enjoyable learning atmosphere.

b. Presenting tasks in some motivating ways

To present the task by using the motivating ways, the teacher explained the purpose and utility of the task. The teacher then assigned an assignment that would help learners become more aware of their

surroundings.

- c. Increasing learners' self-confidence

The teacher showed that she believed in the learners' willingness to learn and their capacity to complete the task. Here, the teacher used toast for change moment in her class where she motivated her learners to change their perspective about themselves.

Encouraging Positive Retrospective Self-Evaluation

The teacher assists the learners in evaluating their previous performance in a positive ways and explaining their previous failures in a constructive way.

- a. Providing motivational feedback

To provide the feedback of motivational, every positive contribution from the learners was noted by the teacher, who reacted appropriately. The teacher also gives a positive motivation or spirit to her learners to study diligent and pursues a higher education as best as possible.

- b. Increasing learners satisfaction

For increasing the learners' satisfaction, the teacher can give appreciation to learners in the form of positive praise to improve learning motivation, then when the learners make mistakes the teacher consistent give a positive comment and motivate them to finish it.

The second result is about the implementation of the motivational strategies in the classroom activities. As stated before, to motivate the learners and cultivate a sense of learners' awareness the teacher used some of the motivational strategies and how its implementation in the classroom activities is explained bellow;

1. Creating the basic motivational condition

- a. The appropriate of teacher behaviors

The teacher respects, loves and gives the affections to all of her learners.

- b. Pleasant and supportive classroom environment

The teacher conducted a democratic class by giving the learners same opportunity to express their idea and changing their seat position. The teacher did not give some pressures and demands towards the learners to create enjoyable and learning activity.

- c. Making Learning Groups

The teacher divided the class into two groups based on boys group and girls group.

2. Generating Initial Motivation

- a. Increasing the learners' expectations of success

The teacher motivates her learners to keep their writing "Even nobody will read the book, at least they have something to be their legacy".

- b. Making the teaching materials relevant for the learners

For making the teaching material relevant for the learners the teacher did some activities, such as doing a field trip and discussing with the Holocaust victims, giving some novel which had related story with the learners' background and inviting the informant to the class.

3. Maintaining and Protecting Motivation

- a. Making learning stimulating and enjoyable

The teacher was using game and song lyrics to make the learning stimulating and enjoyable.

- b. Presenting task in some motivating ways

The teacher gives the task to her learners to write a diary or journal.

- c. Increasing learners' self-confidence

The class makes a "Toast for Change" moment where the learners shared their stories and the teacher hoped that they changed into their better life.

4. Encouraging Positive Retrospective Self-Evaluation

- a. Providing motivational feedback

The teacher always gives the positive support to the learner who failed on their examination passed. In addition, the teacher also gives the motivation and spirit to her learners.

- b. Increasing the learners' satisfaction

The teacher gave the reward to her learners by published their journal/diary into one book entitled "The Freedom Writers Diary" and that book was approved by the Board of Education.

There are some ways or activities that the teacher in the movie used to implement some motivational strategies. The first motivating method in this

scenario is to create a basic motivational condition. The teacher maintained a positive relationship with her learners while implementing this strategy. She is concerned, loving, and attentive to the problems of her learners. In line with this, Dornyei (2001) claims that acceptable teacher behavior and a positive relationship with learners are two motivational conditions that the teacher must meet in order to effectively engage learners. But apart, the teacher divided the class into groups.

The second motivational strategy is generating initial motivation. This aspect is the dominant strategy which was used by the teacher to motivate her learners. The teacher used some strategies or methods to generate initial motivation, such as increasing the learners' expectation of success by motivating them to keep writing even if no one else reads it. This result was supported by Davis (2009), who stated that support learners by giving positive feedback and motivation that stressed if the learners can do well. The teacher then adapts the information to the learners' situation and background. It was similar with Syahrial (2017) says that using material that is familiar with the learners' needs and their surroundings environments will make it easier for them to understand the material because they already have some background knowledge.

The third is maintaining the protecting motivation, the teacher used several strategies to maintaining the learners' motivation, such as playing a game and using a song lyrics to make the enjoyable learning situation. The similarly with this result, Harmer (2007) also claims that games can create a fun learning situation with a good awareness. It can make the learners being enthusiast about the material they had.

The last strategy is encouraging positive retrospective self-evaluation. The teacher also provides encouragement and positive feedback to the learners based on the results. Learning evaluation is the most crucial thing a teacher can do, the purpose is to determine whether or not the learners' previous outcomes were effective. Then, how will the teacher assist the learners in reflecting on their own accomplishments. As a result of this observation, the teacher provides positive motivation, feedback, and personal communication to the learners. Davis (2009) theory supports this finding, he claims that communicate personal with the learners, it can influence their motivation in learning.

Conclusion

After identifying and analyzing the movie, the researcher found that there are several conclusions from the analysis. The findings of this research are as follows;

- 1) In terms of motivational strategies, there were four aspects in motivating the learners. Those aspects were creating motivational basic condition, generating initial motivation, maintaining and protecting motivation, and encouraging retrospective self-evaluation. Despite the fact that some of these strategies did not work in the movie, they are still deemed useful and appropriate in the teaching and learning process. As a result, the teaching strategies in the movie *Freedom Writers* can be used as a reference for teachers aspiring to be good educators or teachers in the future.
- 2) In terms of the implementation of its strategies which is applied by the teacher. The teacher used three strategies to create a basic motivated environment. First, the teacher maintained a positive attitude and creating the good relationship with the learners. For instance, teachers and learners should respect one another, and the teacher should be a nice teacher to her learners. The teacher also leads a democratic class in which each learner has an equal opportunity to share their ideas. Second, the teacher produced a nice, entertaining, and encouraging classroom environment so that the learners are not bored during the exercise. For this activity, the teacher always provides positive motivation to her learners and provides material that is relevant to the learners' environment, such as gangs, prejudice, bullying, and race. Its goal is to transform her learners' attitudes and inspire them to live better lives. The teacher also generates pleasant settings by presenting tasks in motivating ways and building the learners' self-confidence in the third strategy. In the last strategy, the teacher provides motivated feedback to her learners while also providing positive support to those who barely passed on their assessments.

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