

Fostering Junior High English Vocabulary Mastery Through the Cake Application?

By:

Novi Dwi Putri Hatuina

Dr. Yuli Astutik, M.Pd

Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo

Juny, 2024



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Introduction

- In the era of globalization and advances in information technology that continue to develop, it can have a large and broad impact on every region of the world.
- Smartphones not only serve as basic communication tools but also as efficient learning tools because they have all the features that computers have.
- Junior high school students face challenges in mastering vocabulary in listening activities.
- Vocabulary is very important for learning English. Without vocabulary, students will not be able to understand and speak well in English.
- Uzer asserts that the first step in helping students comprehend and advance their reading, writing, and speaking abilities is listening. Through listening exercises, students learn new vocabulary and learn how to pronounce words without realizing it.

Introduction

- To overcome the challenges of vocabulary mastery in listening activities, teachers are encouraged to integrate innovative educational media, utilizing technology to motivate English language learning.
- Cake application, as an effective learning and creative medium.

Previous Research

Three studies related to the CAKE application were conducted by Fatin, Tiamanda, and Sofia et al. Fatin assessed the effectiveness of CAKE in improving the vocabulary mastery of 8th grade students at MTs PSM Rejotangan. Tiamanda researched the use of CAKE to improve student vocabulary at Karanganyar State High School, finding significant differences in teaching methods. Sofia et al. focused their research on students' perceptions of CAKE to improve vocabulary knowledge at the junior high school level. The results showed a positive response, although some students experienced technical difficulties.

Pre-Observation Result

- Based on pre-observations with the 8th grade English teacher at SMP Muhammadiyah 5 Sidoarjo, As is known, students' vocabulary mastery skills in listening activities learning still need to be improved, the teacher's learning model is traditional conventional and the cake application media has never been implemented.

Research Question

Can listening activity in Cake application improve students vocabulary mastery at SMP Muhammadiyah 5 Sidoarjo?

Research Methodology

- **Research Design** = This research uses a true-experimental design.
- **Research Setting** = this research was conducted at SMP Muhammadiyah 5 Sidoarjo
- **Population and Sampling** = Purposive sampling, with a population of 2 classes A and C, with a total of 30 students per class.
- **Data collection** = first step (pre-test), second step (treatment), the last step (post test).
- **Data Analysis** = SPSS is employed for quantitative data analysis.
- **Instrument** = pre-test and post-test.

Research Findings

Statistics Test		
	Post-test Experiment – Pretest Experiment	Post-test Experiment – Pretest Control
Z	-4.869 ^b	-4.817 ^b
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
a. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test		
b. Based on negative rankings, evaluate whether there is a significant statistical difference between the two groups tested.		

A significant increase in vocabulary acquisition in the post-test listening activities score was seen in the experimental group using the Cake application. The Wilcoxon test results showed a substantial improvement (Z = -4.869, Asymp. Sig. = 0.000), confirming the efficacy of the Cake app as a teaching aid.

The findings of this study show that the “Cake” app can effectively improve students' vocabulary test scores. Montgomery (2007) states that use of videos is a useful method of learning vocabulary, getting listening activity, as well as helping students in developing critical thinking skills.

Research Implication

- The researchers shows that the Cake app effectively improves students' vocabulary skills. Students' interest in the material and the variety of video stories make learning more fun and memorable. The app motivates students with materials they like and interesting stories in the form of videos.

Conclusion

- The use of Cake app significantly improved students' vocabulary and listening activities. The low Z and p values ($p < 0.05$) indicate significant improvement in the experimental group compared to the control group. These results prove the effectiveness of Cake app in vocabulary and listening learning, making it a better resource than traditional techniques.

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