

Stick Puppets for Teaching Vocabulary

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[Tongkat Wayang tentang Kata Ganti untuk Mengajar Kosa Kata]

1. Product Description

An animated doll made by a puppeteer is called a puppet. Visual impressions are created by bodily movements of the puppets; for example, a puppet can communicate emotions and thoughts by moving its hands and head. Moreover, the puppeteer can give it a voice. Put differently, a puppet is an inanimate item that comes to life under the control of a puppeteer (Kröger, 2019).

In teaching, puppets are also employed as a substitute for a real theater set or screenplay. For instance, a teacher can pose questions to the students and have a conversation with them while using a puppet. Additionally, it is useful for confirming students' understanding when they respond to inquiries and take part in conversation (Remer & Tzuriel, 2015).

Puppets can be an alternative for teaching vocabulary in English Language Teaching (ELT). Vocabulary is concerned with words; it is fundamental as the lexicon of a language (Lessard-Clouston, 2013). Lexis comes from a Greek word meaning "all the words in a language, the entire vocabulary of a language," and it is defined as "all the words in an English language" (Barcroft, Sunderman, and Schmitt, 2011: 571).

Students can make puppets, put on a puppet show, or just play with puppets on their own during class. Even a puppet can be a child's close companion (Gersak et al., 2012; Kroflič & Teovizija, 2012). However, putting on a puppet performance that involves crafting the puppets, writing the script, designing the set, and acting out the play can be included in an artistic education program (Hamre, 2013).

Puppets are suitable for different kinds of educational contexts, from rehearsing performance and expression skills to being integrated into specific subjects (see. e.g. Fisler, 2003; Kroflič & Teovizija, 2012a (pp. 29–45); Lowe & Matthew, 2000; (Simon et al., 2008)). Puppets can be used even to teach nanotechnology (see Brits et al., 2014).

There are many stick puppets as learning media on the market or even social media but there are no stick puppets that are precisely talking about pronouns. There are various advantages of using stick puppets as learning media, namely building a sense of intimacy between teachers and students. Moreover, the media increases students' confidence in learning.

The teaching procedures in stick puppets are to introduce parts of the stick puppetry such as the puppets, and the stage, tell the title of the puppetry, storytelling the complete story about pronouns, re-watch, and reflect on the content of the story that has been learned. In the learning process, students are asked to predict the story that has been given, using question sentences containing 5W+1H, such as: What, Who, Where, When, Why, and How. By giving these questions, students are directed towards the stages of puppetry activities.

II. Product Content

There are several unique displays produced in this stick puppet such as on the stage using a combination of lively background pictures, then the use of contrasting colors, and on the background gives an interesting impression by decorating it with pieces of cotton to imitate grasses and spares of ice cream sticks to imitate wood fences, and 7 stick puppet figurines (of

mentioned pronouns) following the content of the material to be discussed. In this stick puppet, there are 7 stick puppets containing material about introducing pronouns using English which aims to train students in listening and grammar. Based on educational standards, things that need to be considered in making the content of the material in the stick puppetry are related to the material to be conveyed, the feasibility of the material for students, and the material criteria for the school level.

The explanation of the materials used during the stick-puppetry-making process is as follows:

1. On the cover, use cardboard paper as the main base material because it is believed to have a good quality and sturdy, so that it can be used and stored for a long time.
2. The whole content part of the material uses a combination of 2cm of Styrofoam, papers, and ice cream sticks.
3. The making of stick puppets as the learning media is done by handmade. The background pictures that are attached to the stage are the result of using art paper, containing scenery (a house, trees, a flock of birds, sun, and the clouds) then combining contrasting the colour and colouring on the background to attract students' attention during the learning process at the elementary school level and to produce pronoun pictures on the puppets, which is attached to the front part of the puppets, which wrapped with pieces of blue paper.
4. The puppets contain pictures of pronouns (he, she, they, I, we, you, it) while the theme story that was raised is still about pronoun-related (family and friends).
5. As a finishing, to beautify the appearance of the stick puppetry stage, the words "STICK PUPPET" and "PRONOUNS" glued surround the background picture (the background part on the stage has already been donned with manila paper and the background picture), while on the setting part of the stage, the small replicas of wood fence glued using glue gun on the surrounding the setting part of the stage, while on the surface, the small replicas of grasses (using pieces of synthetic cotton) glued on the surface of the stage.

III. Stick Puppets Media



Fig. 1: Stage



Fig. 2: Background



Fig. 3: Grass



Fig. 3: Details of Wooden Fence



Fig. 4: Figurines of Pronouns

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